

PHARMAC WINS "PE

PHARMACY staff
at Whipps Cross
hospital work
together to attain
required standards

The pharmacy department at Whipps Cross hospital, London, has won an Investors in People award.

The award was presented by the London East training and enterprise council (LETEC) at a ceremony held recently in the department.

The Investors in People award recognises, among other things, that an organisation values its workforce by having in place robust training programmes and good working procedures.

The pharmacy department at

Whipps Cross hospital, part of the Forest Healthcare NHS trust, has 50 members of staff.

Speaking to *Hospital Pharmacist* on December 14, the head of the pharmacy department, Mr Pieter Shaw, said that members of staff had worked together to meet the standards required and

that the award had recognised the high standards of service and care which the department provided. Mr Shaw also believed that the award had motivated members of staff who were now more involved in the day-to-day management of the department.

Guild rejects inflation-linked pay offer

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists has rejected a two-year pay offer which would have guaranteed increases above inflation.

The Department of Health offered hospital pharmacists a 3.25 per cent increase for 2000-01 and an offer of 0.5 per cent above the underlying rate of inflation (as at December, 2000) for 2001-02.

The Department also proposed to break with the practice of linking any pay offer to an

uplift in payments for emergency duty cover.

Speaking on behalf of the GHP, section general secretary Mr Gerry Looker explained that the 2000 offer was less than that awarded to National Health Service staff covered by the Pay Review Body award, while the 2001 offer would mean an increase below the retail price index, and hence a pay cut in real terms.

Mr Looker said: "The Department of Health's rationale

behind this offer is seriously flawed. There are major problems in the NHS around the recruitment and retention of pharmacists, exacerbated by the increase in demand for members of this profession in the private sector. This offer will only make matters worse." He also said that doing away with the practice of linking pay offers to emergency duty payments would undermine out-of-hours services, contrary to the Government's NHS modernisation agenda.

CPP grants 50 associate memberships

Over 50 pharmacists working for the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS trust have been enrolled as associate members of the College of Pharmacy Practice through a grant for professional development.

The grant, awarded by the trust, also covers the purchase of college continuing professional development portfolios.

The group membership agreement is the second which the CPP has negotiated with the

hospital sector, the first being with Royal University Hospitals NHS trust in Bath.

As well as providing a properly structured approach to CPD, the college portfolio offers a route to full membership which complements the traditional examination route.

Nominations for CPP elections
Nominations are being invited for three governors and one associate representative in the

forthcoming College of Pharmacy Practice elections. The term of office for these positions is three years.

Nominations, which should be made on a form available from the college, must reach the CPP by 12 noon on Monday, February 5. Further information can be obtained from Teresa Holloway (tel 024 7669 2400, fax 024 7669 3069, e-mail info@collpharm.org.uk).

brief

A performance management framework for assessing medicines management systems in National Health Service hospitals in England has been launched by the Department of Health. The framework is to be used by acute trusts to examine the processes they have in place for monitoring prescribing, medicines management, drug and therapeutic committees, formularies, medicines expenditure and links with primary care.

The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) has published the first reports of its review of hospitals. The reports for three trusts, Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital NHS trust, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS trust and Southampton University Hospitals NHS trust were released by CHI on December 13. In a press release, the CHI chief executive, Peter Homa, said that the three trusts all had areas where good practice had been demonstrated as well as areas where improvement was needed. Further information on the reports can be obtained from the commission's website (www.doh.gov.uk/chi).

An award of £3,500 for the best piece of research into the effectiveness of hospital pharmacy has been launched by the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists. Further details can be obtained from Ann Slee (tel 0151 482 7612) or Raj Gokani (tel 01865 221807).

A new technical reference folder on Freeflex, a polyolefine intravenous fluid and drug delivery system, is now available to hospital pharmacists on request. Hospital pharmacists can fax their requests to Fresenius Kabi, Fluid Therapy Division on 01928 594262 or e-mail bryan.lister@fresenius-kabi.com.