

NOTICES

SHERWOOD REGIONAL CONFERENCE
SUNDAY 27TH APRIL
"ADVANCE YOUR PRACTICE"

This conference, to be held at Nottingham University, offers a series of lectures and workshops. A flyer is included in this mailing. Take this opportunity to meet colleagues from further afield to discuss the future of the profession. Further details will be posted on our branch website

LOCUM LIST

An updated list is included – it no longer shows full addresses although I do hold them for reference. Please email (for preference) me with any alterations, additions or deletions to keep the list up to date and relevant. Email: vela@btinternet.com or tel: 01509 880747.

Vela Burden

NOTICE OF BRANCH AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Branch will take place on Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 7.45 p.m. and will be held at the,

Granby Suite
Leicester College
Freemen's Park Campus
Aylestone Road,
Leicester LE2 7LW

The agenda for the AGM is available from the Web site. Please consider standing to become a branch committee member or one of the branch officers. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join the branch committee and new members will find the experience very rewarding and satisfying.

Following the AGM, there will be an interactive quiz with questions drawn from topics that have been included in the programme throughout the year.

Useful Contacts

CHAIRMAN:	Mike Burden michael.burden@btinternet.com
VICE CHAIR:	Divyesh Shah divyesh123@aol.com
SECRETARY:	Ian Bell ianbell130@btinternet.com
TREASURER:	Haresh Shah hareshrshah@hotmail.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Shailesh Panchmatia shaileshram@aol.com
WEBSITE:	http://www.rpsgb.org/branches/Leicestershire/



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Branch Lines

Leicestershire & Rutland Branch

March 2008

Welcome

Welcome to our spring issue of Branchlines. There are lots of interesting articles in this edition and you can see by the variety of articles that there is so much going on in the profession of pharmacy locally.

My view is that the pharmacy is an exciting and stimulating profession. There is so much variety that you can specialise in. For example, in community pharmacy the MURs have opened up a whole new area of practice. The new CD regulations have given the community pharmacist a lot more responsibility, and thus more respect. The NPSA guidance on

anticoagulants which comes into effect on 1st April 2008, will put the onus on community pharmacists understand anticoagulation in more detail, and perhaps stimulate some pharmacists to start an anticoagulant service locally

Hospital pharmacists have already diversified into clinical specialists like diabetes, and respiratory, and we are proud to have a consultant respiratory pharmacist, Anna Murphy, working in Leicestershire

Primary care pharmacists are engaging in all sorts of work from cost saving measures to promoting safer management of CD's to

running supplementary and independent prescribing clinics.

Finally, pharmacy technicians are performing key roles in community, hospital and primary care and at last are getting the recognition and respect that they deserve.

So although there are pressures and stresses as well, let's look at the brighter side, and try and maximise your enjoyment of whatever you are doing.

Shailesh Panchmatia
Newsletter Editor

Chairman's Report 2007-8 and Sherwood Regional Report 2007-8

I want to start by expressing my thanks, and I hope yours, to Ian Bell, our Branch Secretary; Amanda Kemp, our web mistress; Haresh Shah, our treasurer; Divyesh Shah, my Vice Chair and all our hard working committee. Without their enthusiasm and energy we would have no Branch programme at all. Also without our Newsletter Editor, Shailesh Panchmatia, you would not have known about the events, so a big thank you to Shailesh and all the committee members.

In earlier Chairman's reports I've been inclined to say that these are exciting times for Pharmacy. This time it's especially true – almost to the extent of being frightening! I've continued to represent you, the Branch, on the Sherwood Regional Committee and I'm

combining my thoughts from that experience with our activities in Leicestershire. By the time the next Chairman's Report is written we may have a clearer view of the future. Whatever happens I hope you will each engage in the debate about that future, your future! We know that there will be a General Pharmaceutical Council in 2010. What is not clear is precisely what its role will be and what will be the nature of a lead professional body.

There will be an opportunity at our Chairman's Dinner to meet Jeremy Holmes, the new Secretary and Registrar of the RPSGB, and Andy Murdock, who is part of Lord Darzi's review panel – so two good reasons to come!!

I'd like to report just one of the many pleasant things to happen

during the year. The Branch has, through the hard work of Rajni Hindocha, Divyesh Shah and the Diwali Celebration team, made a number of donations to the Lions Charity treating people with failing sight, Sightfirst. In recognition of this a number of us were given a Lions award, the Melvin Jones Fellowship. This demonstrates the value of our charitable activities as a Branch, of which we can be proud.

In closing I'd like to thank all Branch Members who have supported our programmes, both social and professional. If you've enjoyed it – tell a friend, if you haven't – tell us!

Michael Burden
Chairman

Branch Secretary's Report for AGM 2008

We have held nine meetings between January 2007 and January 2008 and their topics have been clinical (diabetes, obesity, warfarin and anticoagulation) and professional (pharmacy contract, a practical demonstration of CPD, supplies to developing countries and practice-based commissioning). Attendance has averaged 41, with the greatest number being 80. We arranged two 'extra' meetings in the year: one to demonstrate how to complete your CPD on line in January and one in December to allow members to discuss and respond to the Society's consultation on the "Responsible Pharmacist"

We continue to analyse your feedback forms and we are pleased that the majority of you find the meeting material to your liking. We are always happy to receive suggestions for meetings, especially if it helps towards fulfilling your CPD.

On the social front, we regrettably had to cancel the Chairman's Dinner in April 2007 due to apparent lack of interest from the membership. We don't know the

reason for that; was it the price, or the menu, or the venue, or the names of the honoured guests? Is it that a dinner doesn't appeal and you'd rather we organised a different kind of function? If so, tell us so that we can arrange it!

