



Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
Annual Report & Accounts 2007/2008

September 2008

Protecting the Public, Promoting Pharmacy

What the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland does

What the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland does

Standards and Guidance

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland issues professional guidance to all registered pharmacists through its Code of Ethics and Practice. This guidance is annually reviewed by the Ethics and Law Committee of the Society who work to update the document with respect to current legislation and practice.

The document is currently divided into two sections. Part one details responsibilities in relation to current legislation for medicines, poisons and chemicals. Part two, or Sections 2-5, detail the pharmacists personal responsibilities through the nine principles of the Code of Ethics, Council guidance, practice matters and education issues.

The Society requires registrants to maintain standards through a process of continuing professional development (CPD).

Registration

The Society maintains a publicly accessible register of pharmacists, and pharmacy premises, in Northern Ireland. All pharmacists who wish to practice in Northern Ireland must be on the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Register. The register allows employers, patients, the public and others to check the bona fides of people claiming to be pharmacists. It also provides a primary tool for the Society in protecting the public: only those pharmacists deemed fit to practise are able to be registered.

Fitness to Practise

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland handles concerns about the fitness to practise of registrants and seeks to ensure any necessary action is taken to protect the public. Following investigation and referral, cases relating to a pharmacist's Fitness to Practise are heard within a reasonable period of time by the Society's Statutory Committee. Investigation of Fitness to Practise cases is led by the Pharmacy Inspectorate unit of the DHSSPS(NI).

Education

The Society works to ensure that standards for education and training are met by Pharmacy students in Northern Ireland, through the Pre-Registration process. The Society works closely with the RPSGB in scrutinising the Pharmacy syllabus taught in Northern Ireland and accrediting pharmacy schools in Northern Ireland. In conducting this activity, the Society ensures its standards for the delivery of education and training are appropriate, comprehensive, prioritise patient interests and reflect up-to-date professional practice. The Society has also instituted a leading edge Continuing Professional Development scheme for pharmacists post-registration.

Communications

The Society seeks to be transparent in its activities and decision-making processes, operating a Code of Conduct for all its Council members, requiring Council members to meet defined competencies, and publishing all minutes of Council meetings. The Society is working with the Department of Health in Northern Ireland to develop a new statutory framework that will result in a fully appointed Council with 50% lay, 50% professional membership. The Society consults formally and informally with a range of external stakeholders in the formulation of policy. Regular newsletters are distributed to registrants, informing pharmacists of the latest regulatory developments and learnings from Fitness to Practise cases.



Protecting the Public, Promoting Pharmacy

The Council

President	Raymond Anderson
Vice-President	Ann Bowen
Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee	Jacqui Dougan
Chair of the Education Committee	Dr. Glenda Fleming
Chair of the Ethics and Law Committee	Muriel Singleton
Chair of the Practice Committee	Mark Nelson
Members of Council	Andree McCollum Dr. Kate McClland Dr. Lisa Byers Greg Miller Helena Buchanan Prof. Jean Orr Marie Smith Prof. James McElnay Patricia O'Neill Paul Kelly Prof. Sean Gorman Roberta Tasker Sonia McGrath Dr Colin Fitzpatrick

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President's Foreword

President's Foreword

They say change is a constant in a modern world. I certainly feel I can attest to that as I reflect over the last twelve months in my role as President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland!



Raymond Anderson
President

Most particularly, the debate over reforming the professional regulatory bodies in the healthcare sector has moved away from simple discussion, to the enactment of very concrete change. The Health and Social Care Act, which will bring in to being so many of the recommendations of the 2007 "Trust, Assurance and Safety" White Paper, has recently received Royal Assent. Major revising orders to the constitutions of the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Chiropractic Council, the General Optical Council and the General Osteopathic Council have now commenced formal legislative stages. It is therefore pleasing to report to members significant progress towards achieving the much awaited modernisation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's constitution. In conjunction with the Department of Health, Social Services in Northern Ireland, it is hoped that the first tranche of updating orders can be enacted by June 2009. This will result in significant benefits to patient safety and for professionals in the pharmacy profession, as the Society seeks to gain a 21st century toolkit of regulatory powers, and further formalisation of our ground-breaking CPD programme.

As we worked with the Department of Health towards an agreed set of legislative changes, the Society continued to develop a range of other improvements to our services to the public and our members. This has included, but is not limited to: design improvements in the registration process; innovations in our communications to members and the public; ongoing development of our CPD processes; additions to the services provided to pre-registration students as well as enhanced transparency in the work of the Society's governing council.

One of my key roles as President is representing the Society in meetings with politicians, opinion formers and key stakeholders. In this sense it has been a particularly busy year as we conveyed to Northern Ireland's Health Minister, the Assembly, and many others, the unique regulatory strengths of a devolved and locally based regulator, as well as the benefits of our proposed future regulatory model, which would include an advisory professional panel, and an advisory forum of patient and public representatives, the only professional regulator proposing such a measure. I recommend to you the Society publication "Serving Northern Ireland's Devolved Healthcare System", available in the publications section of the Society's website, for further information in this regard. It was pleasing to note how

receptive local politicians have been to the Society's future aspirations and I wish to place on record my thanks to MPs, MLAs and MEPs of all parties in Northern Ireland for their continued active support.

As part of the Society's programme of continuous improvement, a number of appointments were made in the past year to enhance performance in a range of areas, including management, communications, registration and Fitness to Practise. As will be described elsewhere in this document, I believe demonstrable value is now being delivered from these recruitments and a number of important projects are currently in the pipeline and due to be published in the forthcoming months, not least a fully revised and updated Code of Ethics, and an enhanced website, with bespoke features for the public and members respectively.

So, with the achievements of 2007/08 in mind, I would like to place on record my thanks to all staff and Council members who have supported me in conducting my role as president over the past year. This has been a collective effort and as we look to the next 12 months with devolution now hopefully on a firm footing, and legislative reform around the corner, it is my hope that the Society can look forward to a bright future: protecting the public, and serving Northern Ireland's devolved healthcare system.

"it has been a particularly busy year as we conveyed to Northern Ireland's Health Minister, the Assembly, and many others, the unique regulatory strengths of a devolved and locally based regulator"

Director's Report

Director's Report

"May you live in interesting times" – an ancient Chinese blessing and one which clearly applies to both pharmacy and the Society. The profession feels as though it is constantly changing and before one review has been implemented along comes the consultation for the next two or three. It's not all change for the sake of change but sooner or later we will see a return to continuous improvement, rather than the huge step changes currently envisaged.



Trevor Patterson
Director

In the past year we have seen significant improvements internally with the updating of the pre-registration year and further development of the CPD process. One of the step changes in the near future will be revalidation and the early work on CPD by both the Society and registrants will stand us in very good stead for future development.

The Society continues to operate to a five year plan and you will see from the accounts section of this report that we have been able to reduce costs and generate a small surplus this year which will be available to finance the modernisation required to maintain the performance of the Society in this ever changing environment.

Work is progressing on the development of a model for future regulation in Northern Ireland which will allow for properly focussed and locally based professional leadership. We are already communicating with patient and public groups and working with them to ensure any future model will enjoy their confidence.

The Society enjoys close working relationships with all the healthcare regulators in the UK as well as Ireland and we use these contacts as an aid to the continuous improvement of our performance. Most particularly, we expect to see modernising legislation introduced by the Government in the near future, as set out in our document "Future of Pharmacy Regulation and Representation in Northern Ireland". This will greatly enhance public safety by increasing the range of sanctions available to the Society's statutory committee in cases where a pharmacist's Fitness to Practise has been called in to question. These new powers have been significantly informed by the experiences of other regulators and are likely to be the most modern range available.

The committees of the Society do invaluable work in delivering our statutory responsibilities and in providing local professional leadership. The Society welcomes the involvement of more pharmacists in this area. If you are interested in Ethics and Law, Education, Practice, or Finance and would like to

become involved please contact me for more information. Each of these Committees will continue to lead exciting workstreams for the Society, including respectively: overseeing the introduction of a new Code of Ethics for pharmacists in Northern Ireland; the development of a revalidation scheme for pharmacists; the formulation of the Responsible Pharmacist regulations; and the budgeting of the Society's ongoing programme of modernisation.

Our business plan for the coming year sets ambitious targets, controlling costs and improving the range of services that we provide. These targets will be supported by the introduction of a range of important Key Performance Indicators in order to more effectively, and transparently, monitor the Society's performance. Much activity is in response to the need to modernise and the overwhelming support of the membership for this plan is a further sign of the willingness of the profession to adapt and move with the times.

If "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" then we are clearly very many steps into that journey already. I look forward to continuing the journey and increasing the pace in the year ahead.

"May you live in interesting times" – an ancient Chinese blessing and one which clearly applies to both pharmacy and the Society."

Ethics and Law Committee

Ethics and Law Committee

The Society's Ethics and Law Committee is chaired by Muriel Singleton and is one of the Society's three policy implementation committees, the others being the Practice Committee and the Education Committee.



