

Industrial Pharmacists Group (IPG) of RPSGB

New Professional Body

Representing approximately 3,000 industrial pharmacist members the IPG committee's mission has been: -

“To provide a dynamic forum for all pharmacists with an interest in industrial pharmacy practice, to provide leadership and influence from an industry perspective to the governing bodies of the pharmacy profession and to facilitate recruitment and retention of pharmacists in, or associated with, the pharmaceutical industry.”

With the advent of the New Professional Body (NPB) the IPG sees this mission evolving within a framework that also provides for other pharmaceutical science professionals whilst looking to the future by encouraging people to enter the profession.

The IPG has previously set out its aspirations for the New Professional Body based on the following themes: -

- Strategic leadership to drive the development of the profession
- Demonstrate advocacy and influence that is externally recognized by healthcare and scientific communities and other professional bodies.
- Provision of membership services to help members to do their jobs and achieve their potential and develop the profession
- An inclusive body for pharmacists, pharmacy graduates, pharmaceutical scientists, non-pharmacy graduates and students.

What the IPG wants from the New Professional Body

Recent surveys of IPG members have identified a number of functions that members would desire from a New Professional Body. These are listed below in a rough order of priority.

- **Advocacy and influence inspiring public confidence and making it a profession that its members are proud to be part of.**
 - Strong Public Relations and communications capability
 - A proactive opinion leader with strong external representation of the profession to regulatory bodies, government agencies and to other professions
 - International recognition for leadership in pharmaceutical science and policy matters

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- **Strategic Leadership to drive development of the profession**
 - Anticipates change rather than being forced into it
 - Actively involved in setting the future scientific and healthcare agenda for the delivery and supply of innovative medicines in the UK
 - A research function to advance the capability of the profession and aid in setting and driving the strategic agenda
 - Influences the setting of professional standards, fitness to practice and revalidation expectations of the GPhC and other bodies

 - **Provision for networking of members via special interest groups**
 - Provision of discussion forums with the ability to correspond electronically with peers
 - Provision of high quality meetings, training courses, seminars, workshops and associated facilities
 - Development of faculties for advanced professional practice

 - **Education and Training**
 - Ensuring the undergraduate course in pharmacy is appropriate for entry into industry of the 21st century
 - Development of accredited training material for industry, suitable for CPD purposes (since the CPPE in England does not address these needs)
 - Develop a centre of excellence for Qualified Persons support

 - **Provision of a first class information source including: -**
 - Receipt of a meaningful journal that educates and stimulates debate to encourage the development of pharmaceutical science and Industrial Pharmacy practice
 - A publishing arm that is widely recognised for its excellence internationally
 - Advice / library provision

 - **Act as a champion to aid continuing recruitment into the profession by: -**
 - Provision of career development advice
 - Maintenance of student and young pharmacist awareness of careers in industry

Submitted on behalf of the IPG Committee

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Chair of the Industrial Pharmacists Group

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