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Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

Transactions and Official Notices

## Welsh Pharmacy Board takes steps to ensure a cohesive response to NHS structure consultation

The Welsh Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has decided to establish a task and finish group to draft a response to a consultation on the NHS structure in Wales. The group, which will be led by the chairman, will arrange an event to bring together all pharmacy organisations in Wales to ensure a cohesive approach to responses from the pharmacy profession and to draft a response from the board.

The board made its decision at its sixth formal meeting on 15 April after discussing how it would respond to the proposals announced by health minister Edwina Hart for major changes to the NHS structure in Wales. These proposals are currently the subject of a three-month consultation.

As part of the discussion, Barry Harrison, chairman of Flintshire Local Health Board, informed the meeting of the LHBs' perspective. He confirmed that the LHB chief executives had discussed the document and had given the proposals a cautious welcome.



**Preregistration students** The board was advised that following the success of both the pharmacy student event and the three regional awareness events hosted last year, three events for preregistration students would be held to coincide with regional awareness events currently being planned for 2008. The board considers that such events are vital in promoting its work and in ensuring two-way communication with current and future members around the role of the new professional body.

**Veterinary pharmacy** The board has committed to working with the Society's Veterinary Pharmacists Group to improve pharmacist's access to information and training. The work is being taken forward with the practice and quality improvement directorate at Lambeth.

**Rural health** The board discussed its input into the Welsh Assembly Government's rural health review. Following discussions between

the director for Wales and Assembly officials, the board has been given the opportunity to feed into the review. Two papers are currently being prepared. An "issues log" had been distributed to the board and was discussed. Comments were being sought from pharmacists across Wales who work in rural areas and this log had been taken to the North Wales meeting of Community Pharmacy Wales for input. It will also be discussed at the trust chief pharmacists' next meeting.

**White Paper for pharmacy in England** The board received an update on the White Paper, "Pharmacy in England — building on strengths, delivering the future". Although the board recognised it was an English White Paper, it realised that there could be knock-on effects for Wales and that some cross border or GB issues might arise. A summary was being produced by the policy department at Lambeth.

It was also noted that the Welsh Assembly Government had published its Implementation Plan for the One Wales manifesto. It was confirmed that the plan would be analysed by the staff and actions proposed as necessary.

## Striking-off follows jail for cocaine conspiracy

A Gloucester pharmacist sent to jail because he supplied mannitol for use in cutting illegal supplies of cocaine has had his name removed from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

At a hearing on 8 November 2007, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Disciplinary Committee committee inquired into the case of Gary George Fisher (registration number 77584). Information had been received that on 17 March 2006, at Bristol Crown Court, Mr Fisher had been convicted of conspiracy to supply cocaine, a Controlled Drug of Class A, for which he had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

The court had been told that Mr Fisher's part in the conspiracy was to supply mannitol in the knowledge that it would be used to cut a Class A Controlled Drug supplied to others. The court heard that, although it also had legitimate uses, mannitol was employed to bulk

out illegal drugs to increase the amount that could be sold.

The matter had come to light in April 2002, when police saw one of the conspirators leaving the premises of another with a box under his arm. He was stopped and the content of the box was found to be mannitol. Further enquiries established that the mannitol had been obtained from Mr Fisher's pharmacy. Mr Fisher had ordered the mannitol on 19 March 2002 and it was the fifth supply he had ordered since 28 October 1999. As part of the inquiry, the pharmacy had been searched and the sum of £50,000 found. In subsequent proceedings that sum was ordered to be confiscated.

Giving the committee's determination after it had considered the facts of the case, the chairman, Judge Mota Singh, QC, said that the committee found the conviction proved and found that it was so serious as to

render Mr Fisher unfit to remain on the Register.

In deciding on the appropriate and proportionate sanction, the committee had taken into account everything that had been urged on Mr Fisher's behalf. He was a man of previously unblemished character and he had submitted a large number of references, which made clear that what had happened was totally out of character.

But the committee had also taken into account the view of one of the courts that the reputation of the profession was more important than the fortune of any individual member of it. The committee found that there was no realistic alternative to directing the removal of Mr Fisher's name from the Register.