Mrs Muriel Singleton
**Chair of the
Ethics and Law
Committee**

M Singleton

The Policy Implementation Committees take decisions on policies on behalf of the Council; generate ideas for work on new policies; and monitor the implementation of established policies.

The Ethics and Law Committee considers policy implementation matters involving professional conduct and the legal aspects of professional practice.

Membership of the Committee

Muriel Singleton – Chairperson
Andrée McCollum
Roberta Tasker*
Glenda Fleming±
Dr Lisa Byers‡
Dr Kate McClelland‡

* From November 2007
± Moved to become Chair Education Committee April 2008
‡ Moved to other Committees November 2007

Report on the Work of the Committee

The session 2007-2008 was yet again a busy one for the Ethics and Law Committee as we continued to review, discuss and respond to a wide range of consultation documents.

A sub-committee also continued the work to update Part 1 of the Ethics and Practice Guide-General Legal Requirements. This took longer than anticipated as the document had to be completely reformatted from the last edition published in 2006. The updated version of the Guide was placed on the website of the Pharmaceutical Society in April 2008. Bound copies of the Guide were distributed to the Pre-Registration Trainees to facilitate their preparation for the Pre-Registration Examination in June 2008.

Council had previously agreed to outsource additional expertise to facilitate the update of Parts 2-5 of the Ethics and Practice Guide. In June 2008 Michelle McCorry was appointed to progress this work with help and support from a Stakeholder Group and the Ethics and Law Committee. It is anticipated that the

work will be completed in the next six months. The input from all the representative organisations is much appreciated.

Consultations

It would be impossible to record details of every Consultation considered by the Committee over the year so examples are included below to demonstrate the work undertaken by the group. Copies of the Society responses are available either on the Society website or on request.

"It is important that the Society continues to respond to consultations to make the views of the profession known and to ensure patient safety is protected in the practice of pharmacy."

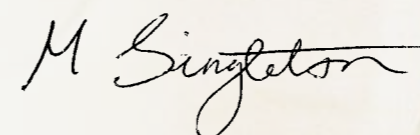
Type of consultation	Summary of issues addressed
MLXs An "MLX" is a letter of consultation issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) concerning a proposed amendment to medicines regulation.	MLX 342: Proposal to amend Section 58 of the Medicines Act to enable UK pharmacists to dispense POM medicines prescribed by doctors and dentists registered in European Member States and Switzerland.
	MLX 343: Proposal to amend the Prescription Only Medicines Order to make the sale and supply of products containing more than 720mg Pseudoephedrine Hydrochloride and 180mg Ephedrine subject to prescription control.
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	The VMD has undertaken an ongoing Distribution Category Review to consider the legal status of a broad range of veterinary products. Six review groups have been considered to date and responses submitted.
Department for Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)	The Responsible Pharmacist Regulations: This was a very comprehensive document and one that has potential long term implications for the practice of pharmacy. The Practice Committee liaised with Ethics and Law Committee to draw up the response to questions posed in the relevant Chapters of the Consultation. The collated information was then discussed further by Council before submission of the final response.
	Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plans: This consultation sought views on a range of issues associated with proposed changes to legislation in the event of a pandemic. The risk/benefit of many of the proposals had to be balanced against the need to make medicines as accessible as possible to patients in the difficult conditions that might prevail under a pandemic.
Other Miscellaneous Consultations	Draft European Legislation on European Qualifications: An important consultation which considered facilitation for qualified professionals to practice in European Countries other than their own with the minimum of red tape but taking cognisance of safeguards for public health and safety and consumer protection. The Committee considered a number of important issues of concern with respect to the implementation of this legislation. The draft response was considered further by Council before the final submission.
	CHRE Consultation on harmonising Fitness to Practise Sanctions across Regulators: The objective of the consultation was to seek views on the principles of harmonising sanctions across the healthcare regulatory bodies and to identify the most appropriate sanctions to be available to regulators.

I hope that the examples shown will provide an indication of the extent of the work undertaken by the Committee this year.

It is important that the Society continues to respond to such consultations to make the views of the profession known and to ensure patient safety is protected in the practice of pharmacy.

Finally, I wish to express a sincere personal thanks to members of the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the year. Many hours were spent by members in reviewing documents prior to each meeting to enable the group to prepare comments and a final response. The commitment of members is greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to the sub-committee who worked so hard as a team to complete the additional work required to update the Ethics and Practice Guide Part 1. We are also indebted to Philip McErlean for inputting the amendments and reformatting the text. Thanks are also due to the Office Staff for their work in circulation of documents and preparation of folders of information for members which greatly facilitated the work of the Committee.



Mrs Muriel Singleton
Chair of the Ethics and Law Committee

Practice Committee Report

Practice Committee Report

The Society's Practice Committee is chaired by Mark Nelson and is one of the Society's three policy implementation committees, the others being the Ethics and Law Committee and the Education Committee.



Mark Nelson
Chair of Practice Committee

Mark Nelson

The Policy Implementation Committees take decisions on policies on behalf of the Council; generate ideas for work on new policies; and monitor the implementation of established policies.

The Practice Committee considers policy implementation matters relating to the practice of pharmacy in its various branches.

Membership of the Committee

Mark Nelson – Chairperson
Dr Lisa Byers (vice chair)
Ms Marie Smith
Dr Kate McClelland
Mrs Helena Buchanan

The Responsible Pharmacist Regulations

The major item of activity for the Practice Committee in 2007/08 has been scrutiny of the forthcoming Responsible Pharmacist regulations. The Society developed a strong response to the Government's proposals, expressing notable concern for patient safety if the regulations permitted prolonged and regular periods in which medicines could be dispensed to the public without a pharmacist present.

Arising from the Health Act 2006, the Responsible Pharmacist regulations are designed to clarify the previous requirement of the Medicines Act 1968 for a pharmacist to be in "personal control" of a pharmacy by replacing it with a new requirement for the "responsible pharmacist" to secure the safe and effective running of the pharmacy.

The Society has been pleased to note that subsequent to the consultation the Government has amended its proposals so that the maximum period of time in which a responsible pharmacist can be absent from the pharmacy will be two hours in every 24, an hour less than originally proposed. However many other aspects of the proposals, such as the defined route to become a responsible pharmacist, are still to be clarified and it is envisaged such matters will continue to occupy much of the Practice Committee's attention in the year ahead.

"A major item of activity for the Practice Committee in 2007/08 has been scrutiny of the forthcoming Responsible Pharmacist regulations."

Consultations currently being given consideration by the Practice Committee in 2008/09 include the Department of Health's proposals for the future of tobacco control; the DHSSPS's Cardiovascular Service Framework; the Bamford vision for mental health services; and proposals from the Northern Ireland Courts Service to widen the jury pool.

Development of Professional Guidance

The Committee also gave attention in 2007/08 to the development of new professional guidance in a range of areas including: child protection; independent prescribing and emergency medicines supplies. It is intended that these workstreams will be finalised and rolled out across 2008/2009.

DHSSPS Pharmaceutical Clinical Effectiveness Programme

As registrants may be aware the first 3 year DHSSPS Pharmaceutical Clinical Effectiveness (PCE) Programme ran from 2005 to 2008 and is in the process of being replaced by a new three year programme. The new programme will give a focus to: generic prescribing; poor prescribing practice; and rationalisation of some existing policies on prescribing across therapeutic areas. The Practice Committee continues to provide a lead for the Society in terms of contributing the insights of a professional regulator to the Programme's activity.

With the combined imperatives of both a new Pharmaceutical Clinical Effectiveness Programme being rolled out across Northern Ireland, and the development of the Society's new Code of Ethics the Committee envisages an increase in its workload and looks forward to that challenge.

The Society is always interested to hear from registrants who may have an interest in the Practice (or other) Committee's work. Please drop our Policy Advisor, Richard Price an email to be kept in touch with the Committee's activity, on richard.price@psni.org.uk

The Policy Implementation Committees take decisions on policies on behalf of the Council; generate ideas for work on new policies; and monitor the implementation of established policies.

Mark Nelson

Mark Nelson
Chair of Practice Committee

"The Committee also gave attention in 2007/08 to the development of new professional guidance in a range of areas including: child protection; independent prescribing and emergency medicines supplies"

Education Committee Report

Education Committee Report

The Society's Education Committee is chaired by Dr Glenda Fleming and is one of the Society's three policy implementation committees, the others being the Ethics and Law Committee and the Practice Committee.



Dr. Glenda Fleming
Chair of the Education Committee

The Education Committee considers all matters relating to pharmaceutical education delegated under the terms of the Pharmacy (NI) Order 1976 and policy implementation matters related to the Council's policies in the fields of education and training.

