



**Official Opening of PSI House, Fenian Street  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Address by Paul Fahey, immediate past President of the PSI**

I am delighted that the Minister and his colleagues from the Department of Health, including the Secretary General, Dr Ambrose McLoughlin (former Registrar of the PSI) are able to join us for this event. The process of acquiring and refurbishing this building was begun under Ambrose's tenure and the previous Council, and I am delighted that so many of my former colleagues are here with us also today to celebrate.

The opening of this building marks a significant milestone in the history of the PSI – as we have moved from the 1875 Act to the 2007 legislation, it is fitting that the PSI operates from a facility which supports and facilitates its role and functions under the Act, and that our new headquarters will serve the needs of the PSI, the pharmacy profession and public for many years to come.

The timing of this move was also important with us hosting the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress here in Dublin later this summer - that we have a suitable premises to welcome and work with our international partners. And we are happy to work with *The Gathering* on this prestigious event to welcome business tourism to Ireland.

In refurbishing this premises, a number of factors were key for the Council – we wanted to have suitable facilities to hold educational or other meetings with pharmacists and other stakeholders, and a library resource for pharmacists and the public. It was also important that the energy efficiency and sustainability of the building into the future was enhanced.

And I think that, thanks to the design and building teams, who are here with us today, we have achieved our aims in that regard. The various projects and moves associated with us leaving Shrewsbury Road, moving to our temporary home last year in Hogan Place and then finally moving in here to PSI House on Fenian Street was managed in an extremely professional manner, and I would like to thank the Executive staff, in particular Ciara McGoldrick, Seoirse OhAodha and Cheryl Stokes, for ensuring the transition was seamless with minimal impact on Council business, and for their cooperation with the process.

The PSI has an important role in implementing both the letter and the vision of the Pharmacy Act 2007, in ensuring that the health and safety of the public are protected, maintained and promoted; that the role of pharmacists as the 'medicines experts' in our society is supported; that pharmacy education and CPD in Ireland are of the highest international standards, with the new five-year fully-integrated Masters degree and the Irish Institute of Pharmacy, so that the pharmacy profession can play a fuller part, in collaboration with their fellow health professionals, in delivering safe, quality patient care and services.

And so today, Minister, we will present you with our new five-year corporate strategy for 2013 to 2017 which sets out our roadmap to build on the achievements to date in implementing the vision of the 2007 Act.

The PSI also wishes to today to mark our support for the many important policies of the government and Minister to improve the health of our nation and people – to make this a *Healthy Ireland* – and so today Minister we will ask you to officially designate this new building a 'tobacco free campus', so that our staff and many visitors will not only enjoy a healthier environment but also feel encouraged and supported in their own efforts to improve their health and in particular quit smoking.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Minister, and indeed all our guests for joining us here today to mark this significant and exciting step in the life of the PSI and hope that the work done in the years to come in PSI House will benefit our patients, our health service and the profession of pharmacy.