Mr Fisher was advised that he had three months in which to exercise his right of appeal. His name was removed from the Register on 7 February.

# Striking-off for wrong prescription endorsements

An Essex pharmacist whose incorrect endorsement of prescriptions led to an overpayment of several thousand pounds by the Prescription Pricing Authority has had his name removed from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on the order of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Disciplinary Committee.

At a hearing on 11 October 2007, the committee inquired into the case of Arunkumar Manibhai Patel (registration number 68424), of Ilford. Mr Patel was majority shareholder, director and superintendent pharmacist of Kashipharm Ltd, which was also party to the case. The company owned a pharmacy trading as Connock Chemists in London E15.

A complaint had been received from the Council of the Society alleging that Mr Patel had endorsed prescriptions with small pack sizes although he had supplied large packs. The wrongly endorsed prescriptions had been sent for pricing, resulting in overpayment by the PPA. Following an investigation by the NHS Counter Fraud Service, Mr Patel had agreed in February 2006 to repay £7,866.84 wrongly paid to his company and costs of £1,500.

The wrongful endorsements included claims for five 100ml bottles of Gaviscon when a 500ml pack had been supplied, four 125g packs of E45 cream instead of one 500g tub, four 125g tubes of Epaderm instead of

one 500g tub, two 240ml packs of Alpha Keri bath oil instead of one 480ml pack, 10 50g packs of Diprobace cream instead of one 500g pack and two 250ml packs of E45 emollient bath oil instead of one 500ml container.

The notice of inquiry accepted that the transactions, although erroneous, were not necessarily dishonest. However, it was recorded that when Mr Patel inadvertently learnt about the investigation, he changed his endorsing practice to show the packs actually supplied but did not notify the PPA that he had been endorsing incorrectly or offer to repay the sums overpaid.

Giving the committee's determination, the chairman, John Burrow, said that the committee had concluded, on the balance of probabilities, that the Gaviscon and E45 cream transactions were carried out dishonestly and that Mr Patel had known that he was being dishonest. In respect of the Epaderm, Alpha Keri bath oil, Diprobace and E45 emollient bath oil, the committee noted that the Council alleged error but not dishonesty. On the balance of probabilities, the committee found that there had been erroneous dispensing but did not find dishonesty.

The chairman said that, in determining the appropriate sanction, the committee noted that aggravating features included the serious nature of the dishonesty. By persisting in making claims to which he was not entitled, Mr Patel was appropriating public funds

that should have been available to be deployed elsewhere in the NHS. Dishonest abuse of public funds would always be treated as a serious matter.

The committee found that Mr Patel had shown only limited insight and remorse. He had denied dishonesty in respect of the E45 cream, although the committee had found dishonesty proved. His admissions in interview had come only after persistent questioning and being confronted with the evidence of his actions. His admissions were often partial at first and only became more embracing because of the strength of the evidence.

Mitigating factors included the absence of any direct harm to patients, the delay in bringing the case before the committee (which was not the fault of the Society) and the fact that the endorsement errors took place in the context of a busy pharmacy.

After careful consideration, said the chairman, the committee had concluded that the matters were so serious that to allow Mr Patel to remain on the Register would undermine confidence in the profession. Removal was the proportionate and appropriate sanction, and the committee so ordered. The committee would take no action in respect of the company.

Mr Patel was advised that he had three months in which to exercise his right of appeal. His name was removed from the Register on 11 January.

## 'Medicines, ethics and practice guide' amendments

In the first issue of each month, *The Journal* updates the guidance on the legal status of medicines published in the 31st edition (July 2007) of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians'. (This notice was held over from last week.) The amendments are given in

### Human medicines

Actonel Combi (risedronate, calcium, vitamin D3) film-coated tablets and effervescent granules sachets POM

Adcal D3 Dissolve effervescent tablets in packs of four 14-tablet tubes P

Altargo POM

Atriance POM

Bifonazole 1% cream for the treatment of athlete's foot GSL

Binocrit prefilled syringes POM

Chloramphenicol eye drops entry: delete P from end of entry

Doxadura XL POM

Eucreas tablets POM

Feminax Ultra tablets P

Galvus tablets POM

Gygel GSL

Hydrocortisone 1% cream for the treatment of insect bites and stings only, in adults and children

aged 10 years and over GSL

Increlex POM

Inovelon POM

**bold** type when added to the list and repeated each month in light type. A product's legal status can be obtained by consulting first the latest amendment list and then the guide. The abbreviations used in the list are explained in the key to annotations in the body of the guide (p39).