Current Membership of the Committee

Dr Glenda Fleming – Chairperson±
Prof Sean Gorman
Ms Patricia O'Neill
Ms Sonia McGrath
Mr Greg Miller*

± Became Chair in May 2008

*Chair until April 2008

Report on the Work of the Committee

Having taken over the chair of the Education Committee in May of this year I would like to pass on my thanks and gratitude to Greg Miller for his stewardship of the Committee's work throughout 2007/08. He has set a fine platform on which I hope to be able to build in 2008/09.

"A major focus of the Committee's attention in 2007/08 was overseeing the further evolution of the Society's Continuing Professional Development requirement."

Continuing Professional Development

A major focus of the Committee's attention in 2007/08 was overseeing the further evolution of the Society's Continuing Professional Development requirement. This has included further clarification of procedures in areas such as exemption, when extended deadlines for submission can be granted, and the composition of the 30 hour requirement.

Although the Society lost the services of Lucy Campbell as CPD Manager during the year, the dedication and determination of her replacement, Dr Deirdre McAree as Post-Registration Facilitator, has ensured a continued high level of service. Dr McAree's insights as a former teacher practitioner have proved particularly valuable to the Committee's deliberations.

Separate from CPD, on the direction of the Committee, Dr McAree has: led discussions with Departmental officials on the adoption of Hospital Clinical Pharmacy Standards; acted as co-team leader for the University of Ulster accreditation panel; and liaised with NICPLD on the development of a vocational training programme for newly qualified hospital pharmacists and its relationship to the pharmacist's CPD requirement - an active demonstration of the breadth of her role with the Society.

2008/09 will see the Education Committee giving a lead to the Society's efforts to agree and secure legislation with the Department on the enforcement procedures for Continuing Professional Development. This will ensure that CPD is a fundamental part of a pharmacist's annual registration, as well as being a helpful learning tool. The Committee will also give assistance to efforts by the Society to encourage greater CPD returns online.

"Significant consideration has also been given by the Education Committee, in liaison with the Universities, to the development of good practice guidelines for the conduct of students at undergraduate level"

Pre-Registration Training and Assessments

2007/08 also saw important changes made to the manner in which pre-registration training is conducted by the Society with the introduction of calculation training and face-to-face First Aid training for students. These innovations came following analysis of feedback questionnaires from students in previous years and we believe they have been favourably received – indeed, demand necessitated the running of additional courses!

Amendments to the process for assessing pre-registration students were agreed and monitored by the Education Committee in 2007/08, including the development of a pilot project to assess tutor performances; additional support and training measures for assessors; and, the introduction of a shared tutoring scheme.

Significant consideration has also been given by the Education Committee, in liaison with the Universities, to the development of good practice guidelines for the conduct of students at undergraduate level. Once introduced, it is hoped such guidelines will help give students a clear understanding of their responsibilities in terms of the conduct and performance expected of them.

Amendments to the good character declaration for students were agreed by the Education Committee, as well as new forms of communicating the requirements of the Society's Code of Ethics (including sending students CD Rom versions of the Code).

Additionally, the Education Committee has been kept informed of the views of the Hospital Pre-Registration Training Group and how the Society might be able to respond to particular pre-registration needs cited by the group for pre-registration students working in this field of pharmacy. Accordingly, in 2008/09, it is the desire of the Education Committee to facilitate greater cross-sector training for pre-registration students as new requirements for pre-registration students in hospital placement to spend 4 weeks in community pharmacy come into being.

All of these endeavours in the Society's pre-registration services have been strongly led by our Pre-Registration Facilitator, Dr Eileen Scott. We wish her well in her forthcoming retirement and thank her once more for her hard work and perseverance in taking forward so many important projects for the Society. Her expertise, dedication and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

"The Education Committee is the lead policy Committee in developing the Society's future plans for Northern Ireland pharmacists to meet revalidation standards"

Revalidation

The Education Committee is the lead policy Committee in developing the Society's future plans for Northern Ireland pharmacists to meet revalidation standards. As raised in the 2007 White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety", it is the Government's intention that all health professionals have the opportunity to demonstrate their continued fitness to practice through appropriate revalidation arrangements. The far-reaching consequences of this new process will continue to be handled by the Education Committee in 2008/09.

Accreditation of the University of Ulster MPharm Programme

In 2007/08 the Society's Education Committee, in conjunction with the RPSGB, has been closely involved in the accreditation process of the University of Ulster's MPharm Programme, progressing in the year through steps 1 and 2 of a total 7. The Education Committee will continue to be involved in the MPharm's accreditation process in 2008/09.

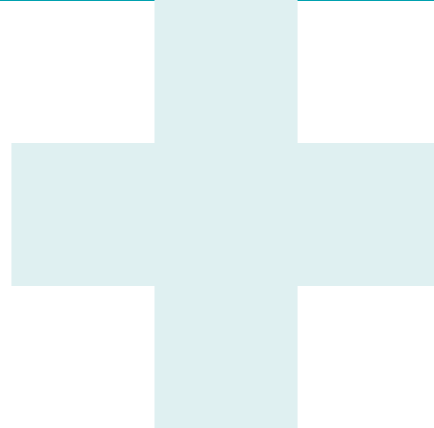
I hope this report has given something of a flavour of the Committee's work in 2007/08. I would like to give my thanks to fellow Committee Members, Society Staff as well as counterparts at NICPLD, QUB, RPSGB, the DHSSPS, and in the Health Boards for their contributions towards making 2007/08 a year of great progress for the Society's Education Unit.



Dr. Glenda Fleming
Chair of the Education Committee

Registrar's Report

Registrar's Report



Brendan Kerr
Registrar and Head of Professional Services

Brendan Kerr

Annual registration of pharmacists

The annual renewal of registration for pharmacists was conducted on 1st June 2007. The process resulted in 1941 pharmacists renewing their registration with the Society. There were 57 pharmacists who withdrew from the register. On the direction of Council 58 pharmacists were removed from the register due to the non payment of retention fees on 5th September 2007.

Data collection

In 2007 the pharmacist registration forms collected data for the first time on the ethnicity of pharmacists as was recommended by the CHRE¹. Data collected has been visualised on the Society's website.

Data was also collected to help progress the training of pharmacists for the advent of a pandemic flu. The training was subsequently conducted by the DHSSPS in association with NICPLD.

Ms Tracy Donnelly joined the Society as registration coordinator in November 2007 and has helped to take forward some key elements of the Society's modernisation programme, for example processing new elements of registration data for pharmacists and premises and in developing the web based register.

REGISTRATION

Pharmacists need to renew their registration annually. They must:

- Maintain an up to date contact address with the PSNI
- Provide any details of criminal convictions, cautions or investigations
- Confirm they are in good physical and mental health
- Declare and provide evidence if sampled of having completed the minimum requirement for Continuing Professional Development
- Pay the annual retention fee (£345)

Registrations at 31st May 2008

Pharmacists	1941
NI Resident	1841
Resident Outside NI	100
Pre registration trainees	145
Registered premises	538
Annotations	
Supplementary prescribers	45
Independent prescribers	33
Reciprocal registrations	271
EEA registrations	6
Letters of good standing issued	81

The Society is currently upgrading its database to provide more functionality and to aid registration processes such as the personalisation of the registration forms and mailings.

The registers

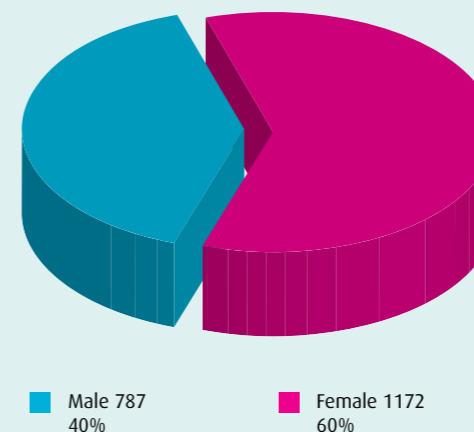
The register of pharmacists and pharmacy premises is now visualised on the online register on the Society's website. This is updated on a daily basis when data changes occur and is the most up to date reference for employers and the public on the status of pharmacists registered with the Society.

The Society undertook a consultation with its members regarding the introduction of a non practising register, in early 2008. The outcome of this consultation was general consensus to the addition of this option. The DHSSPS is now to review current pharmacy legislation in conjunction with the Society and then draft and consult on the introduction of legislation relating to:

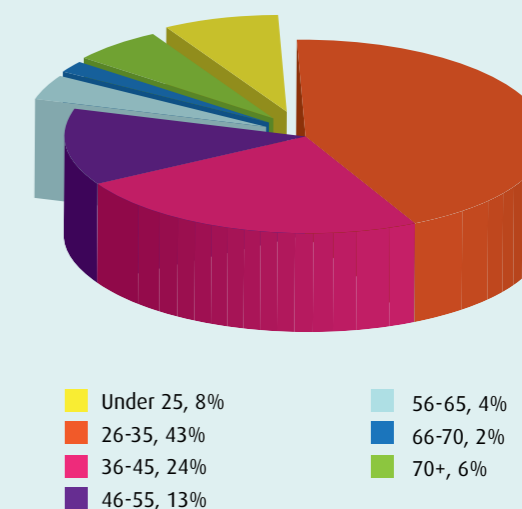
1. a non practising register;
2. Fitness to Practise issues, including sanctions available to the Statutory Committee and the handling of health-related practise concerns;
3. CPD regulations; and,
4. a review of the constitution of the Council of the Society and its Statutory Committee.

