

# OF WHAT PHARMAC

GHP seeks to justify continued investment in hospital pharmacy services

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists is in the process of appointing individuals who can appraise and document evidence supporting the effectiveness of hospital pharmacy.

In a statement published on the Guild's website ([www.ghp.org.uk](http://www.ghp.org.uk)), Mr Raj Gokani, representing the GHP's education and science committee, acknowledged that pharmacists undertook a significant amount of practice research that showed the value, effectiveness and efficiency of hospital pharmacy. However, he stated, although some of the research was published or presented at

meetings, much of it was retained in departments or trusts.

The appointed individual (or group) will be expected to identify, extract and appraise the available evidence, and abstract it into a suitable form for dissemination. In such a form, it could be used to support business cases at trust level, to strengthen pharmacists' negotiating position in justifying pay claims, to lobby

Members of Parliament and other decision makers and promote investment in the education of pharmacists.

The GHP's education and science committee is responsible for commissioning this work, which is estimated to take approximately 300 to 350 hours. It is expected that the result of the appraisal will be published in October.

## Teaching the Brazilians a trick or two

Pharmacists at Hammer-smith Hospitals NHS trust, London, were recently invited to teach clinical pharmacy in Brazil.

As part of the programme of the Brazilian Society of Hospital Pharmacists' national congress held last November, Miss Kathryn Glynne, specialist oncology pharmacist, had been asked to teach hospital pharmacists in Brazil how to provide clinical pharmacy services to oncology patients. Pharmacists

in Brazil had been mainly concerned with the reconstitution of cytotoxics. However, many were keen to extend their knowledge and expand their clinical role.

Another pharmacist from the trust, Dr Bryony Dean (director, academic practice unit), also attended the congress, after which she was invited to give a presentation on clinical pharmacy in the United Kingdom at the University of Ceara.

In Brazilian hospitals, there

was typically one pharmacist for every 120 beds and most pharmacists had only a supply role. There was a widespread influence from the United States, including the heavy promotion of unit dose drug distribution by American suppliers.

Both Miss Glynne and Dr Dean felt that hospital pharmacists in Brazil were keen to develop their role beyond supply and make a real difference to patients' quality of life.

## Clinical pharmacy technicians form new group

A new group that will advance the practice of clinical pharmacy technicians is to be launched.

The group, known as the National Clinical Pharmacy Technician Network (UK) will hold its first meeting on April 23, at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.

The network is aimed at any technicians undertaking, or planning to undertake, clinical

or ward based roles. It is intended that the network will provide a means for technicians to share information, ideas, protocols, procedures and best practice.

Speakers at the meeting will include Mrs Helen Remington, a member of the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and chief pharmacist at Addenbrooke's hospital.

There are only 50 places

available at this meeting, thus places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis to pharmacy technicians and pharmacists involved in planning or undertaking clinical or ward-based roles for pharmacy technicians.

For further details, please contact Sarah Gray by e-mail at [sgrayuk@yahoo.com](mailto:sgrayuk@yahoo.com). Participants will not be charged for attending the meeting.

# brief

The Cardiac and Critical Care Organisation (CCO) is holding two national conferences in the coming months. The first, "Maximising outcomes in CHD: new and future strategies", is to be held on May 11 and 12. The following month, "Critical care 2001: improving clinical effectiveness in critical care medicine" will be held on June 8 and 9. Both conferences will be held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters in London. Registration fee for either conference is £135 (or £160 after March 1). For industry delegates, the fee is £500. The fee does not include accommodation, which delegates would have to organise separately. Further details on the conferences can be obtained on tel/fax 020 7928 6572.

A new internet bookshop specialising in academic and professional books is now available. The website ([www.profbooks.com](http://www.profbooks.com)), will allow pharmacists and others to order books online. Mr Simon Boisseau, managing director of Profbooks.com, said that pharmacists would not need to search through pages of unrelated titles to find the books they needed. Dr Pamela Mason, MRPharmS, a freelance writer and contributor to *Hospital Pharmacist*, is responsible for editing the contents and recommendations on the pharmacy and pharmacology section of the site.

Mr Martin Pratt, principal pharmacist, formulary development, George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton, won a Psion Revo handheld electronic organiser in a lucky-draw organised by First Databank, providers of drug, medical and nutrition information, at the last *Hospital Pharmacist* conference.