Langdale's Cinnamon Essence

GSL: delete entry

Midazolam CD No Reg POM

Naproxen entry should read:

Naproxen tablets POM; but if for the treatment of primary dysmenorrhoea in women aged between 15 and 50 years, maximum strength 250mg, 500mg (MD), 750mg (MDD), for a maximum of 3 days' treatment, in a maximum pack size of 9 tablets: P

Natecal D3 tablets P

Nicotine inhalator as an aid to smoking cessation and also as an aid to smoking reduction prior to cessation GSL

Orencia injection POM

**Pradaxa capsules POM**

Rapydan medicated plasters POM

Rasilez POM

Rebetol (ribavarin) 40mg/ml oral solution POM

Vicks preparations GSL: delete entry

Yondelis POM

### Gifts

Hand-finished replicas of seven ceramic jars from the collections of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are available for purchase from the Society at prices ranging from £25 to £86.

The jars are available by mail order direct from the museum. Full details and an order form can be downloaded from the museum section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org/informationresources](http://www.rpsgb.org/informationresources)), which also has photographs of

the jars. Alternatively, orders can be placed by contacting the Museum Office, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail [museum@rpsgb.org](mailto:museum@rpsgb.org)).

The jars and other merchandise, including cards and books, can also be bought in person from the Library at the Society's headquarters during normal working hours.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should be addressed, unless otherwise stated, to: The Chief Executive and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629). Official Notices also appear in the Notice-Board section of PJ Online ([www.pjonline.com/notices](http://www.pjonline.com/notices)).

### Annual general meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 167th annual general meeting of the members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will take place at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 on Wednesday 21 May 2008 at 8pm.

The following business will be conducted:

1. Presentation of the Council's annual review for 2007
2. Presentation of the financial statements for 2007
3. Adoption of rules of procedure for matters raised and motions submitted for debate — (Byelaws, Section VI, Paragraph 3): "A member may raise any matter or move any motion at any annual general meeting of which he has given the Secretary notice in writing no later than the 20th day of April in the year of which the said meeting is to be held. The Rules of Procedure for debating such motions shall be proposed by the Council and presented for adoption at each annual general meeting at which such a motion is to be moved." The proposed rules will be circulated at the meeting.
4. Consideration of any matters raised or motions moved by members of which notice has been given in writing no later than 20 April 2008.
  - (i) The following motion will be moved by Mark Walker: "This 167th annual general meeting welcomes the Clarke report and notes the recommendations that should be considered by members. The AGM instructs Council to put Clarke's recommendations to the members through a democratic process, preferably via electronic voting, at the earliest opportunity. Thereafter, as a final step, the AGM directs that Council's proposal for the future Society be ratified

by a full referendum of members and notes that Council must gain approval from 75 per cent of voting members for such a major change in the Society."

### Jeremy Holmes Chief Executive and Registrar

*The following programme of events takes place on Wednesday 21 May before the annual general meeting: 5.30pm, tea and sandwiches available for those attending the AGM; 6pm, presentation of fellowship certificates for 2007, followed by presentation of the Charter gold medal and Charter silver medal for 2008 and the Synergy award for 2008; 6.45pm, presentation on professional leadership, and the Council's response to the report of the Clarke Inquiry into the principles, functions and structure of a future professional body for pharmacy, followed by questions to the President, the Chief Executive and Registrar, and Nigel Clarke.*

### Erasure from the Register on the direction of the Statutory Committee

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 23 April 2008 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 23 January 2008: **Yusef Mohammad** (registration number 1066704), of Romford, Essex.

