

# Network News

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Issue 4: September 2005



Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

## Society responds to branches' call for e-mail service

At their meeting in March this year, Royal Pharmaceutical Society branch and regional secretaries asked whether the Society could help with their communications by collecting members' e-mail addresses centrally. Several branch secretaries use e-mail for their regular mailings to members to streamline their administration and save on postage costs. But secretaries were finding difficulty in ensuring that their locally generated lists of e-mail addresses were up to date and asked the Society to help.

Following a period of research, the Society has now begun a new internet-based service that invites members to submit details of their e-mail address.

The e-mail addresses collected will be used to improve communications between branches and their members. The addresses will also be used by Society staff to communicate with members although conventional mail will still be used for all statutory information sent to members.

In line with the Society's data protection policy, e-mail addresses will be only used to support its work as the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists. The Society will not share data collected on a commercial basis with any third party.

The e-mail service can be found on the "Branches and Regions" page in the "About the Society" section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org/society](http://www.rpsgb.org/society)) or by following a link from the home page. The page allows members to add and change their e-mail addresses to help ensure that the database is kept up to date. It will be the responsibility of individual members to ensure that they supply updated information.

The system will also allow members to remove their e-mail addresses if they no longer want to be contacted by e-mail.

John Gentle is one of two members of Council who act as sponsors for the branch and regional network activities and is also secretary of the Shropshire branch. He says: "E-mail is a fast and effective way for branches and regions to communicate with the members at a local level. It also helps to save a lot of money in stamps. The Society has responded to calls to establish a database of e-mail addresses and I would encourage members to take advantage of this opportunity."

To use the system you simply have to navigate to the appropriate page and supply the required details:

- **Request** Choose the appropriate option from: Add my e-mail address | Change my e-mail address | Delete my e-mail address
- **Date of birth** Select the appropriate date from the drop-down lists
- **Registration number** Type in your registration number
- **E-mail address** Type in your e-mail address
- **Verify your e-mail address** Retype your e-mail address

### About the Society

Home > About the Society > Branches and regions > e-mail address collection

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's network of Branches and Regions across England, Scotland and Wales is an important channel of communications.

In response to a request made at the Branch Secretaries' meeting in March 2005, the Society is to begin collecting members' e-mail addresses for use by the Branch network to help improve communications with members locally. The advantage of e-mail is that it is a simple, fast and cost-effective way for Branches to keep members updated about their programme of meetings. This e-mail address will only be used as a communications tool by the Society and will not be shared with any third party for commercial purposes.

We now need to create and maintain an up-to-date database of members' e-mail addresses. Members who would like their local Branch to e-mail information to them are asked to complete the following form. Please note that, as your e-mail address changes, you will need to inform us so that we can amend your details.

Request:	<input type="text" value="Add my e-mail address"/>
Date of birth:	<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="January"/> <input type="text" value="1910"/>
Registration number:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address:	<input type="text"/>
Verify e-mail address:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

By clicking on the submit button you are agreeing to allow the RPSGB to store and use your e-mail address for the stated purposes

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain makes use of data gathered by means of this form to support its work as the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists. Data may be shared with third parties in pursuance of the Society's aims and objectives and the Society may recover costs involved. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain does not share this data on a commercial basis with any third party.

### The e-mail address collection page on the Society's website

Your date of birth is required because we need to validate each member. Because registration numbers are publicly available, it is important that we ensure only legitimate e-mail addresses are collected.

The unique combination of registration number and date of birth is checked against the information held in the membership system.

If there are any problems with the information you have entered, an error message will appear. The most likely explanation for this, assuming that all information has been entered correctly, is that you are one of a small proportion of members whose dates of birth are not held by the Society. If this is the case, or if for any reason there appears to be a discrepancy in the information, you will be prompted to contact the registration department.

By **Andy Langler**, the Society's head of information management and technology

# Branch programmes, September to December 2005

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's membership unit has compiled the following provisional programme of branch meetings during the second half of 2005 to help members plan their meeting attendance. Members should note that the details of some meeting are still to be finalised. Additional and revised information will appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* ([www.pjonline.com/noticeboard](http://www.pjonline.com/noticeboard)) and in

*The Pharmaceutical Journal's* weekly Diary column, which gives details of meetings for eight days from the Monday following the publication date of the issue.