This planned review is a significant development in modernisation of the Society and its function and it is hoped this will be in place by June 2009.

A pie-chart to illustrate the gender of pharmacists registered in Northern Ireland in 2007/2008



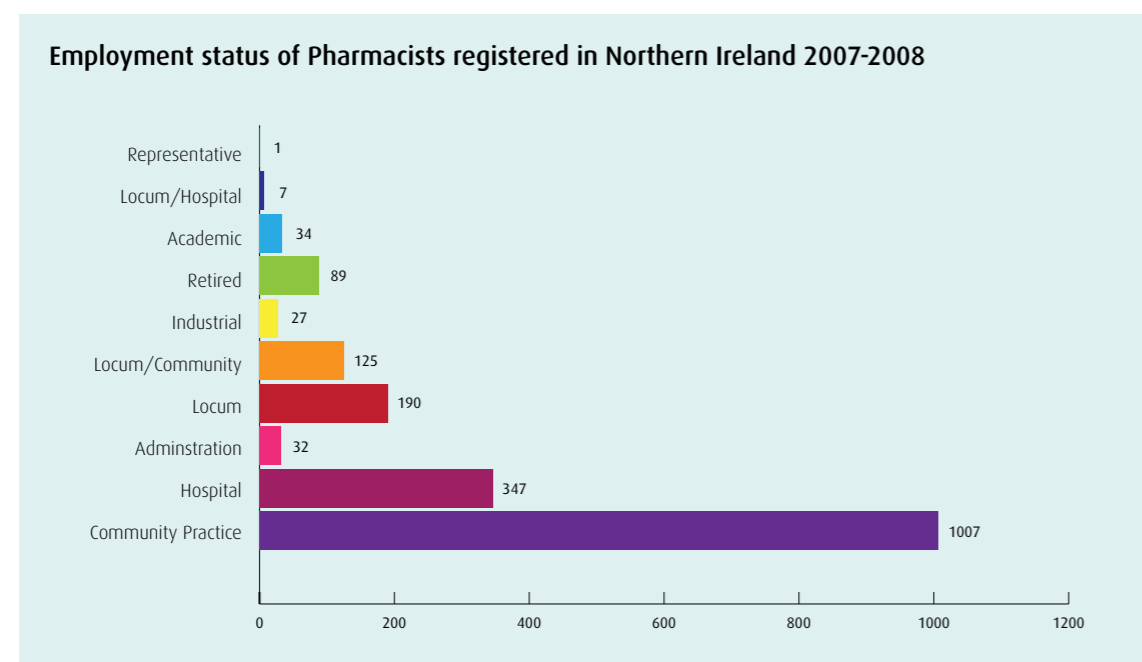
A pie-chart to illustrate the age of pharmacists registered in Northern Ireland in 2007/2008



¹ Council For Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

Annotation to the register

31 pharmacists were registered as independent prescribers and 2 as supplementary prescribers in the year 07-08.



Deaths

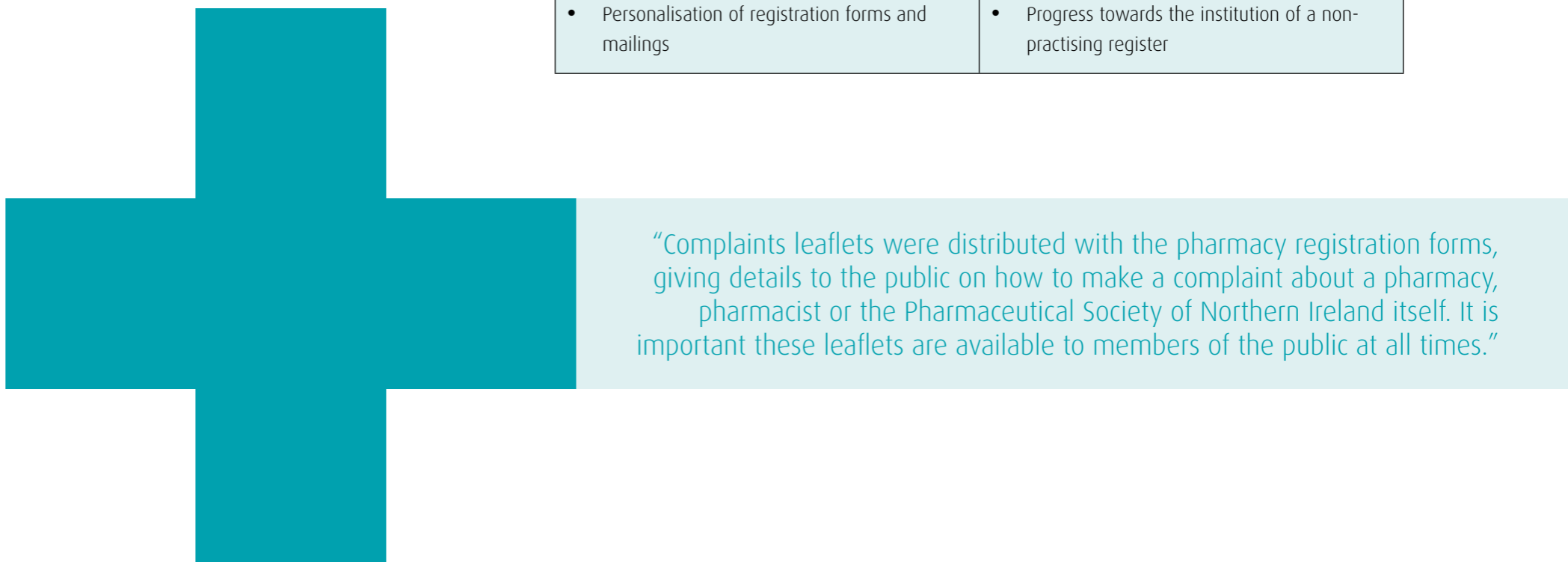
It is with sadness that we have received notification of the deaths of 13 members since 1st June 2007.

- Mr. Bernard Mullan
- Mr. Robert Kelly
- Mr. Edmund Richey
- Mr. Harold Reid
- Mr. Brian McCann
- Mrs Cora Watson
- Mr. Patrick McDaid
- Mr. Dermot O'Donnell
- Mr. John McCrea
- Mr. Brendan McGrath
- Mrs Catherine Kane
- Mr. James Rolston
- Mr. James Groves

Annual registration of pharmacies

The total number of premises registered as pharmacies was 538, an increase in 8 registrations from the previous year. Certificates of premises registration were issued to all pharmacies on 1st January 2008 and should be displayed publicly. All pharmacies were allocated unique registrations numbers. The Society works closely with the DHSSPS in this activity and acknowledges the support of the inspectorate in this role. Complaints leaflets were distributed with the pharmacy registration forms, giving details to the public on how to make a complaint about a pharmacy, pharmacist or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland itself. It is important these leaflets are available to members of the public at all times. Further supplies of the leaflets can be obtained by contacting the Society's offices.

Key Registration Developments in 2007/08	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved monitoring of diversity within the profession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of data about pharmacists in Northern Ireland able to assist in a flu pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution to all pharmacies of new information leaflets to the public on making a complaint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased staffing resource within the Society's registration and fitness to practise units
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early preparations made for the introduction of the responsible pharmacist and independent safeguarding authority regulations, and several EU health directives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Society's online register and other website services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalisation of registration forms and mailings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress towards the institution of a non-practising register



“Complaints leaflets were distributed with the pharmacy registration forms, giving details to the public on how to make a complaint about a pharmacy, pharmacist or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland itself. It is important these leaflets are available to members of the public at all times.”

FITNESS TO PRACTISE REPORT

There were two hearings of the Statutory Committee, in June 2007 in reference to Mr Seamus Strain and November 2007, in reference to Mrs Therese Findlay. In both cases the Committee determined not to direct the removal of the pharmacist from the register. The CHRE reviews all determinations of regulator's fitness to practise committees and judged the Society's determinations to be in the public interest.

Mrs Hilary Rea was appointed to the Statutory Committee in October 2007 for a period of 5 years.

Complaints

There were five complaints received by the Society in 07-08

Complaint	Regarding
1	Pharmacist advertising services
2	Use of pharmacy by non pharmaceutical business
3	Use of pharmacy by non pharmaceutical business
4	Pharmacy registered and sited in GB
5	Phoned complaint not followed up by complainant regarding dispensing of medicines

Complaints listed 1-3 were all investigated and resolved within 28 days; complaints 4 and 5 did not progress further. The small numbers of complaints, whilst welcome, does not necessarily indicate that the public are aware of the complaints process and portal. The Society's Registration unit will therefore continue to work with public affairs team in the coming year to increase awareness amongst the public and profession of the procedure for making complaints or raising concerns about a pharmacist's Fitness to Practise.