### Jeremy Holmes Chief Executive and Registrar

### Erasure from the Register on the direction of the Statutory Committee

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 24 April 2008 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2008: **Angus McGregor** (registration number 62111), of Campbeltown, Argyll.

### Jeremy Holmes Chief Executive and Registrar

### Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee will meet at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1, on Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 May 2008 at 9.30am to hear the following matters:

1. An application for restoration to the Register on behalf of **Bharkumar Ramanbhai Patel**, of Ramsgate, Kent.

2. The Statutory Committee inquiry into **Mohammad Amir Yasin** (registration number 1072446) who on 11 October 2006 was convicted at Manchester Magistrates' Court of six counts of theft and four counts of possessing a Class C drug.
3. The Statutory Committee inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Jawid Ahmed Yusuf** (registration number 84208) which alleges that Mr Yusuf: (i) altered NHS prescriptions so as to change the ostensible supply to be made without seeking the authority or having the permission of the authorising doctor concerned; forged the signature of the authorising doctor on the above prescriptions; falsified each of the prescriptions above dishonestly knowing that if it was forwarded to the NHS Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) for payment it would attract a higher payment than if it had not been altered; by falsifying the prescriptions above Mr Yusuf put the owner of the pharmacy and/or the patients concerned at risk of investigation by the police and other regulatory bodies; (2) altered NHS prescriptions for temazepam without the permission of the authorising doctor concerned; forged the signature of the authorising doctor; by falsifying the above prescriptions Mr Yusuf put the owner of the pharmacy and/or the patients concerned at risk of investigation by the police and other regulatory bodies; (3) altered an NHS prescription for temazepam so as to increase the ostensible supply to be made without the permission of the authorising doctor; forged the signature of the authorising doctor on that prescription; falsified the prescription dishonestly knowing that if it was forwarded to the PPA for payment it would attract a higher payment than if it had

## Closing down?

Closing your pharmacy? If you are closing down a registered pharmacy premises, remember that the details on the Register of Premises need to be updated. Contact the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's registration section (tel 020 7572 2322; e-mail [registration@rpsgb.org](mailto:registration@rpsgb.org)).

not been altered; by falsifying the prescription Mr Yusuf put the owner of the pharmacy and/or the patient concerned at risk of investigation by the police and other regulatory bodies.

### Statutory Committees Secretariat

#### Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee will meet at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1, on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 May 2008 at 9.30am to resume the Statutory Committee inquiry into a complaint by the Council of the Society against **Kantilal Khushalbhai Mistry** (registration number 74015) which alleges that: a failure to submit to the NHS Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) 18 FP10 prescription forms relating to low cost items; treating small value prescriptions as private prescriptions, but failing to keep a record of the sales or supplies made against those prescriptions; endorsing 18 NHS prescriptions to indicate that 18 packs of Benzamycin gel in quantities of 46.6g had been supplied when quantities of 23g had been supplied and submitting the wrongly endorsed prescriptions to the PPA for payment, resulting in overpayment; endorsing NHS prescriptions for Gaviscon Liquid, Oilatum, Liquid Paraffin and E45 Cream to indicate that small pack sizes had been dispensed, when in fact large pack sizes had been dispensed; submitting the wrongly endorsed prescriptions to the PPA for payment, resulting in overpayment; and, regularly dispensing duplicate prescriptions and submitting them to the PPA for payment without querying the prescribing practice, may amount to misconduct.

### Statutory Committees Secretariat

## New name?

Getting married and changing your name? Make sure that your registration is up to date. Return your certificate of registration with a copy of your marriage certificate to the registration section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

## DEATHS

**Layer** On 24 April, Henry William Tansley Layer, MRPharmS, aged 85, of 12 Hogarth Avenue, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8BE. Mr Layer registered in 1944. (See tribute below.)

**Parness** On 20 March, Arnold Parness, aged 94, of 8 Gilgarran Park, Gilgarran, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4RA. Mr Parness registered in 1937 and retired from the Register in 2007.

**Refson** On 22 April, Gerald Refson, of 421 The Colonnades, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AG. Mr Refson registered in 1959 and retired from the Register in 2006.