Members should also note that they are normally free to attend meetings of any branch and not just the one to which they have been allocated or which they have chosen to join.

## Ayrshire to Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Branch	Date	Topic
Ayrshire	27 September	Developing your continuing professional development needs
	28 September	Developing your continuing professional development needs
	29 September	Developing your continuing professional development needs
	25 October	National boards and other issues
	29 November	Developing your continuing professional development needs
	30 November	Developing your continuing professional development needs
	1 December	Developing your continuing professional development needs
Bath	Mid September	Continuing professional development workshop
	October	Paediatric prescribing
	November	Pharmacy in palliative care
	December	Aphrodisiacs from plants
Bedfordshire	22 September	Depression, disease and disability
	October November	Risk management Sexually transmitted diseases (to be confirmed)
Birmingham	27 October	Cancer
	24 November	<i>to be announced</i>
Bolton	6 September	Special event for new pharmacists and preregistration trainees
	10 November	Infection control
	1 December	Continuing professional development, part 2
Bradford	5 September	National Patient Safety Agency
	12 October	Developing pharmacy in Bradford
	24 November	Management of depression
Bristol	27 September	Public health
	19 October	Child protection
	22 November	Risk of drug interactions of complementary medicine
	7 December	Coeliac disease
Bromley	17 October	<i>to be announced</i>
	21 November	<i>to be announced</i>
	12 December	<i>to be announced</i>
Buckinghamshire	15 September	Managing risk : an inspector's perspective
	9 November	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	8 November	Address by Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health, Welsh Assembly Government

## Central Lancashire to East Cumberland

Branch	Date	Topic
Central Lancashire	14 September	New contract: Sharing good practice
	7 November	Continuing professional development practice update: diabetes
Chelmsford	15 September	New perspectives in herbal medicines
	18 October	Vaccines update
	17 November	Reducing the risk of suicide: a pharmacist's viewpoint
Cheltenham and Gloucester	21 September	Ophthalmology
	1 November	Diabetes
Clwyd	21 September	Preregistration trainee welcome.
	October	Liberalisation of drugs
	3 November	Continuing professional development support group
	3 November	Introducing supervised consumption
	17 November	Introducing supervised consumption
Colchester	8 December	Consultation skills
	3 November 30 November	Paediatric pharmacy <i>to be announced</i>
Coventry and Warwickshire	11 October	<i>to be announced</i>
	15 November	<i>to be announced</i>
	6 December	<i>to be announced</i>
Crawley, Horsham and Reigate	15 September	New contract forum
	18 October	Supplementary prescribing
	9 November 23 November	Continuing professional development record keeping Continuing professional development surgery
Croydon	27 September	Smoking cessation
	1 November	Sexual health, including chlamydia
Derby	22 November	New contract: minor ailments, medicines usage review, dyspepsia
	12 September	Preregistration get-together
Doncaster	27 October	Nutritional supplements
	24 November	Defibrillation in the community
Dudley and Stourbridge	13 September	Antibiotics
	4 October	Renal failure
	14 November	Continuing professional development
	6 December	Coeliac disease and gluten free foods
Durham	20 September	<i>to be announced</i>
	18 October	<i>to be announced</i>
	22 November	Asthma update
East Cumberland	11 October November	Concordance workshop <i>to be announced</i>