As referenced elsewhere in this annual report, the Society is working with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to institute a new range of sanctions for use by the Statutory Committee in Fitness to Practise cases.

Determination of the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland on 12th June 2007 convened for the purpose of making inquiry into the case regarding Mr Seamus Strain

On 12th June 2007 the Statutory Committee held an Inquiry into the matters relating to the conviction of Mr Seamus Strain, on 5th February 2007, on a charge of possession of a veterinary medicinal product namely Ecospec Poupon, for which no authorisation had been granted contrary to regulation 26(1) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005. The committee also considered matters relating to the charging of Mr Strain with a similar offence in relation to Animec injection, which latter charge was withdrawn.

The Committee heard evidence, and also submissions on behalf of Mr Strain and found that both charges were justified and therefore that Mr Seamus Strain was thereby in breach of the said regulations, and of the relevant parts of the Society's Code of Ethics.

The Committee was also of the opinion that, in view of all the particular circumstances of this case and of what was said on behalf of Mr Strain, his conduct was not such as to render him unfit to be on the register of pharmaceutical chemists.

However the Committee took the opportunity to express generally and to Seamus Strain in particular its concern and disapproval of what had happened.

Determination of the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland on 12th December 2007 convened for the purpose of making inquiry into the case regarding Mrs Therese Findlay

On 27 May 2006 Mrs Findlay was working as a Locum Pharmacist at Lloyds Pharmacy, 31-33 Broughshane, Street, Ballymena. On that date she admitted a dispensing error in which medication was dispensed to the wrong patient. The patient who received a supervised supply of methadone was a methadone patient but on this occasion received a supply of methadone medication which was for another patient.

Mrs Findlay has practiced pharmacy for some 28 years and has an unblemished record in that time. She has accepted full professional responsibility for this dispensing error, which does appear to be a mistake rather than anything else. The Committee was told and accepted the fact that being brought before this hearing has been a salutary lesson to her. In hearing all the evidence presented, it was the decision of this Statutory Committee after investigating this matter not to ask for her removal from the Register. The Committee did emphasise the seriousness of this matter and should she come before the Committee again, it will sit then with the knowledge that she has been before it on this occasion.

Membership of the Statutory Committee 2007/08

The Committee has six members. The Chairperson is appointed by the Head of the DHSSPS with the remaining five members appointed by the Council of the PSNI, each for a period of five years but all are eligible for reappointment.

The current membership of the committee is as follows (June 2008)

Mr Tim Ferriss QC (Chair)
Dr Terry Maguire FPSNI
Dr Denis Morrison FPSNI
Mrs Hilary Rea MPSNI
2 VACANCIES

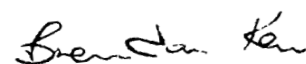
The Statutory Committee meets when a case arises before it.

Other Developments

The registration unit has paid close attention to current developments in regulation in order to ensure the Society is properly equipped and prepared for future challenges. In the last year this has included scrutiny of, and formal responses to: the Government's proposed "Responsible Pharmacist" regulations; the forthcoming Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations; and, current contingency plans in the case of a pandemic flu emergency.

Developments from Europe also have a significant impact on the functioning of the Society's registration and fitness to practice units, not least the European Commission's recent proposals on patient rights in cross border healthcare. As the only part of the United Kingdom which shares a land border with another EU state, the Society is now in formal discussions with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in terms of managing the regulatory impact of patients being able to process Doctors' prescriptions in pharmacies on either side of the border. This builds on previous useful cooperation on the cross border mutual recognition of professional qualifications directive and a directive on temporary and occasional service provision.

The year has been a very full and interesting one and reflects the changing regulatory environment which we are working in. I am indebted to the close cooperation of the staff of the Society the DHSSPS Inspectorate and the RPSGB for their assistance during the year.



Brendan Kerr
May 2008

Pharmacists in Northern Ireland must abide by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics.

The 9 key principles of the Code of Ethics are:

1. A pharmacist's prime concern must be for the welfare of both the patient and other members of the public.
2. A pharmacist must uphold the honour and dignity of the profession and not engage in any activity which may bring the profession into disrepute.
3. A pharmacist must at all times have regard to the laws and regulations applicable to pharmaceutical practice and maintain a high standard of professional conduct. A pharmacist must avoid any act or omission which would impair confidence in the pharmaceutical profession. When a pharmaceutical service is provided, a pharmacist must ensure that it is efficient.
4. A pharmacist must respect the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of professional practice relating to a patient and the patient's family. Such information must not be disclosed to anyone without the consent of the patient or appropriate guardian unless the interest of the patient or the public requires such disclosure.
5. A pharmacist must keep abreast of the progress of pharmaceutical knowledge in order to maintain a high standard of professional competence relative to his sphere of activity.
6. A pharmacist must neither agree to practice under any conditions which compromise professional independence or judgement nor impose such conditions on other pharmacists.
7. A pharmacist or pharmacy owner should, in the public interest, provide information about available professional services. Publicity must not claim or imply any superiority over the professional services provided by other pharmacists or pharmacies, must be dignified and must not bring the profession into disrepute.
8. A pharmacist offering services directly to the public must do so in premises which reflect the professional character of pharmacy.
9. A pharmacist must at all times endeavour to cooperate with professional colleagues and members of other health professions so that patients and the public may benefit.

Post-Registration Facilitator's Report

Post-Registration Facilitator's Report

As you may be aware, I joined the Society as Post-registration Facilitator in January 2008 after 11 years at Queens University's School of Pharmacy as a teacher practitioner for Boots.



Dr Deirdre McAree
Post-registration Facilitator

Deirdre McAree

My role focuses on all aspects of post-registration education which includes Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Other issues I am involved with include: the accreditation of pharmacy degrees (MPharm); hospital clinical pharmacy services standards; and, educational initiatives with providers such as NICPLD, the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development. As we move forward towards revalidation, I will be leading the Society's work in this area also.

Since coming into post the following results have been delivered:

CPD results

Overall for the period 2006-7, 280 CPD portfolios were assessed by trained pharmacists. The breakdown of results shows that the vast majority of pharmacists have documented their CPD to the standards required by the Society. Cycles within a portfolio are assessed against set criteria and will either meet the required standard for

documentation or will not reach standard.

Result	Range of CPD cycles meeting standard	% of pharmacists achieving result
Option 1	>70%	40%
Option 2	55-69%	13.9%
Option 3	40-54%	17.5%
Option 4	<40%	28.6%

CPD assessors

All assessors have now received formal training in assessment procedures. The breakdown for their pharmacy background is as follows 38.9% Community, 33.3% hospital (range of specialisms), 11.1% academia, 11.1% Administration, 5.6% Board (n=18). I ran meetings in February 2008 to deliver key messages to those who would be involved in assessment to further ensure consistency.

"My role focuses on all aspects of post-registration education which includes Continuing Professional Development (CPD)"

CPD support

In addition to meeting pharmacists on an individual basis and in groups to clarify any concerns they have about CPD and its documentation, I have written several articles which have appeared in the local pharmacy press. NICPLD hosted, and I facilitated, two workshops for pharmacists in April: "How to record your CPD online" (Antrim and Belfast). The feedback from pharmacists indicated that they valued such practical workshops and from my perspective it was great to meet pharmacists with such a range of experience from contractors to locums, hospital pharmacists, to those returning following a career break.

CPD reassessment process

The reassessment process for CPD has been devised and implemented since I took up my role. This process operates for pharmacists who have submitted portfolios that have not reached the required standards for CPD. There can be many reasons for this, but this process operates in a supportive manner with the aim of assisting pharmacists to achieve the Society's required standard. Whilst submission of reassessment portfolios can be paper-based or online in format, much work has been done to encourage pharmacists to adopt the online approach as it can save them time.

Accreditation of Master of Pharmacy Degree programmes

I am the lead for University accreditation within the Society and as part of this remit have recently been working with PSNI and RPSGB colleagues on the application for MPharm degree accreditation from the University of Ulster.

Priorities for the coming year

- To continue to inform pharmacists about the CPD process operated by the Society including assessment and reassessment procedures
- To alleviate concerns, clarify misconceptions and provide support to the membership through the facilitator network and myself
- To engage with colleagues in UK and Ireland in relation to Revalidation and work towards proposals for its introduction
- To work with DHSSPSNI to achieve the legislation required to introduce mandatory CPD

I am contactable at the Society by telephone (028 9032 6927) or by email deirdre.mcaree@psni.org.uk. If you have any queries or require any assistance with CPD or any other aspects of the role I have mentioned, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Deirdre McAree

Dr Deirdre McAree
Post-registration Facilitator

Continuing Professional Development is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for execution of professional and technical duties throughout the individual's working life.