## TRIBUTES

**Layer** In a tribute to the late Henry William Tansley Layer (see above), KEN FREE writes: Henry Layer served his apprenticeship with Herbert Saunders in Coggeshall, Essex, in 1939. After qualifying from Chelsea College, he undertook locum work in London hospitals before conscription into the army, where he saw service with the Paratroop Regiment, training as a glider pilot, followed by a stint in the Medical Corps in Palestine after the end of the war.

On returning to the UK in 1948, Henry took up a career in psychiatric hospital pharmacy. He worked for all of his civilian professional career at Warley Hospital, near Brentwood, where he devoted himself to the care of mentally ill patients, most of the time as the pharmacist in charge. He played a full role in the hospital from guiding medical and nursing staff through the therapeutic revolution that was to take place during the 1950s and '60s, to participating in the social life where his make-up skills for the Christmas pantomime were doubtless based on sound pharmaceutical products. Later he assumed responsibility for pharmacy services for nearby Harold Wood Hospital.

Although the psychiatric hospitals were very much the Cinderella of the Health Service, Henry Layer had a vision of the profession far beyond his own hospital. Having been in post when the NHS was set up, he rapidly became involved in all aspects of the provision of pharmaceutical services.

Henry served for many years on the regional pharmaceutical advisory committee for the North East Metropolitan Region, much

## Scottish Pharmacy Board roadshows

In the wake of the Clarke Inquiry into a future professional body for pharmacy, the Scottish Pharmacy Board is running a series of roadshows across Scotland entitled "Professional leadership — your choice".

Dates and venues for the roadshows are as follows:

- **22 May** The Park Hotel, Rugby Park, Kilmarnock
- **27 May** Brahan Lecture Theatre, Highland Hospice, Inverness
- **2 June** Palm Court Hotel, 17 Seafield Road, Aberdeen
- **4 June** Queens Hotel, 105 Leonard Street, Perth
- **9 June** University of Strathclyde, 27 Taylor Street, Glasgow
- **10 June** Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 36 York Place, Edinburgh

All roadshows will begin at 7 for 7.30pm. They will be hosted by Lyndon Braddick, director for Scotland, and will include presentations from Rose Marie Parr, SPB chairman, and Frank Owens, SPB vice-chairman. Refreshments will be provided.

of the time as its chairman, until it was wound up in 1974. As such he and the secretary, Stan Shaw from the North Middlesex Hospital, were responsible for providing advice to the regional authority. They established co-operative working between the various hospitals, including the establishment of the regional drug contract. He was also instrumental in "being flexible" in interpreting the committee's constitution to

allow, for instance, the London Teaching Hospitals within the region to be represented and involved in forming regional policy long before they were more generally integrated.

In 1967, when 47 per cent of the pharmacy posts in the region were unfilled, they agreed with the regional board to set up a full review of services to every hospital in the region with recommendations on how to maximise the use of resources and improve services. The report covered all aspects of staffing, facilities and services and was used by the region as its evidence to the Noel Hall review that was set up shortly afterwards. The conclusions and recommendations for the region were a remarkable forerunner of those in the Noel Hall report, which in turn formed the basis nationally for hospital pharmacy services for many years to come.

Henry was active in his local branch of the Pharmaceutical Society and in the Guild of Public Pharmacists, where he served for many years on the London branch committee, including periods as chairman. He was a familiar figure at the annual weekend school and other social events, where his ballroom dancing skills made him a popular target after the dinner for ladies looking for an accomplished partner. For a number of years he served as London district member on the guild council.

Henry retired in 1986 after 38 years at Warley Hospital. He retained a keen interest in pharmacy, a profession of which he was extremely proud to be a member. He leaves a widow Renée and two sons Graham and Martin, a family of whom he always spoke with tremendous pride.

I first got to know Henry Layer in 1960 when I became chief pharmacist at Severalls Hospital, Colchester. Henry was quick to encourage me as a fellow psychiatric pharmacist and soon twisted the rules for membership of the regional advisory committee to allow me to be co-opted to it.

His support and encouragement was a major factor in the way my career developed, and I shall always be grateful to him for that and his ongoing friendship over the years. He has been a true friend to the profession and will be very much missed.

