

Pharmaceutical Society Present Fellowship to Professor Sean Gorman

"Suave, sophisticated, charming and debonair, Sean Gorman could be mistaken for the exact opposite of a dusty, nutty Professor." So said Past President of the Society, Dr Terry Maguire, as he praised Professor Sean Gorman who, on the 13 June, was honoured by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland by being awarded a Fellowship.

In highlighting the achievements of Prof Sean Gorman, Dr Maguire said "Sean was one of the architects who envisioned the development of our School of Pharmacy from the smallest school in the UK, in the 1970s, to what it is today; one of the UK's largest, and arguably its best, both for its fierce academic reputation and its teaching excellence."

Chief Pharmacist Dr Norman Morrow commented "Through Sean Gorman's contribution to the pharmaceutical profession and healthcare practise, particularly through his commitment to education and research, he is



Professor Sean P. Gorman newest Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland

highly respected among his peers throughout the world, and in such a small place as Northern Ireland he has helped to make us conspicuous on the international pharmacy map."

Prof Gorman currently holds the Chair in Pharmaceutical Microbiology and is Head of the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University.

As an author Prof Gorman has been prolific, with over 250 publications, as a conference speaker he is in demand worldwide and his expertise is valued on several pharmacy organizations including the British Pharmacopoeia Commission Panel of Experts.

Prof Gorman was nominated for a Fellowship by the Dr Mike Mawhinney of the Pharmacy Inspectorate and the nomination was supported by the Chief Pharmacist and Dr Maguire

Mr Raymond Anderson, President of the Society, summed up the esteem in which Prof Gorman is held, "It is a great pleasure and an honour for the Society to count Sean Gorman as a Fellow and it is our pleasure to award him one of our highest accolades and we are delighted to honour him in this way".

NI Assembly vote to retain local regulation of pharmacy

On Tuesday 27 May, the Northern Ireland Assembly debated the regulation of Pharmacy in Northern Ireland. In a motion tabled by Mrs Iris Robinson MP MLA, Chair of the Health Committee, the Pharmaceutical Society of NI received unanimous support for its proposals - laid out in the Society's document "The Future of Pharmacy Registration, Regulation and Representation in Northern Ireland". The motion also called on the Health Minister Michael McGimpsey to update the Society's regulatory framework accordingly.

During the debate MLAs from all the main parties praised the work of local pharmacists and recognised the potential for pharmacy to expand into new clinical areas.

Mrs Robinson and her Assembly Colleagues also praised the uniqueness of Pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland highlighting the role the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and the Pharmacy Inspectorate based in the Department of Health.

In his response the Minister reiterated his view that it was premature for any decision to be made in relation to the regulatory functions of the Society being merged with the proposed General Pharmaceutical Council. He also sought further assurance regarding the separation of the Society's regulatory and representative roles.

Overall 10 MLAs took part in the debate. At the conclusion of the debate, the motion was passed unanimously.



Society President, Mr Raymond Anderson and Vice-President Ms Ann Bowen with Mrs. Iris Robinson MP MLA, Chair of the Northern

Commenting on the outcome, Society Vice-President Ms Ann Bowen said, "Now the real work begins. The Society recognises it needs to change to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and in order to achieve this, we need to have modernising legislation in place. Over the coming months we as a Society will be working with appropriate bodies to achieve this"

Pharmaceutical Society Meets with MEPs and Peers to discuss pharmacy concerns

Over the past three months staff and Council Members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland have been engaged in meetings with public representatives in Westminster, Stormont and Brussels to convey the aspirations and concerns of pharmacy in Northern Ireland.

In March, PSNI Council Member Dr Kate McClelland met with the three Northern Ireland MEPs in her position as head of the British Delegation to the PGEU.

The key issues raised were counterfeit medicines and the sale of medicines over the internet, as well as the current infraction cases in Europe regarding the restrictions on opening new pharmacies.

Mr Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs at



All three Northern Ireland Members of the European Parliament support the maintenance of local pharmacy regulation and representation.

the PSNI, also discussed the ongoing issues in relation to the future of pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland and was pleased to gain the support of all Northern Ireland's MEPs on the matter.

Northern Ireland's MEPs are: Barbre de Brun (Sinn Fein); Jim Nicholson (Ulster Unionist); and Jim Allister (Traditional Unionist Voice)

In April a delegation from the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland met with local members of the House of Lords to discuss the issues affecting medical regulation in the Health and Social Care Bill. The Bill was completing its final stages in the House of Lords at the time of the meeting.

Subsequent to the delegation's visit Lord Trimble of Lisnagarvey tabled several amendments to the Bill with the aim of ensuring the Northern Ireland Assembly retaining its ability to amend or improve medical regulation. Support was also received from Lords Bew and Rogan. The amendments did not receive Government support but did highlight important issues for future consideration.

Commenting on the recent representations to political representatives, Society President Raymond Anderson stated:

"This kind of ongoing contact ensures the voice of pharmacy in Northern Ireland is

heard by legislators across jurisdictions. The Society now has in place robust systems to ensure opportunities and challenges for pharmacy in Northern Ireland are heeded and responded to.

