



guild matters

NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF HEALTHCARE PHARMACISTS

Welcome to the first issue of *Guild Matters*, a new newsletter from the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists. The newsletter will highlight important issues to pharmacists and news from the Guild.

The newsletter is to be published in *Hospital Pharmacist* four times a year. Where there is more material to circulate the current Guild electronic newsletter will continue to be issued. Members can sign up to receive the electronic newsletter by e-mailing Jean Smith, the Guild administrator (jean.smith@amicustheunion.org).

Members who wish to provide feedback about this newsletter are invited to do so via the Guild forum, located in the members section of the Guild website (www.ghp.org.uk).

Guild medal winners 2007



Pictured are the winners of this year's Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists gold and silver medal awards. Alistair Millar, principal pharmacist, radiopharmacy, at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh won the gold medal and Margaret Dolan, chief pharmacist, West Lothian Healthcare Division, Livingstone and honorary lecturer at Strathclyde University won the silver medal. The medals are awarded for outstanding contributions to pharmacy in the health service at a national level (gold) and a local level (silver). Mr Millar and Ms Dolan received their medals at the GHP/UKCPA joint conference in April (see overleaf).

Guild updates

PCT reorganisation

The Guild and Unite are aware that many pharmacy posts in primary care trusts are under threat following recent reorganisation. Members who are in such a position and have not yet sought advice can contact their local Unite (Amicus) representative or regional Guild representative. Contact details for regional representatives can be found in the "about us" section of the Guild website.

On call rotas

Pharmacists managing on-call or weekend services are advised to check that they are complying with the European working time directive. The Guild has prepared some guidance on the directive which can be found in the members section of the Guild website.

Guild website

A section of the Guild website is restricted to members. To access this area members should contact their regional representative who will check the details against the current membership list and supply a password. Pharmacists must be registered with Unite (Amicus) with a job code of 65 or 68 to become a Guild member. Those who are not registered under one of these codes should contact the Unite (Amicus) membership department for advice (telephone 020 8462 7755).

GHP/UKCPA national conference

The third GHP/UKCPA joint conference was held at the Hilton Metropole hotel in Brighton on 27–29 April.

The theme of the conference was patient safety, and this was introduced by a keynote address by Aidan Halligan, executive chair of Ellison Health, who reminded the conference of the need to focus on the patient at all times.

Paul Szumita, clinical pharmacy practice manager at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, US, described the impact of information technology on clinical practice at his

hospital. He described the impact on patient care of the introduction of a medicines administration system that uses bar codes to identify medicine and patients.

The TEVA leadership award was won by the pharmacy team from Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust led by Andrew Alldred, director of pharmacy and medicines management at the trust.

Full coverage of the conference can be found on p196–7 of this issue of *Hospital Pharmacist* (June), or at www.pjonline.com/links/hp



Laurence Goldberg

Andrew Alldred, winner of the TEVA leadership award

New union

On 1 May Amicus, the Guild's parent union, merged with the Transport and General Workers Union to form a new union, Unite.

The new union has 2 million members of which over 100,000 come from the health sector. The health sector within Amicus strengthened its position under the leadership of Gail Cartmail, the then head of health and Karen Reay, national officer for professional policy and practice. It is expected to become even more influential within the new union under the leadership of Kevin Coyne, who became head of health last September.

Amicus supported its smaller groups within the health sector during the Agenda for Change negotiations. The combination of professional expertise from the Guild and industrial expertise within the union resulted in national pharmacist profiles being at their current banding, rather than at a lower band. The Guild expects to have a similarly strong relationship with the new union.



Guild seeks input from members

The Government White Paper: "Trust, assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century" heralds significant changes in the way the profession is regulated and professionally led. These changes will have large implications for the Guild and its members.

The Guild has been represented at all significant meetings on the development of the General Pharmaceutical Council and the proposed body akin to a royal college.

The Guild Council is holding a meeting in July to discuss the way forward and would welcome any input from members either to their regional member or through the website forum.

At the recent GHP/UKCPA conference, Anthony Oxley, president of the Guild,

committed the Guild to act as an agent for change rather than being an obstacle to be overcome. He welcomed the "clean sheet of paper" approach to the discussions around the development of royal college-type body.

This approach was confirmed by the "Report of the working party on professional regulation and leadership in pharmacy" by Lord Carter of Coles, issued on 16 May. Referring to the proposed college the report states: "It should aim to inspire and develop all its practitioner members, as well as championing and promoting leading edge practice, especially in specialised areas." The Guild hopes that this will be achieved. Full details are available at www.rpsgb.org.uk under the "Regulation White Paper" section.

Joining the Guild

Details about joining the Guild can be obtained from the Unite (Amicus) membership department, telephone on 0208-462 7755 / 0845-850 4242, e-mail membershipdepartment@amicustheunion.org. Details can also be found at www.amicustheunion.org.

Are you receiving Guild and Unite mailings?

The Guild membership database is administered on our behalf by our parent union Unite. If you are not receiving both Guild and Unite mailings please contact the Unite (Amicus) membership department (see contact details above) and check that you have been assigned to the Guild membership list. The membership department should also be contacted if you change your address.