

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Life-long Learning, Hospital Pharmacists' new continuing professional development series, was launched at the Hospital Pharmacist's preconference dinner in London on 10 November. Gareth Jones reports

This year's conference was successfully launched with the preconference dinner in the Council Dining Room of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on 10 November. Nearly 40 delegates enjoyed the dinner and reception, sponsored by Mayne Pharma.

The theme of the preconference dinner was the launch of Life-long Learning, the new continuing education and continuing professional development series which

started in the November issue of *Hospital Pharmacist*.

Tony West, president, Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, welcomed the new series and he suggested that more support was needed for non-clinical staff such as managers when undertaking continuing professional development.

Ian Simpson, chief executive, College of Pharmacy Practice, reflected on Credit for Learning over the last year, with 625 phar-

macists taking part. Of these, 148 had completed the full set of questions. Mr Simpson also thanked Chris Barrett, who carries out the accreditation of the questions on behalf of the college.

Others guest present on the evening included Nicholas Wood, president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Ann Lewis, secretary and registrar of the Society, and Ray Fitzpatrick, chairman of the Society's Hospital Pharmacist Group.

Previous winner triumphs again

Ruth Fleet, senior surgical pharmacist, Royal Preston Hospital, won the Credit for Learning award for the second time when the result was announced at the *Hospital Pharmacist* preconference dinner. Ms Fleet received the award, a cheque for £500 towards attendance at a conference, from Jonathan Ody, commercial director, Mayne Pharma.

Mr Ody also took the opportunity to announce the prize for the new Life-long Learning series. The winner of the 2004/5 competition will win an expenses paid trip to the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists conference in Geneva in spring 2005.

My Ody said that when he finished his postgraduate training over 10 years ago, the concept of life-long learning had not really been invented. However, people in all fields are now recognising the importance of updating themselves on changes and maintaining professional development. He said that Mayne is delighted to sponsor Life-long Learning and continue supporting continuing professional development for pharmacists.

Greg Sargent, senior pharmacist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn, and a former winner of Credit for Learning, explained that



Ruth Fleet: this year's winner



Jonathan Ody: presented the award

he used his prize money to attend two events organised by the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association. He said that doing Credit for

Learning ensured he read the articles when they arrived and motivated him to read around the topic.

Credit for Learning 2003/4 special runner-up prize announced

A runner-up prize for Credit for Learning was awarded to Elizabeth Lewis, medicines information pharmacist, Blackberry Hill Hospital, Bristol. Ms Lewis and Ms Fleet, the eventual winner, tied on the same score when the results were compiled. A tie-

breaker was then held, with both asked to summarise how they would use their prize.

An additional prize was introduced by *Hospital Pharmacist* to reward Ms Lewis for her efforts. She will receive £200 towards attendance at a conference.

Conference slides

Many of the slides from the *Hospital Pharmacist* conference are now available on-line. Delegates wishing to see them should go to www.pjonline.com/hpconference



CHRIS ELAMES



CHRIS ELAMES



CHRIS ELAMES



CHRIS ELAMES



CHRIS ELAMES



CHRIS ELAMES

Top left: Tony West, president, Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists and chief pharmacist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. Top right (left to right): Nicholas Wood, president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Ian Simpson, chief executive, College of Pharmacy Practice, and Ray Fitzpatrick, clinical director of pharmacy at Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust and chairman, Hospital Pharmacists Group. Middle left: Greg Sargent, senior pharmacist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn. Middle right: Ruth Fleet, senior surgical pharmacist, Royal Preston Hospital, and Ian Simpson. Bottom left: Dawn Ashley, external communications and PR manager, Mayne Pharma. Bottom right: George Gannon, pharmacy operations manager, University College Hospital Trust, London and Sue Patey, deputy chief pharmacist, Great Ormond Street Hospital.