We held an enjoyable 'welcome' dinner event for the 2007 pre-registration pharmacists and their tutors in September. This year's annual Diwali Celebration in November was the tenth and I hear that it was even better than previous years!

Continuing professional development and attendance certificates.

The CPD requirements now are based on completing the CPD cycle of reflection, planning, action and evaluation. This calls into question the need to provide attendance certificates. What are your views? How useful is the attendance certificate to you and what use do you make of it? If it wasn't provided, what effect would it have on your CPD?

Unless there is an overwhelming majority in support of attendance

certificates, they will cease to be issued after April 2008.

You can e-mail your comments to ianbell130@btinternet.com

E-mail communication

To keep you up to date on the local branch activities on a more frequent basis, we would like to request all members to provide us with their e-mail addresses. If you are willing to be contacted by e-mail, please will you send an e-mail to me (ianbell130@btinternet.com) in the following format:

Subject: Branch e-mail contact.

Text: 'I am willing for the Branch Committee to contact me by e-mail until further notice. I undertake to notify the Branch of any changes in my addresses.

Then add your name.

In accordance with Society rules, all group e-mails will be sent by 'blind copy' so that no one else can see your e-mail address.

Ian Bell
Honourary Secretary

New Practice research focus for Leicester

Over recent years most pharmacy schools in the UK have come to include the position of Professor of Pharmacy Practice and now our own school in Leicester is no exception. Head of School, Professor Larry Goodyer, has been campaigning for funding for such a position and his efforts led to this being awarded last summer. A local pharmacist, David Upton, who has previously served as Chief Pharmacist for UHL and as Branch Chairman, took up the chair before Christmas, joining the university from a 5 year spell working in the commercial sector on medication safety systems.

David's title of Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Research reflects the emphasis he intends to place on building a reputation for De Montfort University in the practice research field. "Our profession does not have much of a research culture, although there are some signs of change beginning to emerge. More and more people are realising the crucial importance of quality research that demonstrates the value of what pharmacists do. It is addressing this lack of evidence that I hope to collaborate on with colleagues locally. Pharmacists are embarking on a variety of exciting pilot projects, it strikes me as imperative that these developments are evaluated rigorously and objectively."

Got a research idea that you would like to pursue? David may be able to help you to make it happen. Contact him on 0116 2506233 or at dupton@dmu.ac.uk or take him to one side at a branch meeting!

Focus on Quality Advice Opportunity within the New Contract



Rajni Hindocha is the current chairman of the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC). The LPC is part of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and has a remit to advise and support community pharmacists in planning local health services and helping to negotiate contracts with local health organisations like Primary care Trusts (PCTs).

Rajni said that community pharmacists have so much potential in providing healthcare services. They are easily accessible in terms of location and opening hours. They are all highly qualified scientists having undertaken 5 years of healthcare training. This untapped resource should be used more effectively by PCTs.

Leicester City PCT was praised by Rajni because they have a number of initiatives which are utilising the skills of community pharmacists. The contribution by community pharmacists to the Leicester City PCT smoking cessation services is important and well recognised locally and nationally. Also Leicester City PCT has recently started a cardio vascular disease screening programme using community pharmacists. Rajni is hoping that the county PCT will also be as proactive as the City PCT.

In order to help PCTs utilise the skills of community pharmacists, Rajni is leading the LPC to work closely with both the city and county PCTs. The emphasis will be on providing high quality services.

In terms of the future, Rajni urges all community pharmacists to invest in developing their advisory roles rather than the supply role, as this is where he feels the future direction of community pharmacy lies

LPC website:
http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/leicestershire_lpc/



A note from Sejal, your local CPPE tutor

I am sure you are all feeling eager and energetic as spring is upon us. I would like to update you with what's new at CPPE. New open learning (distance learning packs) programmes available now or in April are Antibiotic Resistance: the role of the pharmacy team, Adolescent health, Weight Management, Allergy and patient group directions.

On line packs (e-learning) available are Arrhythmias and Musculoskeletal disorders.

A national workshop running all across the country is Safer management of control drugs: impact of new legislation and the role of the pharmacy team. This workshop is open to pharmacists and registered technicians. CPPE has developed this workshop with the National Prescribing Centre to inform you and update you about the recent changes in regulations relating to controlled drugs. The expert speaker is likely to be your

local accountable officer or RPSGB inspector. There will be plenty of opportunities to work with colleagues to solve problems and ask questions. To ensure a place, please register online as soon as possible as places will be limited.

Please feel free to email me at Sejal.Gohil@cppe.ac.uk should you have any queries. Happy Easter to you all.

Sejal Gohil

CPPE tutor for Leicester City

CPPE website:
www.cppe.ac.uk



Social Secretary's report

The social calendar this year has been as full and exciting as ever. We have had a fantastic Diwali dinner and dance last November. We had a charity raffle and auction and raised in excess of £2500 which we have already donated to the Bushby Lions for them to forward on to their world wide Charitable fund which aims to raise over a hundred million dollars to help to cure blindness all over the world. The food was exquisite as always from Sayonara. We had a very good DJ which helped the revellers dance the night away. If you have never sampled our Diwali Dinner and dance then clear a date in you diary for 22nd November 2008.

We are also organising a Chairman's Dinner on the 25th April 2008 for which we have enclosed information. We hope with your continued support we will have another successful year next year!

Divyesh Shah
Social secretary