

## Education

### A word from our Post Registration Facilitator



Post Registration Facilitator  
Deirdre McAree

**"I hope  
Individual  
feedback from  
assessors will be  
invaluable"**

Since becoming post-registration facilitator in January, I have been busy dealing with a range of educational issues. As part of my role I am responsible for managing the Continuing Professional Development of all registered pharmacists.

During February I met with the majority of the assessors, ascertaining their views and identifying opportunities to improve the CPD process

Results and feedback have been issued to all those who were in period 2 of the 2006/7 cohort, and assessment of period 3 portfolios is currently underway.

Once the assessments have been completed, pharmacists will receive letters outlining the option their portfolio has been allocated. This will be accompanied by a feedback report explaining

each option and detailing how each pharmacist has performed against the assessment criteria. A statistics table will also be provided showing overall performance.

Within the feedback, a pharmacist can expect to see some statements which assessors have included to assist them for future cycles.

"I hope individual feedback from assessors will be invaluable. This feedback will give clear guidance on meeting the essential criteria for future portfolio entries."

I have been meeting pharmacists on a one-to-one basis to talk through issues and concerns they have had with their portfolios. I hope that by providing individual feedback to pharmacists who request this is both beneficial and supportive.

I aim to build great relationships with the membership. As part of my strategy, I encourage pharmacists to contact me either by telephone or by e-mail, and of course appointments can be made to meet me if that is required. In addition I will be tutoring two NICPPET workshops in April to assist pharmacists wishing to record CPD online.

Deirdre can be contacted by email—

Deirdre.mcaree@psni.org.uk

Or by telephone at the Society

028 90326927

### Return to Practise—how can you help?



**If you are interested in helping please contact:**

**Brendan Kerr**

Telephone

**02890326927/8**

Email

**[brendan.kerr@psni.org.uk](mailto:brendan.kerr@psni.org.uk)**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is witnessing an increasing number of pharmacists who are returning to work after taking some time out of practise. The Society is seeking the cooperation of pharmacists and employers in offering either work shadowing or placements prior to a pharmacist then operating as a sole practitioner.

The reasons for absence will have been varied e.g. child care, career break, retirement or possibly illness whether physical or mental. The pharmacist may have retained their registration with the Society or not but what will be missing was the opportunity to put their skills and knowledge into practise.

Alternatively the pharmacist may be registering after returning from practising outside the UK.

The diversity of the pharmacy workforce will also see many practitioners crossing between primary or secondary care, administrative or academic environments. The recent DHSSPSNI training initiative on workforce planning to address events like a national emergency e.g. pandemic flu, is an example of how pharmacists' can contribute to meet possible new practice needs. A pharmacist will cost £100K to train as a practitioner and this is a preventable loss to the health-care system.

There is the case of the practi-

tioner who has been ill and may need a stepwise return to practise, to gain full confidence and functionality. This will only happen if we secure the support of the pharmacy profession. The Society is therefore seeking possible placement positions for such persons to foster and mentor return to practise for these practitioners. The society will be working with NICPPET to develop "Return to Practise" training support

If you are interested in helping in return to practise training please register an interest with the Society's Registrar.