## DIARY

## Headquarters meetings

The following meetings take place at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters

**Monday 12 May**

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am

**Tuesday 13 May**

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am

**Wednesday 14 May**

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am

**Thursday 15 May**

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am

**Friday 16 May**

Disciplinary Committee. 9.30am

## Local meetings

Events listed below are meetings of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branches. Details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal* appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* ([www.pjonline.com/diary](http://www.pjonline.com/diary))

**Monday 12 May**

**Stockport** Annual general meeting and "Infection control: did we do better?" by Sarah Maxwell (microbiologist, Stepping Hill Hospital). Lecture Theatre B, Stepping Hill Hospital, Postgraduate Centre, Pinewood House. Refreshments 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

**Swindon** Annual general meeting and "Cultural influences on how patients take medicines" by Kay Tanna. Oakfield Campus, University of Bath in Swindon, Marlowe Avenue. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

**Tuesday 13 May**

**Barnet** Annual general meeting and "Tackling rising obesity" by Addic Brillon (deputy dietetic service lead, Chase Farm Hospital). Education and Information Centre, Barnet Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

## Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group

## Symposium: Combating counterfeit medicines

- **Date:** Thursday 12 June 2008
- **Venue:** King's College London (Waterloo campus)
- **Content:** Counterfeit medicines are estimated to account for more than 10 per cent of the global medicines market and in some developing countries this figure is thought to be as high as 50 per cent. One prediction is that global counterfeit drug sales will reach \$75bn by 2010. This symposium looks at methods to detect counterfeit medicines, the current and prospective legislative position, and ways to combat counterfeiting. The exhibition presents relevant equipment and systems to detect and combat counterfeit medicines.
- **Fees:** £105 for members of JPAG (must be registered before 1 June 2008), £175 for members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or the Royal Society of Chemistry, £25 for retired, student or unemployed members of the RPSGB or the RSC, £175 for non-members.
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; e-mail [science@rpsgb.org](mailto:science@rpsgb.org)).

**Bath** "All you ever wanted to know, with an introduction to the new Wiltshire-wide wound care formulary". Skittle Alley, The Royal Oak, Summerlays Place, Pulteney Road, Widcombe, Bath. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Bedfordshire** Annual general meeting followed by "Code of ethics and Controlled Drugs" by Priya Sejal (head of ethics, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). The Library, Cranfield University, Silsoe. Buffet 7.40pm, AGM 8pm, meeting 8.20pm.

**Ipswich** Annual general meeting and "Current use of atypical antipsychotics" by Peter Jones (department of psychiatry, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge). Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Liverpool** "Diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections" by Paula Briggs (specialist in sexual health, May Logan Centre). Postgraduate Education Centre, Alder Hey Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Reading** "Falls prevention" by David Oliver (consultant geriatrician, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust). Trust Education Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**West Surrey** "Asthma and new guidelines on symbicort and chlorofluorocarbon-free beclometasone" by Tim Ho (consultant chest physician, Frimley Park Hospital). Park Room, Guildford College, Stoke Road. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

#### Thursday 15 May

**Crawley, Horsham and Reigate** "Latest advances in the treatment of epilepsy" by Frank Besag. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital, West Green Drive, Crawley. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

**Medway** "The challenge of children" by Elizabeth Worthing (teacher practitioner and paediatric specialist pharmacist, Medway Hospital). Medway School of Pharmacy, Anson Building, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 7.45pm.

**Sunderland** "Illicit drugs" by Ken Dale and Chris Coan (detective constables). Sunderland Marriott Hotel, Seaburn. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

**Thames Valley** "Pharmacist prescribing: where are we now?" by Jane Nicholls, and annual general meeting. The Adelaide Public House, Park Road, Teddington. 7.30 for 7.45pm.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

### Symposium: Pharmacogenetics in context

- **Date:** Wednesday 4 June 2008
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1
- **Content:** Understanding the impact of genetic variability in drug response is an important component of the implementation of personalised medicine. However, rapid and widespread introduction of robust and acceptable genetic tests is yet to happen. This symposium will review the reasons for this and the current state of play with regard to the translation of research findings into clinical practice.
- **Fees:** £125 for members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, or £140 for non-members (plus a discounted fee of £50 for students)
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; e-mail science@rpsgb.org)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

