



The 2002 meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference takes place at the Manchester International Convention Centre from Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 September. The overall theme will be "The generation game: creating a healthy future". This three-page feature, compiled from information supplied by the conference organisers, sets out highlights of the conference programme and gives booking details and other conference information

Health care in an ageing population

This year's British Pharmaceutical Conference has as its principal theme the challenges of maintaining the health of the older generation. Each day of the conference focuses on a different range of diseases commonly encountered in older people, with Monday (sponsored by GlaxoSmith-Kline) examining diabetes, impaired immunity and ophthalmic disorders, Tuesday (sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme) concentrating on musculoskeletal disorders and Wednesday (sponsored by Boots) devoted to neurodegenerative disease and mental health. Each of these topics will be examined in a morning plenary session entitled "Pathologies in focus".

As well as focusing on diseases of older people, the programme will examine the scientific and social aspects of ageing. Among the many speakers lined up for the conference is Professor Tom Kirkwood, University of Newcastle, who was the BBC's Reith lecturer in 2001. He will speak on "The ageing process: implications for science and society" in a keynote address on the Wednesday morning, immediately after an address by David Lammy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health — the new minister with responsibility for pharmacy.

Other speakers on aspects of health care for the older person will include Professor Ian Philp, national director, care of older people, at the Department of Health, and Rodney Bickerstaffe, who is well known as the former general secretary of the public service union Unison but is speaking in his new role as

president of the National Pensioners Convention. Both will address a session on pharmacists and the ageing population.

As well as examining ageing and the diseases of old age, the sessions for practising pharmacists will address aspects of the modernisation of Britain's health care services and the opportunities offered to pharmacists to influence the future. Sessions will cover pharmacist prescribing, medicines management, public health, legal and ethical issues and community pharmacy research.

Speakers at the pharmacist prescribing session (one of three sessions chaired by the BBC's social affairs editor, Niall Dickson) will include Dr June Crown, who chairs the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's pharmacist prescribing group. The public health session is to be addressed by Imogen Sharp, head of

coronary heart disease and cancer prevention at the Department of Health.

As well as examining scientific aspects of ageing, the science programme will include symposia in the areas of material science, biopharmaceuticals, compaction, coating, pharmaceutical analysis, drug delivery, medicinal chemistry, tissue engineering, parenterals, neuroscience, inhaled therapies, technology transfer and infection control.

An outline of the main programme appears on pages 112 and 113, along with information about the exhibition, practice research, science posters and social events.

VENUE

The conference is being held in the city centre's new, purpose-built Manchester International Convention Centre, — part of the G-Mex exhibition and conference complex centred on the former Manchester Central railway station. The MICC is just a short walk from the central shopping district, which has been redesigned over the past few years following its devastation in 1996 by the largest bomb ever detonated in mainland Britain. The centre now boasts the biggest Marks & Spencer store in the world, a new square and a pedestrianised link to the cathedral and the nearby reconstructed "medieval quarter".

Manchester is easily accessible by road, rail and air. By road, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff are all no more than 3hr 30min away. There are good rail connections in all directions, and Manchester Airport serves no fewer than 175 international destinations.

CONFERENCE ESSENTIALS

Registration Conference registration forms have been widely distributed. Further copies can be obtained from the conference organisers: Health Links, 3rd Floor, Windsor House, 11A High Street, Birmingham B14 7BB (tel 0121 248 3399; fax 0121 248 3390). Full conference details are also available on the Health Links website (www.health-links.co.uk/bpc).

Early booking discount Members of the Society (and certain other organisations) and presenters can take advantage of a special rate of £350 + VAT for the full conference or £125 + VAT for a single day if they book by 1 August. Bona fide students pay £80 + VAT full fee or £30 + VAT per day. After 1 August, these fees rise to £430, £150, £110 and £40, plus VAT, respectively. Online booking is available on the Health Links website (see above).

Accommodation bookings Rooms can be booked by completing an accommodation form enclosed with the registration form. Further copies can be obtained from Health Links (see above). Accommodation can also be booked online at www.delegatebookings.co.uk/procon/britpham.htm.

Practice research sessions

Running in parallel with the symposia for pharmacists in practice will be a wide-ranging programme of practice research presentations. Some will be given orally in sessions on Tuesday morning and afternoon and Wednesday morning, and others will be presented as posters, which will be on display throughout the conference. Some posters will be the subject of poster discussion forums on the Monday and Tuesday mornings. Poster authors will be available to discuss their work from 5 to 6pm on the Tuesday. The annual practice research award lecture will be given at 2pm on the Tuesday.