Pre-Registration Facilitator's Report

Pre-Registration Facilitator's Report

This report highlights the main activities and achievements in pre-registration training from 1st June 2007 - 31st June 2008 and looks ahead to some of the objectives to be pursued in 2008/09.



Dr. Eileen Scott
Pre-registration Facilitator

Eileen Scott

Trainees

It is pleasing to report that pre-registration trainees were, in general, satisfied with the training they received and that a high standard was achieved. This was evident from the responses to the Society questionnaire sent to trainees before they joined the register. Areas that needed further consideration were also identified from respondents' comments. The main issues emerging from the survey results were the need for:

- 1 a live First Aid course; and,
- 2 additional training on calculations - especially for those trainees who did not have an opportunity to obtain this within their training year.

Action was taken on both these issues and we are delighted that NICPLD are able to organise a live First-Aid course for new trainees

in 2008-09. The Society also provided calculations training for the first time in spring 2008. There was a charge for course attendance in order to cover costs. However, this did not deter applicants and such was the demand for places that we had to hold the course on two occasions. Feedback on this new venture was very positive with respondents claiming that it was great practice for them and that they felt much more confident about tackling the examination as a result of attending the course.

Registration Examination

The Registration Examination is the major event in June for pre-registration trainees and the facilitator alike. The aim is to have everything running smoothly before, during and after the examination. While the process did follow the intended plan as detailed in the SOPs, the examination day was one of the hottest of the year and the examination venue had a greenhouse quality. Nevertheless, over-heating did not appear to affect performance and we had a 100% success rate.

We were pleased to welcome Dr Jane Portlock in her first year as external examiner. In her report she stated that, "The high pass rate reflected the calibre of the pre-registration graduates and their experience of both hospital and community pre-registration environments." It was also gratifying to hear her opinion that "the examination process was transparent, fair and efficient."

"The Society has always recognised the importance of tutors in pre-registration training and the reviews of tutor performance to date have provided evidence that high standards of tutor performance are being maintained."

Tutor support evening

At the start of pre-registration training, all tutors were provided with the up-dated Tutor Information booklet. Then during the year tutor support evenings and a special tutor course were organised. Also, through the NI Hospital Pre-registration Tutors Group, it has been very valuable to meet regularly with hospital tutors and discuss issues affecting hospital pre-registration training.

In April and May 2008, the Society course for new and experienced tutors was provided on three occasions with 100 pharmacists in total attending. There was lively participation at all the course sessions and in their confidential feedback forms respondents indicated very positive views of the programme.

The Society has always recognised the importance of tutors in pre-registration training and the reviews of tutor performance to date have provided evidence that high standards of tutor performance are being maintained. Having drawn up proposals for a formal evaluation of tutor performance, and consulted tutors about this previously, I proceeded with a pilot project with tutor volunteers to evaluate performance and provide feedback. This pilot will be complete in the year ahead and the outcomes used to revise procedures so that a formal tutor evaluation process can be extended to all tutors.

Guidance for Undergraduates

Undergraduate students must be aware that their behaviour throughout their university career, including in their personal lives, may have an impact on their fitness to practise. The need for guidance for undergraduates has been high on the Society's agenda and has led to the preparation of A Guide to Professional Behaviour and Fitness to Practise for Pharmacy Students. This guide is undergoing review and revision with the intention of having it circulated to all undergraduates of pharmacy in Northern Ireland universities.

Key Objectives for 2008-2009

- To continue to facilitate pre-registration training through providing support to trainees and tutors throughout the year
- To provide awareness raising events for hospital pharmacists who are not tutors but are involved with trainees
- To complete the Tutor performance pilot, and on the basis of outcomes to extend this to all tutors
- To audit tutor commitment and review the guidance on this
- To review pre-registration programme and registration examination syllabus
- To finalise and issue guidance to undergraduate students on professional behaviour and fitness to practise.

Eileen Scott

Dr. Eileen Scott
Pre-registration Facilitator

Head of Public Affairs Report

Head of Public Affairs Report



Mark Neale
Head of Public Affairs

Mark Neale

In 2007 the Pharmaceutical Society took a new direction when it created the post of "Head of Public Affairs" and I was appointed in November of that year.

The key role of this post is to promote the regulatory activity of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, and the contribution of pharmacy as a regulated profession. This communications activity takes place at all levels: to Government; to the Northern Ireland Assembly; to the media; to the public; and to the registrants.

Over the past year progress has been made in conveying the Society's core messages to all these identified groups.

Communicating with Government

The Society has held several meetings with the Minister for Health, Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA. The focus of these discussions has been on agreeing the most appropriate model for the future of pharmacy regulation in light of the Government's 2007 White Paper "Trust, Assurance and Safety", as well as meeting the new and growing needs of devolution. In January the Council produced its own set of proposals: "The future of pharmacy registration, regulation and representation in Northern Ireland" (available in the publications section of the Society website).

These proposals were delivered to the Minister in February and have formed the basis for subsequent Ministerial and Departmental representations.

In addition to this a delegation from the Society has met with the Minister for Social Development, Ms Margaret Ritchie, to highlight the work of community pharmacists in regenerating deprived neighbourhoods and to investigate future means of enhancing this role. The Minister was particularly interested to hear about the record of the Department's Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP), and has now instructed her officials to work with the Society, the BCPP and others to ensure the potential of pharmacies as community anchors is given due consideration as part of the Executive's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Engaging the Northern Ireland Assembly and other Legislators

An early priority upon taking up my post was the need to familiarise members of the Northern Ireland Assembly (MLAs) with the role and functions carried out by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. I quickly discovered that for MLAs the acronym "PSNI" was generally more synonymous with policing than pharmacy! Whilst the Society obviously do act as a rule-keeper for the profession, I am glad to say that MLAs increasingly recognise the distinction and that the "original" PSNI dates back to the early 1920s!



The Society has now been able to forge strong links with all the major political parties at Stormont, and at a more collective level, with the Northern Ireland Assembly's Health Committee. This close co-operation has led to an increased interest in the role of pharmacy amongst our elected representatives, as well as an important motion on pharmacy regulation being debated on the floor of the Assembly. This particular debate gave unanimous political support to the Society's proposals for the future structure of pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland.

Elsewhere, the Society has also briefed Northern Ireland Members of the European Parliament on the implications to local pharmacy regulation posed by European Directives, such as on Mutual Recognition of Qualifications between member states, and cross-border access to health services.

Finally, the Society is grateful to its supporters at Westminster who made several representations in debates on the Health and Social Care Bill (now Act) in terms of Northern Ireland's devolved competence in the policy field of health professional regulation.

Media

Over the past year the Society's endeavours have helped to significantly raise the profile of Pharmacy within the local media. The views of the Society are now regularly sought in relation to pharmacy related matters, both by the broadcast media as well as the written press. Interest from journalists in the Society's views has covered a wide range of subjects including drug alerts, medicines advice and careers in the profession.

All of the Society's press releases and statements are available to view on the Society's website.

Another new venture for the Society has been the inauguration of a quarterly in house newsletter for registrants. Feedback so far has been positive and we hope this can become a valuable tool for keeping members of the register informed of the latest news from the regulator. The second edition of the newsletter was distributed by email, a form of communication through which we hope to increasingly engage registrants. Equally, the Society's new website (soon to be unveiled) will offer further avenues for public and registrant engagement.

Consultations

During the past year the Society has also been very active in responding to Government and other regulator's consultations. Consultations are an increasing part of modern professional and political life and it is important that the local voice of pharmacy regulation is heard by law-makers and decision-makers in a variety of settings, whether in by our own Department of Health, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency or the Department of Health in England.

Some important responses from the Society since December include (but are not limited to):

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government;
- The proposed Responsible Pharmacist regulations (Department of Health in England);
- The Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations (Department for Children, Schools and Families); and,
- The Northern Ireland Assembly's Inquiry into potential economic partnerships to help retain local postal services

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Council Members, Committees and individual pharmacists in the community, hospital and academic settings that have contributed to the development of these responses. Further details of the positions taken by the Society are available on the publications section of the website.

The Future

Firm foundations have now been laid in establishing the voice of local pharmacy regulation in the public affairs arena and improving our communication with registrants. Further developments will be taking place in the year ahead. In particular the Society is seeking to become more patient facing and increase our interface with patient and consumer groups, as per the aspirations expressed in our proposed future structures.

The public affairs and communications role of the Society will continue to be central to the achievement of a new Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, fit for purpose in the 21st Century: Protecting the Public – Promoting Pharmacy.



PGEU/CHRE



Dr. Kate McClelland
Council Member and
Past President

Kate McClelland

Council Member and Past President, Dr Kate McClelland represents the Society on both the Council of the CHRE and on the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union. Here she reports on activity from both in 2007/08.

PHARMACEUTICAL GROUPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (PGEU)

In January 2008, the Head of the UK Delegation passed to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. This entails chairing the UK Delegation meetings and attending the monthly working group meetings in Brussels.

