



Branch funding for conference 2007 attendance

For some years branches of the Society have been able to apply for up to £250 from the Society to support first-time attendees going to the British Pharmaceutical Conference. This year, however, in response to a motion at the 2006 branch representatives' meeting to make BPC more accessible for members, it has been agreed that those branches who are unable to identify a BPC first-time attendee can extend the offer of financial support to all members, regardless of whether they have attended BPC in the past or not.

Branches can use the £250 to support one attendee only or divide the funding between a number of attendees. Branches may also choose to offer extra support from their own finances.

Funding applications for sending attendees to BPC must be sent to the membership unit (e-mail: b&ra@rpsgb.org) by the end of August 2007.

Local branch event

This year, local branches in the Manchester area have been invited, free of charge, to attend a special evening event at the confer-

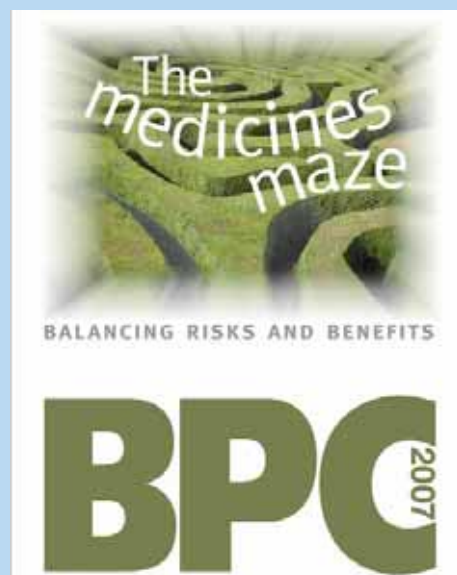
ence on Tuesday 11 September at Manchester Central. This will enable members to:

- Visit the BPC exhibition and careers forum (from 5.15pm)
- Attend a science or practice poster session, or both, which incorporate a wine reception (5.15–6.15pm)
- Meet with delegates at a wine reception sponsored by the Pharmacists' Defence Association (5.45–6.45pm)
- Attend a hot topic session on "Supervision and the responsible pharmacist" (6.45–7.45pm)

Following the hot topic session, branch members are also invited to enjoy a complementary drink and to network with colleagues and BPC delegates at the conference club, at the Beluga Bar in central Manchester.

Exhibition and BPC-PJ careers forum

The BPC exhibition and the BPC-PJ careers forum, organised in association with *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, are free to visit over all three days of the conference. For more details visit www.bpc2007.org



The 2007 conference, "The medicines maze: balancing risks and benefits", promises to be a lively event, with pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists meeting in Manchester from 10 to 12 September

Branches seek careers officers

The Society's membership unit is on the lookout for pharmacists interested in becoming careers officers for their local branches. With career opportunities in pharmacy growing across all sectors, it is important for the Society to engage with students while they are still deciding which subjects to study or which higher education courses to apply for. Branch careers officers play a vital role in creating and maintaining links with local schools, giving presentations about pharmacy careers and fielding questions from interested young people. They also help identify, arrange and attend regional careers events using materials provided by the membership unit.

David Carter, Council member sponsor of the branch and regional network, says: "Pharmacy is an attractive and dynamic career and the Society is keen to promote the profession at branch level directly to school leavers. Attracting the next generation of pharmacists is vital and although we already have a number of branch careers officers who do an excellent job, we need even more to attract young people in what is a highly competitive arena."

Those interested in becoming a branch careers officer should nominate themselves by e-mail (careers@rpsgb.org) or by telephone (020 7572 2330). The Society has also launched a new careers leaflet called "Interested in pharmacy?" and has revamped its careers website (www.pharmacycareers.org.uk). Copies of the leaflet are available on request (e-mail careers@rpsgb.org, tel 020 7572 2330). Other tools for helping to promote pharmacy, including a PowerPoint presentation, a banner stand and posters, are also available.