Science poster displays

About 270 science posters will be presented during the conference with a different selection on display each day from 10am to 6pm (Wednesday 8.45am to 5pm). Authors will be in attendance from 5pm (Wednesday 4pm). A discussion session for commended posters will be held each day at 5.30pm (Wednesday 4.30pm), with poster prizes donated by the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*.

Conference exhibition

A specialist exhibition will run alongside the conference throughout its three days in the purpose-built exhibition halls of the MICC. The exhibition will feature a wide range of stands and demonstrations showing developments in pharmaceutical science, information technology and pharmacy practice. Special slots for exhibition visits will be built into the programme.

Evening social programme

The social programme at this year's conference begins on the Sunday evening with a welcome reception from 7 to 8pm (entrance free but by ticket only), followed by an informal conference club evening with a buffet meal (£10.95 + VAT). The conference club will also be open on the Monday and Tuesday evening, when food and drinks will be available to purchase. A conference banquet (black tie optional) takes place on the Monday in the Crowne Plaza Hotel (£49.50 + VAT). Tuesday's social event is a Lancashire evening, with a barn dance and a buffet supper (£29 + VAT).

Main conference programme day by day

Set out below is an outline of the main sessions on each day of the conference. Details of individual symposium papers are given only for the plenary programme. Fur-

ther detail is given in the conference brochure and a regularly updated version is available on the Health Links website (www.health-links.co.uk/lpc)

Key to colour coding

- Plenary sessions
- Sessions for pharmaceutical scientists
- Sessions for pharmacists in practice

Monday 23 September: Diabetes, impaired immunity and ophthalmic disorders

9.45am Welcome and introduction by the President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Marshall Davies	10am Conference Symposium: Historical and global perspectives on population change "The changing demographic picture" by Professor Les Mayhew, City University, London; "Changes in society" by Mike Lake, Director General, Help the Aged; "The implication for health services" by John Appleby, director, Health Systems Programme, The King's Fund	11.40am Pathologies in focus: Diabetes, impaired immunity and ophthalmic disorders "Improvement of immune function" by Dr Richard Aspinall, Imperial College, London; "New developments in diabetes" by Professor Adrian Bone, University of Brighton; "The ageing lens: possibilities for pharmacological intervention in the ageing eye" by Professor George Duncan, University of East Anglia	3pm Science Symposium: "Fundamentals of ageing" (with British Society for Research into Ageing) "Effects of ageing on behaviour" by Dr Lawrence Wilkinson, Babraham Institute; "Mechanisms of B cell ageing" by Dr Deborah Dunn-Walters, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine; "Fundamental mechanisms of muscle ageing" by Dr Ann McArdle, University of Liverpool; "Cell and matrix mechanisms of dermal ageing" by Dr Ian Kill, Brunel University; "Geronomics: the application of profiling techniques to ageing research" (Dr Jonathan Powell, Unilever)
10am Science Symposium: "Biopharmaceutics: predicting properties, preventing problems" (with Biopharmaceutics Focus Group).	10am Science Symposium — "Understanding compaction processes" (with the Compaction Focus Group).	10am Young Scientists Symposium: "Delivering a healthier future"	2pm Conference Science Medal Lecture: "Werner's syndrome: a pathological race through life" by Dr Richard Faragher, University of Brighton
10am to 6pm Science posters on display, with attended poster session at 5pm and poster discussion session for commended posters at 5.30pm			
11.40am "Pharmacists prescribing: the benefits and the barriers"	11.40 Practice research poster discussion forum	2pm The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's modernisation programme: an update	3.15pm Primary and secondary care session: "Adapting to change: medicines management"
10am to 6pm Practice posters on display		3.15pm "Diabetes care: multidisciplinary approaches in primary and secondary care"	4.30pm "Intermediate care: getting the partnerships right"
10am to 6pm Practice posters on display		3.15pm "Pharmaceutical advice in the new NHS" (in association with the National Pharmaceutical Association)	

LATE SESSIONS: 6pm Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education: "Getting involved in CPD"
 7.30pm Meet the Diabetes UK groups