Issues addressed specifically by the PGEU this year include the ECORYS report into pharmacy regulation, counterfeiting of medicines and anti-counterfeiting measures and information to Patients – clinical vs. advertising.

Free movement of both patients and professionals across Europe is progressing and the UK recently changed its legislation to allow dispensing of EU prescriptions for all but Controlled Drugs.

The General Assembly of the PGEU was held in Helsinki. An Economics Working Group was agreed to work for one year collating information on community pharmacy payment systems across the EU. This is an information exercise to look at the existing systems of payment and negotiation. Rajesh Patel will lead the UK delegation on this group.

There was discussion on the central reclassification of many products including Tamiflu, Champix, Xenical, Levitra, Viagra, Accomplia, and Yentreve to non-prescription status. Central EU switching would make these medicines available for General Sale throughout Europe. The UK is unique in having the P category for patient protection.

In addition, in April 2008, in conjunction with the Society's Head of Public Affairs, I took the opportunity to meet with Northern Ireland's MEPs in Brussels to brief them on issues pertinent to the practice of pharmacy in Northern Ireland. We focused on 3 main topics:

1. Counterfeit medicines.

Whilst recognising that internet trading cannot be prevented, the Society alerted the MEPs to the potential patient safety concerns when drugs are bought on the internet from unregulated sources. The MEPs recognised the potential consequences for patient safety and supported the Society's efforts to educate patients to take care when buying drugs over the internet.

2. Geographic limitation on community pharmacy contracts.

The Society conveyed the economic and community benefits of locating pharmacies according to local need. The message was well received and all 3 MEPs supported maintenance of the current system of geographical limitations.

3. The Future Registration, Regulation and Representation of Pharmacy in Northern Ireland.

The Society outlined to the MEPs a brief history of pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland and the current proposals by the Society for a future model which would retain the local presence of the regulator whilst instituting 21st century governance and regulation. All 3 MEPs were positive about retaining local regulation and supported the Society's campaign for the necessary legislative changes to be made.

COUNCIL FOR HEALTHCARE REGULATION EXCELLENCE (CHRE)

The CHRE continues to change and evolve aspects of its organisation, but remains dedicated to its original purpose of protecting the public by helping regulatory bodies become better regulators, setting and driving up standards for professional regulation and fostering greater harmonisation of regulatory practice and outcomes.

The many recommendations of the 2007 White Paper on health professional regulation, "Trust, Assurance and Safety", are now in various stages of implementation. One change effecting the governance of the CHRE itself is that the Council of the CHRE will no longer be constituted with the Presidents (and Past President in the case of PSNI) of the regulatory bodies and lay members. Instead, the CHRE Council will evolve into a completely lay organisation. It will continue to oversee decisions and processes in Healthcare Regulation and public protection will continue to be the focus.

Indeed, "change" has continued to dominate the work of the Council for the past year. Of particular importance has been how CHRE will ensure the devolved countries are represented and their views considered by the new Council. In this sense, the unique perspective on devolution and regulation that the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland can bring will be particularly important.

This year saw closer working between CHRE and the Directors and Chief Executives of the nine Regulators. One corollary of this was the institution of a new set of performance standards that were used by the Regulators for self assessment and formed part of the CHRE annual assessment procedure. Next year CHRE expect that each regulator will use the standards to identify strengths and weaknesses in their own organisation and compare their performance with other regulators.

In its assessment of the Society's performance in 2007/08, the CHRE complemented the Society on its appointment of pre-registration and post-registration facilitators. The CHRE also gave their strong support to the Society's campaign for new legislation to be introduced by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland to modernise the Society's regulatory toolkit and governance structure.

The work of CHRE has continued through this challenging year, monitoring Fitness to Practice cases in all regulators, discussing learning points where public protection has been compromised and promoting best practice in regulation.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Report



Jaqui Dougan
Honorary Treasurer

Jaqui Dougan

I am delighted to be able to present my report on the Society's activities for the year 2007/08. The Council monitors the financial viability and sustainability of the Society against key indicators in order to;

1. To provide a sustainable income to underpin the functions of the Society;
2. To ensure essential cost and cash flow management;
3. To maximize investment opportunities to support the Society's objectives; and,
4. To manage, protect and administer the Benevolent Fund, C W Young and Ronnie McMullan Funds

The performance over recent years is summarized below:

Year	2006	2007	2008
Income	573,558	662,942	766,759
Expenditure	418,347	504,023	663,843
Surplus for the Year	155,211	158,885	102,916

This year, we have faced many challenges, which have tested the financial management of the Society. However, as Treasurer I am confident that through diligent planning and management of income, costs and investments, the Society is in a strong position to deliver on identified objectives set out in the Business Plan 2008/2009.

During this financial period, and following publication of the Government's White Paper- Trust, Assurance and Safety- the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century, the Society commissioned the HELM Corporation to undertake an independent and complete economic appraisal on the basis of the proposed options to meet the future requirements on developing preferential healthcare in Northern Ireland. Conducted in line with the guidelines on appraisals, "Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government", 2003 (The Green Book), and the relevant "Northern Ireland Preface". The report concluded that there is a concrete and comprehensive need and demand for the development of the PSNI in Northern Ireland. The Society has been able to use the detailed findings of the HELM Corporation's report in the development of its proposals for "The Future of Pharmacy Registration, Regulation and Representation in Northern Ireland", available on the Society's website.

With reference to the annual accounts year ending 31st May 2008, the following should be noted

Income has increased to £766,759, an increase in excess of £103k. This reflects:

1. A rise in personal retention and registration fees;
2. Income from interest increased due to additional money held on deposit; and
Modernisation and Communication Project Grant from Northern Pharmacies

Expenditure increased by £159k during 2008, which reflects a number of key areas:

1. The Council has worked extremely hard to deliver a functional structure, which can underpin sustainability. The proposed organisational structure recognises the need for a number of key posts to deliver the service expected by the membership. During this financial period we recruited four new members of staff in line with the proposed business plan. This accounts for the increase in salaries and national insurance. These posts include the Director of the Pharmaceutical Society, Head of Public Affairs, Policy Advisor and Registration Assistant. These posts have provided significant contribution over the past twelve months and are invaluable assets to the Society. Despite the recruitment of new posts this period, as Treasurer, we remain focused on streamlining costs and a number of new or additional positions were suspended this year to reflect the current change programme. However, we are mindful that in order to deliver on the key objectives outlined in our proposed way forward we must recruit key skills into the organisation.
2. A rise in office expenses reflects increased printing costs and development and implementation of a new database. The investment in technology is a one off cost and will deliver a fit for purpose registration database for pharmacists and premises.
3. In light of the Foster Report and White Paper, course and conference expenses increased to £35k.
4. Professional fees increased to just over £43k. This reflects the implementation of professional working groups during 2008.
5. House expenses have slightly fallen this financial year as we completed the refurbishment programme.
6. Modernisation and Communication expenses were funded by a contribution from Northern Pharmacies. This has enabled the Society to deliver a successful public affairs campaign during 2008.

"I would like to personally thank Northern Pharmacies for their invaluable contribution and unwavering commitment to pharmacy development."

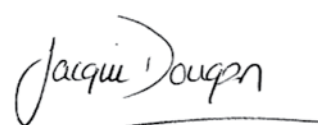
During the Year we met with Cunningham Coates to review the Societies investments and we are confident in the approach to our portfolio, particularly at a time of great unrest in the economy. We will continue to review the portfolio throughout the financial year.

The Benevolent Fund has existed to assist those pharmacists and their families who require specific financial assistance. One objective for the Finance and House Committee was to re-evaluate the use of the fund and ensure that we deliver a modern approach to its implementation. We are currently reviewing the criteria for the fund and will deliver a way forward over the next six months. We appreciate members' generous donations to the Benevolent Fund and would encourage all of you to not only contribute but also to advise Council where and when we may be of help.

Turning to the future, there is much to consider and plenty to plan for. The Society endeavors to deliver its change programme and the results are bound to bring about major changes within the organization. We must focus on successful implementation of the proposed milestones. The Society's continued financial strength has positioned it well to face the challenges that will inevitably emerge over the coming period.

We are indebted to the continued financial support of Northern Pharmacies towards the Modernisation and Communication project. I would like to personally thank Northern Pharmacies for their invaluable contribution and unwavering commitment to pharmacy development. I also wish to extend my gratitude to Baker Tilly Mooney Moore who ensure we perform our duties to rigorous financial and professional standards

As an Officer and Honorary Treasurer I would like to thank my fellow Officers, Mr Raymond Anderson (President) and Miss Anne Bowen (Vice-President) for their continued support and advice. In addition, the Finance and House Committee could not have achieved many of its objectives this year without the support of our fellow colleagues on Council, the Director and Business Manager for the work they do in preparing the information for the House & Finance Committee. As Treasurer I thank my fellow colleagues on Finance and House. And Finally, I would like to thank you the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland for your confidence and support during 2007-2008.



Jaqui Dougan
Honorary Treasurer

"During this financial period we recruited four new members of staff in line with the proposed business plan."