## East Kent to Huddersfield

Branch	Date	Topic
East Kent	4 October	Dietary supplementation
	7 November	New contract: information technology developments
	13 December	Medical and dental hypnosis
Epsom	3 October	New pharmacy contract, new opportunities
	24 November	Nutritional supplements and coeliac disease
Fife	11 October	Visit to NHS24 premises
	29 November	Continuing professional development (topic to be announced)
Glasgow and West of Scotland	10 November	<i>to be announced</i>
Guernsey	6 September 20 October	Pain management Osteoporosis
Gwent	September	Continuing professional development
	October December	Continuing professional development Automated dispensing
Halifax	12 October	Pain management
	24 November	Nutrition, supplementary vitamins and minerals
Harrow and Hillingdon	20 September	Stress incontinence
	1 November	What is methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and what are they doing with it?
	5 December	Multiple sclerosis
Hastings	6 October	Nutritional supplements
	8 November	Continuing professional development
Hereford	22 September	New contractual framework: Clinical effectiveness, audit and record keeping
	October	Update on immunisation (measles, mumps and rubella, influenza, etc)
	24 November	Medicines management: infections and antibiotics
Hertford	21 September 8 November	Travel medicine Continuing professional development
Hounslow	6 October	Continuing professional development, part 2 (hands-on)
	3 November	Drug misuse: an update
	1 December	<i>to be announced</i>
Huddersfield	6 October	Care and treatment of Parkinson's disease patients
	3 November	The pharmacy manufacturing unit
	1 December	Prison Service pharmacy

## Hull to North Staffordshire

Branch	Date	Topic
Hull	6 September	Inspections of community pharmacies
	21 September	Introductory meeting for preregistration trainees and tutors
	15 November	Eastern Hull Primary Care Diabetes Trust
Ipswich	15 September	ADHD treatment and management
	12 October	Continuing professional development: making and assessing records online
	15 November	Treatment and management of methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and tuberculosis
Lanarkshire	27 September	Continuing professional development support
	10 November	Can I be sued?
	8 December	The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's anticounterfeiting strategy
Leeds	12 October	How safe are your medicines?
	16 November	Pharmacy contract
Leicestershire	13 September	Shipman Inquiry: implications for pharmacists
	11 October	Pharmacy and public health: tackling obesity
	8 November	Drug information from the web
Liverpool	September	Cystic fibrosis
	2 November	Nutrition
Manchester, Salford and Trafford	15 September	Learning about the new pharmacy contract
	20 October	Continuing professional development: how to evaluate your portfolio
	24 November	Diagnostics
Medway	10 October	Development of home-based palliative care services
	21 November	<i>to be announced</i>
Mid Glamorgan East	13 September	Robotic dispensing
	18 October	Defibrillators and spirometry
	8 November	Nutrition
Moray and Banff	13 September	<i>to be announced</i>
	11 October	<i>to be announced</i>
	8 November	<i>to be announced</i>
	13 December	<i>to be announced</i>
Morgannwg	4 October	Schizophrenia
Northamptonshire	7 September	Forensic pathology
	19 October	Nutritional supplements
Northern Scottish	4 October	Local developments in pharmacy
	1 November	Osteoporosis management and falls prevention
	6 December	Education and training of pharmacy support staff
North Hampshire	25 October	The new contract
	Late November	Continuing professional development
North Staffordshire	21 September	Continuing professional development
	20 October	Rheumatology
	17 November	Gastroenterology: colitis and gastrointestinal problems
	8 December	High risk drugs and renal function

## Norwich and Norfolk to Southampton

Branch	Date	Topic
Norwich and Norfolk	22 September	Pharmacist prescribing: where are we now?
	3 November	Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll: what's Love and NICE got to do with it?
	1 December	Pharmacogenetics: what does it mean for the pharmacy profession?
Nottingham	29 September	Medicines usage review processes
	10 October	Alzheimer's disease
	14 November	Cardiovascular disease
	12 December	Diabetes
Oxfordshire	20 September	Pharmacy workforce strategy: diversity of roles
	11 October	Expert patient programme
	8 November	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
Penfro	29 November	Healing power of plants
	20 September	New pharmacy contract
	29 September	Appropriate use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Portsmouth	8 November	Update on osteoporosis
	21 September	Health promotion
Reading	6 October	Continuing professional development, part 3
	17 November	Continuing professional development
	22 September	Sexual health
Sefton	18 October	Antibiotic resistance
	29 November	Obesity and the changing waistline
	3 October	Palliative care for pharmacists
Sheffield	7 November	Continuing professional development
	5 December	Supplementary prescribing
	5 September	Epidemiology and pandemics
	6 October	Dementia
Slough	2 November	Recent developments in the treatment of type II diabetes mellitus
	6 December	Neuropathic pain
	8 September	The NSF for Children: opportunities for pharmacists
Solihull	5 October	Childhood skin conditions
	21 November	Principles of paediatric pharmacy
	7 September	<i>to be announced</i>
	19 October	Skin conditions
South Cheshire	2 November	The ASCOT trial and changes in national hypertension guidelines
	7 December	<i>to be announced</i>
	21 September	Recent advances in diabetes
South East Metropolitan	18 October	Tour of Ivax production site
	24 November	Medication reviews in respiratory medicine
	14 September	Management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Southampton	19 October	Acute coronary syndromes: an update on the management of STEMI/NSTEMI patients
	16 November	Continuing professional development refresher
	25 October	New contract: What's all the fuss about?