Tuesday 24 September: Musculoskeletal disorders

8.45am Conference Science Chairman's Address Professor Stephen Denyer, University of Brighton	9.30am "Pathologies in focus: musculoskeletal disorders" "New developments in arthritis" by Dr Declan Naughton, University of Brighton; "Ageing bone and osteoporosis" (speaker to be confirmed); "Wound healing and ageing" by Dr David Thomas, University of Wales	11.30am National Pharmaceutical Association/Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists joint award ceremony and presentations	2.45pm "Osteoporosis: its management and prevention" "The role of pharmacists in implementing the older person's National Service Framework in osteoporotic patients" by Michael Sobanja, chief officer, NHS Alliance; "Osteoporosis screening through community pharmacy" by Hemant Patel, Secretary, North East London LPC; "Impact of the community pharmacy project" by a board member of Havering Primary Care Trust; "A summary and perspective from the NHS Alliance" by Dr Michael Dixon, chairman, NHS Alliance	
	9.45am Science Symposium: "New analytical techniques for quality assurance of phytopharmaceuticals" (with Pharmacognosy Focus Group and JPAG)	Noon AstraZeneca Industrial Achievement Award Lecture: "Future challenges and opportunities for drug delivery systems" by Dr Harry Ferres, GSK	2pm Harrison Memorial Lecture "Hot dogs and cold water" by Professor Roger Waigh, University of Strathclyde	3pm Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group Short papers
	9.30am Science Symposium: "Polymers in drug delivery: recent advances and new horizons" (with UKI Controlled Release Society)			3pm Science Symposium: "Polymers in drug delivery: recent advances and new horizons" (continued)
	9.30am Science Symposium: "Material science: polymorphism and hydration"			3pm Science Symposium: "Medicinal chemistry in the UK: into the 21st century"
10am to 6pm Science posters on display, with attended poster session at 5pm and poster discussion session for commended posters at 5.30pm				
9.30am "Public health and pharmacy"	11.30am Law and ethics: "Legal and ethical issues in palliative care pharmacy and the end of life"	2pm Law and ethics: "Pharmacist's experience in palliative care"	4pm "A community pharmacy research network" Demonstration workshop	
9.30am Industrial Pharmacists Group session	11.30am "Diagnostics at the point of care: how it can work in practice" (with British In Vitro Diagnostics Association). "Health screening and pre-disposition testing"	2pm Industrial Pharmacists Group session	3pm "Diagnostics at the point of care. How it can work in practice" (continued) "Monitoring disease and therapy"	
9.30am Practice research poster discussion forum: Errors and learning	11.30am Practice research papers: "Clinical governance"	2pm Chemist & Druggist Conference Practice Research Medal	3pm Practice research papers: "Pharmaceutical care and safe prescribing"	
10am to 6pm Practice posters on display, with presenters in attendance from 5pm				

EARLY SESSIONS: 7.45am Breakfast session: "How are pharmacists faring in the new PCTs?"
8am Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences annual general meeting

Wednesday 25 September: Neurodegenerative disease and mental health

8.45am Address by the President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Marshall Davies 9.15am Ministerial address by David Lammy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health 9.45am Conference keynote address "The ageing process: Implications for science and society" by Professor Tom Kirkwood, University of Newcastle (BBC Reith Lecturer 2001)	11am "Pathologies in focus: neurodegenerative disease and mental health" "The ageing brain and cognitive decline" by Professor Ian Deary, University of Edinburgh; "Parkinson's disease" (speaker to be confirmed); "The pathology of stroke" (Dr Keith Muir, Glasgow)	2pm GSK International Achievement Award Lecture: "Journeys to and through the lung" by Dr Peter Byron, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA		
	10.30am Science symposium: "Parenterals: a mixture of science and technology" (with Parental Society)	12.45pm Science Symposium: "Molecular and cellular neuroscience: probing the pathology of brain disease and scope for therapeutic intervention"		
	10.30am Science Symposium: "Inhaled therapies: transition into the 21st Century" (with European Pharmaceutical Aerosol Group)			3pm Science Symposium: "Inhaled therapies: transition into the 21st Century" (continued)
	10.30am Science Symposium: "Science and technology transfer for SMEs" (with Industrial Pharmacists Group)			3pm Science Symposium: "Science and technology transfer for SMEs" (continued)
8.45am to 5pm Science posters on display, with attended poster session at 4pm and poster discussion session for commended posters at 4.30pm				
	11.30am "Pharmacists and the ageing population"		2.45pm Hospital and community pharmacists session: "What carers and patients want from pharmacists"	
	11.30am Hospital and community session: "Modernising mental health services"			
	11.30am Leadership and hospital pharmacists session		2.45pm Hospital pharmacists session: "Current topics for hospital pharmacists" (with Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists)	
	11am Practice research papers: "Pharmaceutical care and medicines management"			
8.45 to 5pm Practice posters on display				

EARLY SESSIONS: 7.45am Community pharmacy breakfast session: "Improving access to medicines" (with the Medicines Control Agency)
7.45am Hospital pharmacy breakfast session: "Clinical errors and patient safety"