Put 2020 on your agendas

Branches are being encouraged to put the Society's Pharmacy 2020 initiative at the top of their agendas as they begin to plan their 2008 branch meeting programmes. There are a huge number of changes taking place in pharmacy practice. The Pharmacy 2020 initiative is about developing a forward-thinking strategy for the whole profession. It resulted from the Council's desire to see pharmacy consolidate its position within the health care arena while paving the way for generations of pharmacists to come. The Council wants to use Pharmacy 2020, championed by President Hemant Patel, to secure a more mainstream role for pharmacy, especially in clinical areas, and to elevate members' professional status.

On 6 October, the Society will publish a Pharmacy 2020 consultation document in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* and on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org), where it will remain for 12 weeks, ending on 21 December 2007. It is vital to the success of Pharmacy 2020, and to the future development of the profession, that as many pharmacists as possible have their say during the consultation. The Society will be encouraging members to get involved as much as possible and will be training its CPD facilitators to offer support and advice on Pharmacy 2020 throughout the consultation period.

The Pharmacy 2020 steering group will then meet in January 2008 to consider all of the consultation responses. These will be used to generate an initial Pharmacy 2020 vision document in February, which will be submitted to members for further consultation in the spring.

Branch programmes, September to December 2007

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's membership unit has compiled the following provisional programme of branch and regional meetings during the second half of 2007 to help members plan their meeting attendance. Members should note that the details of some meetings are still to be finalised. Additional and revised branch meeting information will appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online*

(www.pjonline.com/noticeboard) and in *The Pharmaceutical Journal's* weekly Diary column (in the Society section), which gives details of meetings for two weeks from the following Monday.

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.

Aberdeen & NE Scotland to Bury

Branch	Date	Topic
Aberdeen and North Eastern Scottish	29 October	Topic to be announced
	26 November	Cardiovascular system
Ayrshire	25 September	Branch meetings and the Scottish Pharmacy Board: the next 50 years
Barnet	17 September	Parkinson's disease
	7 November	Treatment of common infections
	12 December	The science and practice of drug control in sport
Bath	September	Obesity as a public health issue
	October	Travel medicines
	November	Medical ethics
	December	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and spirometry
Bedfordshire	20 September	The working of the genito-urinary medicine clinic and young sexual health update
Birmingham	25 October	Depression
	29 November	Evidence-based medicine
Bolton	6 September	Special event: newly qualified pharmacists and preregistration trainees
	12 October	Annual professional dinner and
	8 November	Topic to be announced
	6 December	Topic to be announced
Bradford	12 September	Quiz
	10 October	Electronic transfer of prescriptions and Connecting for Health
	14 November	Epilepsy
Brighton	12 September	Summer social event
	8 October	Welcome to new students and experiences as a police doctor
	23 October	Stress management and cognitive behavioural therapy
	13 November	Alcoholism
	17 November	Annual dinner
	4 December	Synopsis on obesity management
Bristol	26 September	Skin diseases
	30 October	Type 2 diabetes
	21 November	Schizophrenia
	12 December	Robotic dispensing
Bromley	15 October	Sight for sore eyes
	11 November	Glaucoma
	10 December	Drug interactions and herbal remedies
Burnley	September	Inaugural meeting of the "East Lancashire" branch
Bury and Rochdale	1 October	Inhaler technique
	29 October	Non-medical prescribing
	25 November	Prescribing across the interface

Cambridge to Croydon

Branch	Date	Topic
Cambridge	10 October	Cannabis as medicine
	27 November	New CD regulations
Cardiff and Vale	9 October	White Paper update
Ceredigion	26 September	When to refer
	25 October	Dispensing medication and the Disability Discrimination Act
Chelmsford	20 September	Paediatrics
	16 October	Tuberculosis: current status, treatment and vaccination programme
	22 November	Dermatology: when to refer patients
Cheltenham and Gloucester	9 October	Skin conditions
	20 November	Diabetes (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Clwyd	September	Professional regulation and leadership
	16 October	Wound management update
	October	Preregistration welcome: counter-terrorism second annual poster competition
	6 November	Royal Pharmaceutical Society continuing professional development requirements
	9 November	Wine tasting
	1 December	Branch banquet
4 December	Royal Pharmaceutical Society continuing professional development requirements	
Colchester	6 September	Visit to Mersea Island vineyard
	19 October	Pain and the hospice at home
	13 December	A talk on chocolate, with tasting
Coventry and Warwickshire	9 October	Topical issues
	13 November	Ethical dilemmas
	4 December	Social function
Croydon	25 September	Eczema: are we getting it right?
	30 October	Role of pharmacists in diabetes care
	27 November	Nutrition