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
INCOME		
Retention Fees	504,209	463,895
Licences	41,354	39,844
Registration Fees	70,922	62,710
Tutors Course Fees	10,363	9,225
Interest	28,463	24,345
Northern Pharmacies Limited - Management Charge	10,000	10,000
Rent	9,917	8,675
Miscellaneous	8,752	9,751
Examinations	21,870	22,434
Dividends	7,909	6,135
Gain/(Loss) on sale of shares	-	5,934
Modernisation & Communication Project Grant	53,000	-
	<u>766,759</u>	<u>662,948</u>
	=====	=====

EXPENDITURE

Rent, Rates and Insurance	2,929	2,950
Salaries and National Insurance	320,887	279,571
Committee Attendance Fees	7,250	13,320
Pensions to Former Staff	11,198	10,973
Staff Pension Scheme Contributions	1,440	-
Office Expenses	65,272	57,851
Courses and Conference Expenses	35,079	26,773
Professional Fees	43,443	19,907
Statutory Committee Expenses	10,115	2,402
Prize night, Certificates etc	1,919	1,287
Subscriptions	4,840	3,393
Dinners	-	1,229
House Expenses	48,423	57,435
Depreciation less Grant Release	23,320	13,092
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	5,585
Recruitment Costs	24,228	8,295
Modernisation & Communication Project Expenses	63,500	-
	<u>663,843</u>	<u>504,063</u>
 SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	 <u>102,916</u>	 <u>158,885</u>
	=====	=====

**THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2008**

	2008	2007
	£	£
EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS		
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	131,358	125,338
Investments	182,672	184,105
	<u>314,030</u>	<u>309,443</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	71,027	65,917
Ulster Bank - Deposit Accounts	525,902	414,862
Current Account	158,329	125,116
Cash on Hand	46,300	
Cunningham Coates - Deposit Account	95,250	87,338
	<u>850,554</u>	<u>693,533</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	307,653	240,195
	<u>542,901</u>	<u>453,338</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	856,931	762,781
	=====	=====
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	839,376	744,196
PREMISES RENOVATION GRANT	17,555	18,585
	<u>856,931</u>	<u>762,781</u>
	=====	=====

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 22nd August 2008 and signed on behalf of Council by:

JOHN RAYMOND ANDERSON (PRESIDENT)
JACQUI DOUGAN (TREASURER)
TREVOR PATTERSON (DIRECTOR)

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND
C W YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP FUND
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2008

	Related Income		
	Cost	2008	2007
	£	£	£
Investments	99,103	4,877	3,341
Tax relief adjustment	-	-	-
Gain on sale of shares	-	6,502	3,420
Ulster Bank Ltd. - Current Account	2,854	-	-
Cunningham Coates - Deposit Account	18,034	-	-
Cunningham Coates - Income Account	535 653	-	-
Cunningham Coates - Dealing Account	(1,246)	-	-
Debtors	1,246	-	-
Creditors	(269)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	120,257	11,379	7,234
	=====	=====	=====
INCOME ACCOUNT		2007	2006
		£	£
At Beginning of Year		106,184	101,744
Income for Year		11,379	7,414
Research Grants made in Year		(1,678)	(1,880)
Management Charge		(1,169)	(1,094)
		-----	-----
At End of Year		114,716	106,184
CAPITAL ACCOUNT		5,541	5,541
		-----	-----
		120,257	111,725
		=====	=====

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND
C W YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP FUND
NOTES TO BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2008

1. MARKET VALUE

The market value of investments, excluding bank deposits, as at 31 May 2008 was £109,207 (31 May 2007: £123,274).

7,494	6,373
469	476
940	801

Appendix 1

Appendix 1

COMPLAINTS AGAINST PHARMACISTS AND OWNERS OF PHARMACIES

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists. All pharmacists who practice in Northern Ireland have to be registered with the PSNI and all registered pharmacies are inspected by the PSNI. The PSNI is responsible for ensuring that all pharmacists and pharmacy owners act in accordance with the Code of Ethics and with the laws relating to medicines and poisons. A pharmacist's prime concern, irrespective of their sphere of work, must be for the wellbeing and safety of patients and the public.

WHAT THE SOCIETY CAN DEAL WITH

- Complaints about the professional service provided by a pharmacist / pharmacy at all levels of healthcare, e.g. a dispensing error, wrong labelling, or out of date medicine supplied
- Complaints about the conduct of a pharmacist, e.g. unprofessional behaviour
- Complaints against owners of pharmacies including companies

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT TO THE SOCIETY

Complaints should be made as soon as possible after the event. For some offences there are time limits, so don't delay. Please send your complaint either:

1. In writing to Practice and Legal Affairs, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, 73 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL or;
2. By email to complaints@psni.org.uk or;
3. By facsimile to **028 90439919**

Including:

- Your name and address
- Daytime telephone number on which you may be contacted
- Name and address of pharmacy / pharmacist concerned
- Brief outline of your complaint
- Date of the incident
- Whether any harm has been caused

Please do not send any evidence or medicines into the Society

If you are unsure about whether to complain or not please telephone (Tel: **028 90326927**) and one of our staff will discuss your concerns with you.

Appendix 2

Appendix 2

MINUTES OF THE 82ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 4th October 2007 in 73 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL

Present:

Raymond Anderson, (President)
Ray Blaney, (Director)
Greg Miller
Roberta Tasker
Muriel Singleton
Dr Eileen Scott
Jacqui Dougan, (Hon Treasurer)
Mark Bogues
Mark Nelson
Brendan Kerr
Stephen Montgomery
Qudrat Jamshidi
Dr Terry Maguire
Andree McCollum
Dr Deirdre McAree
Robin Halliday
Dr Michael Mawhinney
Dr Lisa Byers
Paul McDonagh
Professor James McElnay
Tony Wallace
Ann Bowen, (Vice President)
Mary Keltai

The Director welcomed and thanked all those in attendance at the 82nd AGM of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

1) Apologies:

Apologies were received on behalf of: Dr Sean O'Hare, Catherine O'Rourke, Joshua Kerr, Dr Martin Kerr, Derek Lawson, Dr Kate McClelland, Patrick Slevin, Terry Hannawin, Anne Overell, and Mark Overell

2) Minutes of 81st Annual Meeting

The minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting were approved

3) Declaration of election of Candidates

Six members of Council, namely Anne Friel, Michelle McCorry, Dr Sam Varma, Andree McCollum, Professor James McElnay, and Greg Miller retire from Council by rotation. Of these representatives, Andree McCollum, Professor James McElnay and Greg Miller offered themselves for re-election and were duly re-elected.

4) President's Address

The Society President, Raymond Anderson, addressed the meeting reviewing activity in 2006/07. This included:

- the implications of the Foster Review;
- the publication of the Trust, Assurance and Safety White Paper;
- the work of the Carter Working Group;
- the future initiation of important European initiatives
- the importance of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's relationship with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
- concerns over the implications of Agenda for Change banding for hospital pharmacy
- the positive momentum behind independent prescribing pharmacists
- the growing role of community pharmacists in delivering public health services;
- the potential dangers to public safety from

unsupervised sales of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine based products;

- the progression of the Integrated Medicines Management scheme in hospital pharmacy
- the development of the Society's Continuing Professional Development scheme

In closing, the President thanked staff, Council members and officers for their support in fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities required of being President in 2006/07.

Full transcript of speech available on the PSNI website

5) Director's Address

The Society Director, Ray Blaney, addressed the meeting providing a broad update in relation to the Society's future status. He highlighted that:

- future decisions on the regulation and representation of pharmacy in Northern Ireland will be made by the Northern Ireland Health Minister;
- a consultation with the Society's registrants in relation to the Society's functions had given majority support for continuing to provide regulation and representation of the pharmacy profession through a Northern Ireland Society;
- The need to provide the Society with an updated regulatory framework;
- The threat to current regulatory strengths in Northern Ireland posed by hasty pursuance of a UK-wide body;
- The particular role of a Northern Ireland regulator in managing the patient safety risks posed by a land border with another EU territory;
- The opportunity for the Society to provide a future model to others of devolved regulation in practice.
- The Society was working towards achieving

a number of objectives in the year ahead, including an improved range of sanctions; alternative registers; and a new system of corporate governance.

Full transcript of speech available on the PSNI website

6) Hon Treasurer's Financial Statement

The Honorary Treasurer, Ms Jacqui Dougan, presented the annual accounts, underlining her mindfulness of the impact upon registrants of increased membership fees but also the need to create strong foundations within the Society to deliver excellence in regulation and professional representation.

2006/07 accounts available on the PSNI website and in the 2006/07 annual report.

7) Questions and Answers.

A number of questions were asked in relation to:

- the future options for the Society in terms of regulatory models;
- the registration of pharmacy technicians;
- the case for including business management within the MPharm syllabus;
- the CPD appraisal feedback process; and
- Society communications with its members;

8) Meeting closed