## Sunderland to Wirral

Branch	Date	Topic
Sunderland	28 September	Geriatrics (1/3)
	5 October	Geriatrics (2/3)
	19 October	Geriatrics (3/3)
	November	Joint meeting with technicians
Teesside	28 September	Asthma and coronary obstructive pulmonary disease
	2 November	Infection control, methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and antibiotic prescribing
Thames Valley	21 September	Preregistration welcome meeting
	November	<i>to be announced</i>
Torbay	Early October	Continuing professional development
	1 December	Heart failure
Warrington	3 October	Shipman: learning from the past and the lessons for the future
	16 November	Warrington Anticoagulation Service
Weald of Kent	15 September	Electronic transfer of prescriptions
	20 October	HIV medicines
	16 November	Recent development in the treatment of psychosis
West Cumberland	12 October	Moving forwards with IT
	9 November	Continuing professional development
West Hertfordshire	6 October	Nutrition and coeliac disease
	24 November	Continuing professional development: online completion
West Metropolitan	12 October	Welcome and introduction to preregistration trainees / Pharmacists prescribing in practice (main session)
	30 November	"Hospital pharmacy (preregistration session) / acupuncture and Chinese medicine
	13 September	Headache and migraine
West Surrey	11 October	Topics such as "Ask about Medicines" week, supplementary prescribing and local support for medicines usage review
	8 November	Eyes
	13 December	Schizophrenia and bipolar disorders
	15 September	Update on pharmacogenetics
Wirral	20 October	Dealing with patient safety
	16 November	Clinical governance

The following branches have not yet finalised their programmes: Barnet, Brighton, Bro Myrddin, Bury and Rochdale, Cambridge, Chesterfield, Cornish, Dorset, Edinburgh and Lothians, Harrogate, Isle of Wight, Lancaster, Macclesfield, North East Lancashire, Northumbrian, Shropshire.

The following branches are not planning to hold any meetings this year: East Metropolitan, Yorkshire

No programme information was received from the following branches: Aberdeen and NE Scottish, Ceredigion, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee and Eastern Scottish, Grimsby, Gwynedd, Isle of Man, Jersey, Lincoln, Mansfield, Plymouth, Powys, Scottish Borders, Somerset, South Cumbria, South Essex, South Lincolnshire, South Staffordshire, South West Metropolitan, Stirling and Central Scottish, Stockport, Swindon, Walsall and Wolverhampton, Wigan, Worcester, Worthing and West Sussex, York

# Building understanding of CPD through the branches

Sue Jones looks back at the training undertaken by the Society's continuing professional development facilitators and their work with the branches

A key message from the Society's members arising out of the 2001 consultative review, "Shaping up for the future", was that there was an important role for the branches in supporting pharmacists' continuing professional development.

As a result, the Society recruited a team of 22 branch CPD facilitators to help members understand the Society's CPD requirements and support the introduction of mandatory CPD. Following their appointment all the facilitators were given intensive training to help prepare them for their new role.

A toolkit containing a presentation and activities in a ready-to-go format was developed in consultation with the Society by Sue Cook, an expert trainer who has worked with the Society on its CPD requirements since the pilot study in 1999. The idea behind the toolkit was to ensure some consistency throughout the branches and also to help facilitators tailor the meetings to meet the differing CPD needs of the individual branches.

Each facilitator was allocated a minimum of four branches and was asked to contact

branch secretaries and offer their input into two evening meetings.