### Symposium: Ophthalmic drug delivery

- **Date:** Monday 30 June 2008
- **Venue:** Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1
- **Content:** A drug delivery focused symposium discussing the current and future drug and device combinations on the market to treat diseases of the eye. This symposium will include topical delivery to the eye as well as retinal delivery options in the discussion. Also included will be a discussion on currently regulatory trends and "watch outs" for the industry to consider while developing drugs and combinations products for delivery to the eye.
- **Fees:** £125 for members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences or £140 for non-members (plus a discounted fee of £50 for students).
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; e-mail science@rpsgb.org)



## Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

**London headquarters**  
Switchboard 020 7735 9141; direct dialling, see 'Medicines, ethics and practice';  
fax 020 7735 7629;  
e-mail enquiries@rpsgb.org;  
website www.rpsgb.org

**Scottish office**  
Headquarters of the Society in Scotland  
(including library and information service)  
0131 556 4386 (see also 'MEP' guide);  
fax 0131 558 8850; e-mail scotinfo@rpsgb.org

**Welsh office**  
Headquarters of the Society in Wales  
029 2073 0310; fax 029 2073 0311;  
e-mail wales@rpsgb.org

**Information centre**  
Book loans and information  
Library (loans, photocopies) 020 7572 2300;  
e-mail library@rpsgb.org  
Information pharmacists, 020 7572 2302;  
fax 020 7572 2499;  
e-mail infopharm@rpsgb.org

**Pharmacists' advisory service**  
Information on legal and ethical matters  
020 7572 2308; fax 020 7572 2510;  
e-mail leadvice@rpsgb.org

**Pharmaceutics information**  
Information, advice and problem-solving  
in pharmaceutics  
020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499;  
e-mail pharmaceutics@rpsgb.org

**Benevolent fund**  
Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 0161 427 9776 or 01323 890135

**Pharmacists' health support programme**  
Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction  
01327 264531

**Listening friends scheme**  
Help from pharmacists trained in dealing with stress 020 7572 2442

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website www.pharmpress.com

#### Monday 19 May

**Bromley** "Just in time" by Clare Noonan (campaign manager, Parkinson's Disease Society). Queen Mary's Hospital, Postgraduate Centre, Frognal, Sidcup. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

#### Tuesday 20 May

**Chelmsford** Annual general meeting and "Child protection matters" by Karen Moore (named nurse, child protection, Mid Essex Primary Care Trust). Cosmopolitan Restaurant, 10 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Cheltenham and Gloucester** "Super infections: meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile*, the facts and treatments" followed by annual general meeting. Sandford Education Centre, Cheltenham. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm. (pre-book by e-mail cheltglosbranch@hotmail.co.uk).

#### Harrow and Hillingdon

"Depression" by Caroline Parker (lead clinical pharmacist for adult services, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust). Cumberland Hotel, Harrow. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Oxfordshire** Annual general meeting and "Neurological rehabilitation: work of Oxford centre for enablement cannabis in multiple sclerosis". George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital. Headley Way, Oxford. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Sheffield** "Herbal medicines: uses and drug interactions" by Steven Kayne, followed by annual general meeting. EEF Sheffield. 7 for 7.30pm.

**South West Metropolitan** Annual general meeting and "Developing a pharmacy medication review for heart failure: opportunities for cross sector working" by Louise Coughlan (deputy chief pharmacist, St George's Hospital). Philip Constable Room, Grosvenor Wing, St George's Hospital, London SW17. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

#### Wednesday 21 May

**Teesside** "Controlled Drug regulations: what do they mean for pharmacy?" by Alison Hopkins (inspector, Royal Pharmaceutical Society), followed by annual general meeting. Parkmore Hotel, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees. 7 for 7.45pm.

#### Sunday 25 May

**Clwyd** Guided tour of Bodnant Gardens, River Conwy, Tal y Cafn. 1.45pm.