A range of supporters for pharmacy in Northern Ireland now exist in the Stormont Assembly, Westminster, and the European Parliament in Brussels.

We are pleased they share our passion for pharmacy regulation, policy-making and implementation to be kept local."



The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has briefed local Members of the House of Lords on how the Health and Social Care Bill affects Northern Ireland

Health Minister: it is "premature to make any decisions before the GPhC has been formed"

In answer to a question from Mr. John McCallister MLA (UUP), the Northern Ireland Minister for Health has made clear that until the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) for Great Britain has been formed, and has established protocols to deal with devolved matters, "it would be premature to make any decision about the future of pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland".

Minister McGimpsey reiterated this answer during an Assembly debate on pharmacy regulation on 27 May, highlighting that he is keen for the Society and the Health Department to work together for a positive outcome.

The Minister's answer indicates his preference that the GPhC strongly reflects the needs of devolution before considering whether Northern Ireland could be included within its scope.

The Minister's answer in full reads:

"I recently met representatives of the PSNI and am now in receipt of their proposals for the future regulation of pharmacy in Northern Ireland.

Having received an update on the formation of the proposed General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), from the Chairman of the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group, I have decided it would be premature to make any decisions before the GPhC has been formed and has established its protocols to deal with devolved matters.

My department will continue to work with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and the other relevant bodies to ensure that patients and the public are fully protected at all times."

The answer was warmly welcomed by Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs at the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland:



Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland:

"It makes eminent sense, that before the Minister makes any decisions about

Pharmacy in Northern Ireland joining the new GPhC, he needs to satisfy himself that devolution will be recognised and respected. We warmly welcome this decision and we welcome the opportunity this creates for the Society to continue discussions with the Minister, the Department and PRLOG."

The GPhC is not expected to be fully operational until 2010 at the earliest.

The RPA: Creating a Health Service fit for the future and devolution

A subject of great discussion for all health practitioners in Northern Ireland has been, how best to reform the structures of health and social care delivery as part of the Review of Public Administration (RPA).

A final consultation on the matter was held by the DHSSPS this Spring. The deadline for final views was 12 May 2008.

Health Minister Michael McGimpsey had put forward some important changes to the models proposed prior to devolution. These included:

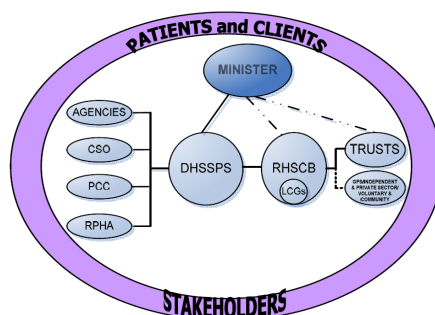
- A new Regional Public Health Authority to take on the roles of the Health Protection Agency and other elements of the health service.
- The introduction of local councillors in the commissioning process
- A new Common Services Organisation taking on the role of the current Central Services Agency and related parts of the health and social care system

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was one of 220 organisations to respond. The Society:

- Supported the Minister's intention to create a more policy-focused depart-

ment concentrated on the new opportunities of devolution.

- Called for heads of public health pharmacy, community pharmacy and secondary care pharmacy within the new Regional Health and Social Care Board. These positions should ensure the fullest delivery of pharmacy benefits in each area
- Suggested responsibility for the Building Community Pharmacy Partnership be transferred to the new Regional Public Health Agency as an important delivery tool for the new body.
- Made the case for greater pharmacy involvement in local commissioning given the growing role of the profession in public health, efficiency savings and clinical services.



Agenda for change: Society writes to the Department

Society President Raymond Anderson has written again to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Services, regarding the ongoing saga of Agenda for Change in our local Hospitals.

In the letter the President raised:

- the perceived inequality of grading when compared to England;
- the difficulties faced by pharmacists due to the recouping of monies, paid in advance of expected re-grading;
- the number of reviews currently being lodged;
- the issue of recruitment and retention payments.

The President commented: "At the Assembly Health Committee last year the Permanent Secretary expressed confidence that this matter would be resolved by March 2008. This is not the case and many hospital pharmacists are very concerned with the current outcome."

left—An organisation map of the changes

Professional Leadership- be part of the change!

We are currently working towards a new legislative framework for the Society, to update the 1976 Pharmacy NI Order.

One of the key functions of the Pharmaceutical Society NI is the protection of the public and the maintenance of their confidence in so doing. The Statutory Committee plays an important role and we are currently recruiting Lay members to this committee.

To be effective the Statutory Committee requires well written Codes and Guidelines, robust educational systems and the support of the profession and public. We are also seeking Pharmacists, with relevant knowledge and skill, to join or assist Committees to help guide the profession and support the statutory functions.

The key areas where assistance is sought are Education, Ethics and Law and Practise. If you have knowledge in these areas and would like to find out more about contributing please email me at ;

tjpatterson@psni.org.uk

or call me on 028 9026 7932.

