



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Northern Ireland Pharmacists with 50 years Experience  
honoured at Fellows Dinner**

Pharmacists with 50 years experience of practicing were honoured on Friday evening at a special event at Queens University Belfast.

The event was organised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to pay tribute to the professional dedication of all pharmacists in Northern Ireland who have served the public's health needs since 1958.

President of Northern Ireland's Pharmaceutical Society Raymond Anderson praised them in his speech, noting the enormous changes in health provision that had taken place in that time, but the constant principle of quality service that has endured:

*"Today we gather to celebrate the work of the members of pharmacy profession who have been on the register of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland for 50 years.*

*The challenges our health service faces today are probably nothing new to those who became registered pharmacists in 1958. The practice of pharmacy was*

*different then and yet at its heart it had the same guiding principle, delivering high quality care to those in need.*

*In 1958 medicines were often prepared on the pharmacy premises including the making of suppositories, powders and pills. Today we have medicines manufactured by an extremely sophisticated pharmaceutical industry which continues to break new ground in discovering cures for conditions not even known about in 1958.*

*And those pharmacists in 1958 could have had no idea the extent to which computers and electronic devices have changed the way we all practice, changes which include patient records being held in pharmacies, pharmacist's prescribing in their own right, electronic transmission of prescriptions and the use of the internet with both the positive and negative implications that can bring.*

*As we look to the future, a similar scale of change is afoot, but the same fundamental principles underlying the practice of pharmacy as in 1958 will remain – delivering a quality service to those in need.”*

Those honoured by the Society were, Mrs Josephine Blaney, Mrs Moreen Denny, Mr John Doris, Mr Thomas Eakin, Mr James Groves, Mrs Eileen Hamilton, Mr Richard Holden, Mr Philip McCaffrey, Mr John McIlroy, Mr David McMeekin, Mr Robert McWilliams, Mr Samuel Moore, Mr Alexander Moore, Mr Verus Reaney, Mr William Ritchie, Mr Derek Robinson, Mr James Stevenson, Mrs Marion Taylor, Mr Philip Treanor.

**Ends**

## **Editor's notes**

1. The occasion of the speech was a Fellow's Dinner of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland at which Professor Sean Gorman of Queens University was also awarded a Fellowship of the Society
2. The full contents of the speech is available on the Society's website <http://www.psni.org.uk>

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