Since July 2004, over 120 meetings have taken place at branches across England, Scotland and Wales. The toolkit proved an invaluable resource for facilitators. It has ensured that the content of the meetings has remained consistent while the style and delivery of the meetings were left in the hands of the individual facilitator. "Branches have found CPD facilitated meetings to have been excellent and valuable addition to their branch programmes," Paula Wilkinson, from Chelmsford branch, says.

"Members have enjoyed sharing their experiences of CPD and the meetings have looked to encourage discussion and group participation with a diverse group of attendees," says Mike Salter, of Medway branch.

"Attendance at these facilitated meetings has often been the highest seen for a few years — sometimes with standing room only," according to Shilpa Gohil, secretary of Harrow and Hillingdon branch.

Feedback from branches showed that members have enjoyed the CPD evenings,



which they saw as being interesting, informative and reassuring. Members also welcomed the opportunity to share their individual experiences of CPD with others. Members have been particularly interested to find out how CPD technology works and how records can be kept.

The CPD meetings have proved to be a real success with the numbers attending being considerably higher than for other branch meetings. In the light of the positive feedback the project has been extended from 12 to 18 months to enable more members to participate.

To find out where your nearest CPD branch meeting is contact Nicola Kelly in the Society's membership team (tel 020 7572 2330).

**Sue Jones** is clinical pharmacy practice lecturer at King's College London School of Pharmacy and lead facilitator for the Society's CPD branch project

## The future of the branch representatives' meeting

In December 2004, the Society's Council asked that the branches be consulted about the future of the branch representatives' meeting, which the Council considers to be a unique opportunity for the branches to raise issues of concern and to ask for specific courses of action to address the issues involved.

Following a consultation with the branches, Anne Adams, head of professional leadership, facilitated a session on the future of the meeting at the 2005 BRM, held in May.

Representatives thought that the meeting was valuable but not used to best effect. They asked for help in making the meeting and its outputs more robust and relevant. Members said that discussion on the future of the BRM should not just centre on the format of the meeting itself but on the preparation for it and actions resulting from it. They called for support in developing the appropriate motions for the meeting and debating them more skilfully, such as horizon scanning skills, political astuteness, strategic thinking and influencing skills.

The representatives recognised that the branches often have difficulty in formulating topical motions. They thought that this is probably because they have to develop, gain a mandate for and submit motions so far in advance.

A key issue was how the Council would respond to the motions that had been carried, which in turn, no doubt, will affect their motivation to engage in a revised and more rigorous process. At the December 2004 Council meeting, the Council had agreed that, although the motions passed at the BRM are not binding upon the Council, it is important that the members know that their views and concerns as expressed through the motions have been listened to and taken full account of. A new template for Council responses to BRM motions has been introduced to give a clearer explanation of the background to the response and action taken.

Representatives thought that it would help them greatly if the Society could communicate to them what is within the Society's power to action and what is not. Guidance could be offered on crafting the motions and their explanatory paragraphs, but it was important not to lose the grassroots perspective or to allow motions to be censored.

It was thought acceptable for the Council, and perhaps the Society's special interest groups, to suggest topics for debate at the BRM. In deciding topics, clarity would be needed around whether it would be appropri-

ate to debate motions relating to the Society's regulatory role as well as to its professional one. Members stressed that they wanted to retain ownership of the meeting, which is an important vehicle for conveying the views of the members to the Council.

Representatives thought that preparation for the BRM should be a year-round process. It would be helpful if branches could be made aware, on an ongoing basis, of the Council's agenda and priorities, in a timely way. Effective two-way communication would be essential to make an effective change in the topics chosen by branches for submission.

Arlene Osman, secretary of the Mid-Glamorgan branch, who this year attended the meeting for the first time, said: "I now have a greater understanding of the process around the BRM and found all of the 18 motions of interest. The meeting is a good forum for stimulating ideas for proposing motions at future BRMs".

The branches are currently being consulted further on this process and a further session will be taken back to the branches at the branch and regional secretaries' meeting in October. Any member who wishes to add his or her views is asked to e-mail b&era@rpsgh.org by 16 September.