Derby to Gwynedd

Branch	Date	Topic
Derby	3 September	Preregistration welcome evening
	8 October	Leadership
	5 November	Asthma
	3 December	Schizophrenia
Doncaster	31 October	Cardiovascular disease
Dudley and Stourbridge	10 September	Adverse drug reactions: near misses and error reporting
	9 October	Electronic transfer of prescriptions: an update
	6 November	Antipsychotics and the treatment of schizophrenia
	4 December	Skittles evening
East Metropolitan	16 October	Topic to be announced
	20 November	Topic to be announced
Edinburgh and Lothians	4 October	Chairman's reception for preregistration trainees and social marketing: bringing pharmaceutical care to the hard to reach
Epsom	20 September	Respiratory medicine (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	October	The future of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	26 October	CPD (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	8 November	Ophthalmology (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	4 December	Substance misuse and theories of addiction
Glasgow and West of Scotland	22 November	Infectious diseases (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Gwent	16 August	An evening at the races
	26 September	Tour and cider tasting at Western Cider
	9 October	White Paper update
Gwynedd	19 September	An epilepsy update
	10 October	The Mental Capacity Act 2005
	17 October	CPD requirements
	14 November	Conducting Disability Discrimination Act assessments: practical experience

The following branches have not yet finalised their programmes:

Bro Myrddin; Central Lancashire; Cornish; Crawley Horsham and Reigate; East Cumberland; East Kent; Fife; Great Yarmouth and Waveney; Hereford; Hertford; Hounslow; Huddersfield; Isle of Wight; Ipswich; Lincoln and District; Medway; North Hampshire; Plymouth and District; Scottish Borders; Sefton; Shropshire; Solihull; Somerset; Torbay; Walsall and Wolverhampton; Warrington; West Hertfordshire; West Metropolitan; Wigan; Worcester; Worthing and West Sussex.

The following branches are not holding any meetings from September to December 2007

Buckinghamshire; Dorset; Dumfries and Galloway; Dundee and Eastern Scottish; Durham; Enfield; Exeter; Grimsby; Guernsey; Mansfield; Powys; South Essex; Scunthorpe; South Lincolnshire; South Staffordshire; Stirling and Central Scottish; Swindon; York.

No programme information has been received from the following branches and regions:

BRANCHES — Chesterfield; Harrow and Hillingdon; Hastings; Hull; Isle of Man; Lancaster; Leicestershire; Moray and Banff; South Cumbria; South West Metropolitan.

REGIONS — Anglia; South West; Yorkshire.

Gwynedd to Norwich & Norfolk

Branch	Date	Topic
Gwynedd <i>(continued)</i>	20 November	Asthma : a therapeutic update and MUR workshop and clinical audit
	29 November	Diabetes management
Halifax	6 September	Dermatology (<i>to be confirmed</i> ; joint meeting with Huddersfield Branch)
	11 October	Breast cancer (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	15 November	Microbiology and antibiotics (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Harrogate	27 September	Paediatric diabetes
	1 November	Current affairs and professional regulation
	12 December	Women's health
Jersey	18 September	Herbal medicines
Lanarkshire	4 November	Radio heartbeat
	9 November	Retirement dinner for Ann Lewis
Leeds	October	Caring for the elderly: the patient journey, understanding the roles of pharmacists in primary and secondary care
	November	Overcoming barriers in the oral delivery of medicines
Liverpool	October	Management of type 2 diabetes and hypertension in diabetes
	November	Men's health and benign prostatic hyperplasia
Macclesfield	September	Sexual health and hypertension in diabetes
	October/November	Anxiety and depression (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Manchester, Salford and Trafford	29 September	The work of the national boards and separation of regulation and professional leadership
	October 29 November	Pharmacists with special interests Antibiotics
Mid Glamorgan East	18 September	Products for coeliac disease
	9 October	White Paper update
	23 October	Angina
Morgannwg	25 September	Cannabis and its medicinal uses
	11 November	Christmas quiz
Northamptonshire	October	Practice-based commissioning
	21 November	Parkinson's disease
North East Lancashire	September	Inaugural meeting of the "East Lancashire" branch
Northern Scottish	2 September	Social walk and buffet
	2 October	Dermatology
	6 November	Rheumatoid arthritis
	4 December	The role of NHS 24 in out-of- hours care for the festive period
North Staffordshire	27 September	Diabetes update
	11 October	Update on Section 60
	22 November	Renal disease update
	6 December	Nutrition and sip feed policy
Northumbrian	13 September	Hypertension and its treatment
	20 September	Medicines use review workshop on common skin conditions
Norwich and Norfolk	12 September	Social event
	27 September	Advances in rheumatology
	30 October	Recent advances in oral chemotherapy and University of East Anglia prize giving
	29 November	Pharmacy and public health

