

# Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**



Dr Colin Adair and Raymond Anderson President of the Pharmaceutical Society NI



Prof. David Woolfson and Raymond Anderson President of the Pharmaceutical Society NI

## Northern Ireland Pharmacy Educationalists Receive Special Awards to Honour Achievements

Professor David Woolfson, Head of Queens University Pharmacy School, and Dr Colin Adair, Director of the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD), have both been recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland for the excellence of their professional careers and their contribution to pharmacy education. The special award of a Fellowship of the Society was made at a celebratory dinner in Parliament Building in Stormont on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The Head of the Pharmacy Inspectorate in Northern Ireland, Dr Michael Mawhinney FPSNI, gave a citation about Dr Colin Adair's achievements. He gave praise to Dr Adair's successful delivery

of innovation in pharmacy education, introducing pioneering live and distance learning programmes and internet-based Continuing Professional Development support. “Under his decisive leadership, NICPLD has been a benchmark for all other education centres in the United Kingdom.”

Dr Adair spoke of his pride at receiving the honour, recalling how one of his early tutors, Mr George Davies, had received a Fellowship in 1983, never imagining then he would follow so closely in Mr Davies footsteps. Dr Adair highlighted the work of NICPLD particularly in the area of CPD emphasising the uniqueness of the Northern Ireland system which he believes to one of the best systems currently available. In closing he paid tribute to his predecessors at NICPLD, Dr Norman Morrow and Dr Terry Maguire for all their work in setting up and developing the Centre.

When presenting the citation for Prof Woolfson, Professor Sean Gorman FPSNI highlighted Prof Woolfson’s achievements at the local, national and international level.

“David’s national and international standing is evidenced by his appointment in 2006 by the Secretary of State for Health as Chair of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission and his membership of Scientific Advisory Board of the International Partnership for HIV Microbicides in Washington DC.” Prof Gorman also paid tribute to Prof Woolfson’s leadership of Queen’s School of pharmacy, pointing to its recent placing as the ranked number one UK School of Pharmacy in the Times Good University Guide.

In reply Prof Woolfson thanked the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland for the Fellowship honour and highlighted some of the amazing changes he has seen within Pharmacy education since he commenced in 1969. “Beginning in the old Belfast College of Technology there was an intake of something like 20 students. Now we have an intake at Queen’s of 145. Then entrance was by two Es at A-level. Now many of our intake have straight As.”

In closing Prof Woolfson eluded to his other great passion – supporting Manchester United, pointing out that like Manchester United, Queen’s School of Pharmacy had again topped the tables “I think that reflects rather well on just how far pharmacy education has progressed in Northern Ireland”

Commenting on the awards, Raymond Anderson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, said;

“Both Dr Colin Adair and Prof David Woolfson are giants of Pharmacy education in Northern Ireland, but their reputation and influence extends far beyond these shores. Colin is known as one of the innovators of continuing education within pharmacy being highly respected both at Queens and within the profession as a whole.

First and foremost David Woolfson is renowned for his clinical research. Nationally and internationally David is highly respected and honoured particularly in the fields of research most

recently research into HIV therapeutics.

Both these men, are excellent role models for all pharmacists in Northern Ireland and as such I am delighted on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to present their Certificates, formally conferring on them the highest honour we as a Society can give, that of being a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland”

**ENDS**

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**Editors notes:**

1. High resolution jpg photographs of the event and awarding of scholarships are available from Mark Neale through the contact details above.