

## Candidate biographies provided for PSI Council election 2023

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### Biography of Leanne Bumster (12842)

Dear Colleagues,

I am enthusiastically running in the PSI Council election as I believe I can make a positive contribution to the work of the Council and ensure that the voice of community pharmacy is considered and respected.

I am passionate about clinical pharmacy practice and the impact it can make to patients. I have worked across both community and hospital practice in Ireland and the United Kingdom. I hope to use my experience, awareness and knowledge to be able to inform and advise PSI decision making processes.

I am acutely aware of both the difficulties facing pharmacy and the opportunities within our profession at the present time, especially in the evolving role of a pharmacist. The PSI Council has an important role in leading the profession and paving the future pathways. I would appreciate your vote as I believe I have the integrity, commitment and enthusiasm to positively contribute to the Council.

Many thanks,  
Leanne

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### Biography of Eileen (Patricia) Heckmann (5144)

Patricia Heckmann (nee O'Leary) qualified as a pharmacist at Trinity College, Dublin, before completing a Masters in Health Informatics. She currently works in the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and has prior experience in Community Pharmacy as well as more than 20 years' experience working in Hospital Pharmacy, initially as a pre-registration student and progressing to a Chief Pharmacist role.

Patricia's role in the NCCP is multifaceted with a strong focus on patient safety and best practice, which combines project and service development, as well as collaborative working in tumour guideline development, community oncology and cancer intelligence. Her key projects include implementation of The Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy Model of Care as well as oversight of the Cancer Drug Management Programme, the National Cancer Information System and Cancer Molecular Diagnostics Development.

Supporting the role of the pharmacist in cancer services, both in community and hospital practice, is one of Patricia's ambitions. Work already done includes the development of the National Competency Framework for Pharmacists Working in Cancer Care and more recently the cancer-focussed NCCP/IIOP webinars. On-going work to develop the role of the pharmacist in cancer services includes a focus on non-medical prescribing to enable the redesign of the pharmacist professional role in line with the Sláintecare Report in addition to work with the IIOP to develop a Cancer Care Champion Pharmacist Programme.

In her role, Patricia is a member of the HIQA Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation Expert Advisory Group, the HSE Patient Experience Survey Steering Group and she has contributed to the HSE Genetics and Genomics Strategy 2022. She is the NCCP representative for the EU Joint Action on Comprehensive Cancer Centres and has served as a subject matter expert for Quality and Qualifications Ireland.

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### **Biography of Roy Hogan (5875)**

Roy Hogan is a community pharmacist having graduated from Strathclyde University, Glasgow, before completing his training with the National Pharmaceutical Association in 1995. Roy worked as a locum and full time in a Dublin city addiction services clinic before acquiring his own pharmacy in Dublin in 2000, which he operates under the Life Pharmacy brand. Roy has served on the community pharmacy committee of the Irish Pharmacy Union for nine years and is a founding shareholder of Independent Life Pharmacy PLC (Life Pharmacy).

Roy is currently a pharmacist appointee to the PSI Council.

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### **Biography of Mark Jordan (12026)**

Mark Jordan is a Supervising Pharmacist in Co. Mayo.

He has experience in regulatory affairs, fitness to practice matters and as an educator. He has written and worked for online and print publications since his qualification.

Mark was awarded his Bachelor's Degree from UCC in 2015 and his Masters from RCSI in 2016. Outside of his full-time role, Mark concentrates on the diversification and future of the profession through his extracurricular roles and in tutoring pharmacists and pharmacy students in Ireland and in Europe.

Mark was an invited member of the Constitutional Reform Committee of the IPU, an elected member of the IPU's Employee Committee, an appointed member of the IPU IT Steering Group, the Pharmacy Practice Working Group and Pharmacy Workforce Working Group. Mark recognised the imminent workforce crisis, sought and was successful in his appointment to the Nursing and Midwifery of Ireland's Registration Committee. Here he is learning more on professional registration management.

Mark is a pharmacist appointee to the PSI Council, elected four years ago.

Mark has worked hard on behalf of the public and importantly as a representative of the profession. Mark has condensed his future ambitions on Council and if re-elected, will see them achieved in his second term.