Trevor Patterson — Director.

Pharmacy and Post Office Co-Location: An under-explored opportunity?

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was invited to contribute to a Northern Ireland Assembly Inquiry into the future of postal services.

The Assembly Committee were interested to hear views on "partnerships that could enhance the economic case for viable local postal services".

Appearing before the Committee, the Society suggested more could be done by Post Office Ltd to explore the opportunities for Post Offices re-locating alongside a pharmacy premises. Successful examples of such relationships existed across Northern Ireland including in Saintfield, the Upper Malone Road, and Strabane. Research by the Society showed that of the 96 Post Offices announced for closure many existed within under half a mile of a current community pharmacy. Yet pharmacies had received no communication from Post Office Ltd to explore co-location. Failure to exploit these opportunities was leading to unnecessary loss of services to vulnerable sections of

society such as the mobility impaired.

The Society suggested a 5 Point Plan to Post Office Ltd to help save more services:

1. More communication from Post Office Ltd to local pharmacies to encourage co-location when a Post Office faces closure
2. A long-term plan by Post Office Ltd on co-location
3. Greater support for pharmacists in meeting the cost of co-location
4. More flexibility in opening hours for co-located post offices
5. An independent report into the economics of co-location.

Richard Price,
Policy Advisor,



Reminder on Retention Forms

**Tracy Donnelly,
Registration
Co-ordinator,
Pharmaceutical
Society of Northern
Ireland**



May and June are busy months in the registration department of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

By now all members of the Society's register will have received their retention forms and the great majority will have been returned and processed. If you have not received your form please contact the Society

However, for those pharmacists who have missed the 1 June deadline for the return of retention forms it is important to bear in mind the costs that can arise when seeking to re-register with the Society.

As outlined in the letter accompanying retention forms, Pharmacists who inform the Society of their desire to voluntarily withdraw from the register can later reapply to the Society for restoration to the register for a fee of £112, plus the annual registration fee (this year £345).

However if a pharmacist is removed from the register on the direction of the Council for non payment of fees as is detailed in the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order, the fee payable for subsequent restoration to the register will be £500, plus the annual registration fee i.e. £845 in total.

The Society hope this scenario can be avoided by pharmacists complying with all of the requirements of registration, or by them signalling to the Society their wish to withdraw from the register. There is a substantial administrative burden and cost in following up those pharmacists who have not registered and this has been factored into these costs.

In other news, we have this year for the first time personalised the retention forms to be convenient and time-saving for registrants and to cross check the data we hold. We are pleased from your feedback that this innovation has been a success.

As part of the Society's aim to be a best practise modern regulator, we welcome constructive suggestions from registrants

A Thank You to Dr. Scott, Pre-Registration Facilitator

The Society wishes to extend its best wishes to Dr. Eileen Scott on the announcement of her retirement from the post of Pre-Registration Facilitator at the Society.

In her 4 years with the Society Dr. Scott has overseen the achievement of a number of pioneering developments in the pre-registration process, including the introduction and development of performance competency based training for pharmacy trainees.

Eileen has also developed tutor training for both experienced and new tutors and supervised and developed the pre-registration appraisal and examination processes, most recently including the additional provision of calculation workshops.

The Society will miss Eileen's personal contribution to the success of the pre registration year and the consistent high pass rate of trainees and the external validation of the examination process are credit to her input to the year.

The support she has given to tutors and trainees has facilitated the resolution of the many difficulties that can occur during an average year.

Within the Society her total professionalism, attention to detail and sound advice are an example to us all. As colleagues

we will miss her humour, dedication and friendship.

Eileen has retired once before having completed an exemplary career as a pharmacist in academia, at Queens University Belfast (QUB). She has produced numerous research papers in diverse subject areas such as pharmaceutical microbiology and in the latter part of her career, in the area of pharmacy practice. QUB's loss in 2005 was a huge gain to the Society and all its members.

We wish Eileen a happy and extended retirement to enjoy her new life as a grandparent.



**Dr. Eileen Scott, Pre-Registration
Facilitator, Pharmaceutical Society of
Northern Ireland**

New Face at University Street: Lisa Losty



The Society is pleased to welcome Lisa Losty as our new interim Business Manager whilst Joan Duffy is on maternity leave.

Lisa has recently returned to Northern Ireland after spending four years in Washington DC, where her husband was posted as a senior diplomat.

Lisa has worked in a number positions prior to her appointment at the Society

including: Finance Officer at the British Embassy in Washington; Office Manager at the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy; and, Regional Services Secretary at the British Medical Association.

Finally, the Society expresses its very best wishes to Business Manager Joan Duffy and Clerical Officer Elaine Rafferty as they leave us for a short time on maternity leave.

Thankfully both Joan and Elaine have been on hand to assist with the processing of the annual retention forms before their departure!

Get in touch!

Should you wish to speak to anyone at the Society about any of the issues raised in this newsletter, have queries, questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 02890 326 927, or info@psni.org.uk.