Nottingham to Stockport

Branch	Date	Topic
Nottingham	8 October	The Code of Ethics
	12 November	Current affairs in pharmacy
	10 December	Advances in radiology
Oxfordshire	11 September	Mental health depression, plus wine and cheese evening
	9 October	Pandemic influenza
	6 November	Cardiac rehabilitation
	4 December	Cost-effective medicines management
Penfro	18 September	Demonstration of insulin pens and devices
	2 October	Nutritional products on the NHS
	15 November	The future of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century
Portsmouth	27 September	Falls: the local falls pathway and minimising the risks
	1 November	Child protection
Reading	September	Fraud in the NHS
	October	Schizophrenia (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
	November	Sexually transmitted infections
Sheffield	September	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
	4 October	Controlled Drugs
	9 November	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
	5 December	Alcoholism
Slough	18 September	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
	17 October	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
	15 November	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
Southampton	13 September	Skittles night
	22 October	Mental health
	21 November	Ophthalmology
South Cheshire	27 September	Diabetes
	25 October	Information sources to aid clinical decisions
	22 November	Breast cancer
South East Metropolitan	19 September	Obesity
	22 October	Men's health
	21 November	Splitting the Society
Stockport	17 September	Hearing loss and digital aids
	22 October	The future of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society
	3 December	Drugs and substance abuse

Sunderland to Wirral

Branch	Date	Topic
Sunderland	September	Anticoagulants
	31 October	Palliative care (1)
	7 November	Palliative care (2)
	21 November	Palliative care (3)
Teesside	8 September	Chairman's open house
	26 September	Swallowing difficulties
	24 October	Drug Tariff
	20 November	Diabetes
	1 December	Branch dinner
Thames Valley	3 October	Formation of new pharmacy bodies
Weald of Kent	13 September	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	18 October	Update on new PCT structure
	15 November	Drugs in sports
West Cumberland	12 September	Theatre visit – "Taking steps"
	10 October	The future of the Society
	14 November	Panoramic photography of the Lake District
	5 December	Branch quiz
West Surrey	11 September	Diabetes update
	13 November	Common community infections
	11 December	Dental problems and the role of the pharmacist
Wirral	9 September	The English Pharmacy Board and the future of the Society
	17 October	<i>Topic to be announced</i>
	15 November	<i>Topic to be announced</i>

Regions

Region	Date	Topic
Border	October	CPD conference
Sherwood	9 September	CPD conference
South East of England	7 October	CPD conference
Wessex	30 September	Regional conference: Making the difference — looking forward to a bright pharmacy future

Communicate, communicate, communicate

The Society's public relations team is looking at how it works with branch public relations officers (BPROs), to improve the network and provide the necessary training and support needed to enhance this role. The first step is to carry out an audit of existing BPROs to make sure the contact details on file are up to date.

The BPRO network is central to communicating the pharmacy message at a local level and raising the profile of the profession. During 2007 a number of BPROs have successfully promoted pharmacy using a variety of media, including publications, such as *Marie Claire*, and television programmes like *Tonight*

with Trevor McDonald. In order to ensure your region is served adequately, please send an update of your branch BPRO status, including the full contact details of any active BPRO in appointment, to Michael Harris (e-mail b&ra@rpsgb.org, tel 020 7572 2331).

Network News is produced by *The Pharmaceutical Journal* in association with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's public relations and membership unit as a service to members of the Society resident in Great Britain.

INTERVIEW

Phillida Entwistle

In the second in a series of interviews with Society Council members *Network News* speaks to lay member Phillida Entwistle, who relays her experiences of a recent visit to the Sunderland branch

- **What is your main role?** As well as being a lay member on the Society's Council, I have a part-time directorship with a utility company where my primary responsibility is to represent customers.
- **Why did you become a lay Council member and why are lay members important?** I was approached by the Department of Health and was interested because the role provided an opportunity to learn about a new profession. My remit includes bringing an external viewpoint to Council, but not exclusively as a patient. Lay members represent the public interest, ensuring that the views and concerns of patients and the public are considered in all Council decision making. Lay members bring greater credibility and improved governance to all the Society's activities and are now involved in all Council committees and working groups.
- **You recently visited the Sunderland branch. What was the experience like and, as a lay member, what were your main thoughts during the meeting?** It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I was impressed by the audience participation throughout: there was a manifest wish to learn and to share experiences.
- **Did anything surprise you about the meeting?** I was surprised by the high attendance — there were undergraduates, pre-registration trainees, academics and retired academics, and many community pharmacists. I was also impressed by the inclusion of a continuing professional development help desk, and by the enthusiasm of the branch chairman and committee.
- **What were your lasting impressions of what you saw and heard?** It was clearly a well run, supported and active branch. The main speaker concentrated on fitness-to-practise issues, and provided real examples of dilemmas that had been referred to the Society's infringements committee. I suspect that some of these were completely new ideas to younger members of the audience and I was left slightly concerned that pharmacists may not fully appreciate the range of problems that could arise for them. The presence of two



inspectors was immensely helpful in underlining the importance of the various regulations and in explaining the responses to be expected, regarding a range of legal and ethical breaches. The inspectors also took the opportunity to explain their supporting and educational roles. I came away considering what a great asset the branch network is and how under-used it might be in some locations.

- **Branch meetings often have pharmacist Council members in attendance, but what value do you think branches can bring to meetings by inviting lay members?** The added value should be similar to whatever is added to Council deliberations by the lay members. Pharmacists who do attend branch meetings seem to be unsure of the benefits of having lay people on Council, which might be satisfied by asking us what we do and why.
- **As a lay Council member, what would you like to see the branches focus more of their efforts on?** The immediate future must be dominated by the imminent reorganisation of the Society. Creation of the General Pharmaceutical Council could be a reason for branches to focus on the new fitness-to-practise arrangements. CPD will require increasing attention and revalidation will need discussion and explanation. If membership of a future voluntary professional body is to be promoted, then branches could benefit from considering now what professional services might encourage membership.

QUIZ: FAMOUS PHARMACISTS

Network News is giving away a replica extract jar (pictured) to the first reader (drawn from all correct answers) who can answer the four questions below, on pharmacists and their inventions. Answers should be sent by e-mail to b&ra@rpsgb.org by 7 September 2007.

The winner will be announced in the next edition of *Network News*. For a copy of the competition rules, e-mail b&ra@rpsgb.org.

1. Which of the following classic food products was not invented by a pharmacist?
 - A. Birds Custard
 - B. Heinz tomato ketchup
 - C. Lea and Perrins sauce
2. John Walker was responsible for the invention of which household product?
 - A. The friction match
 - B. Electric lighting
 - C. English porcelain

3. Luke Howard was responsible for the classification of which of the following?

- A. Planets
- B. Clouds
- C. Rain

4. Ambrose Godfrey invented which safety device?

- A. The fire blanket
- B. The fire alarm
- C. The fire extinguisher



Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The original jar was made in tin-glazed earthenware, or delftware. The inscription on the jar, "EXT CORT PERU", is an abbreviation of the Latin for extract of Peruvian bark.

In the 1700s, when the original jar was made, the uses of Peruvian bark or cinchona were still much debated in medical circles. Peruvian bark was primarily used to treat fevers in this period. It was not recognised as a treatment for malaria until more than a century later.

The jar is decorated in blue with songbirds and is 8.5cm high.