They are;

1. Campaign to define a prescription error and pharmacist intervention.
2. Campaign to initiate a survey, where pharmacists will enter real time data on interventions and errors intercepted.
3. Use this data to assist PSI and other stakeholders in understanding the modern community pharmacists, allowing it function as a regulator that supports the professional, whilst maintaining the high standards of public health and safety experienced in Irish pharmacies.

In addition, Mark, along with colleagues, will prevent any change to the democratic appointment procedure of pharmacists to PSI Council. With the trust of his peers Mark hopes to continue his work and his representation.

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### **Biography of Robert Keane (8911)**

I am a dynamic, energetic and enthusiastic community pharmacist who wants to expand the role of the pharmacist. Within my 15 years of practice, I have developed vital experience in roles such as support pharmacist, supervising pharmacist, and currently pharmacy owner and superintendent pharmacist. As a result, I have a valued understanding and deep appreciation of community pharmacy within Ireland.

The idea of education and mentoring of pharmacy students is something extremely important to me. Over the years, I have acted as pharmacist tutor to a number of pharmacist interns and guided many pharmacy students undertaking the Mpharm programme. I believe that I would be a strong voice to advocate for their needs and their associated training establishments.

I am passionate about the delivery of patient centred care and am fully invested in the importance of patient and pharmacist wellbeing. However, I have a true appreciation of the challenges facing community pharmacy currently. My day-to-day role working on the ground with my patients allows me to understand the pressures we as a profession face and how we may overcome certain issues.

I am optimistic for the future of pharmacy. New services that should allow us to use our clinical skills such as a minor ailment scheme, the supply of contraception, allowing pharmacists to interchange medicines and even the possibility of pharmacists prescribing is what will define us as a profession over the coming years. Having a pharmacist with a practical understanding as to how these new services could benefit pharmacists is understatedly important.

I believe my experience, energy and passion for pharmacy would enable me to represent the interests of pharmacists and the profession whilst also affording the PSI Council a pragmatic approach to tackle the challenges that the profession faces.

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### **Biography of Emily Kelly (7066)**

Dear Pharmacist Colleagues,

My name is Emily Kelly, and I am delighted to be a candidate for this PSI council election. I am passionate about our profession and believe that we have the power to make a real difference in the lives of our patients. That is why I am asking for your vote.

As a community pharmacist with years of experience, I have seen first-hand the challenges that we face. I understand the importance of fair regulation, quality patient care, and the need to embrace new technologies to stay ahead of the curve. As a member of the council, I will work tirelessly to ensure that these issues are at the forefront of our agenda.

My experience speaks for itself. I have held numerous roles in the community sector, including Superintendent Pharmacist, Area Manager, and Marketing and Sales Director. I have also played a

key role in IOP projects, such as the establishment of the mentorship program, which has helped to support and nurture new graduates.

I believe that the future of pharmacy lies in collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to continuous learning. As a council member, I will work to ensure that we are at the forefront of these changes. I will support key projects such as SláinteCare and Workforce Planning, and I will work to create positive work environments for pharmacists.

I am approachable, a good listener, and believe in building trust. I know the importance of respectful collaboration and am comfortable with robust debate.

I am originally from Longford, but now live in Dublin with my husband and two young boys.

On council, I will do all I can to influence and articulate the joy and the challenges of practising pharmacy today in Ireland.

Thank you for your support,

Sincerely,  
Emily

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### **Biography of Sarah McGann (11960)**

I am a community pharmacist based in Dublin and have held various pharmaceutical roles in industry and community since 2016, both in Ireland and abroad. I qualified with a Masters in Pharmacy from Trinity College Dublin and subsequently completed a postgraduate certificate in Innovation and Enterprise Development. I am running for this election as I believe we have the opportunity to elevate the pharmacy profession through our work on the PSI Council.

My experience across many roles in the pharmacy setting means I am very aware of the day-to-day difficulties faced by pharmacists across the country, but I can appreciate the opportunities afforded to us. If elected, I intend to bring a modern and practical approach to my work on the Council and therefore positive impact pharmacy practice and ultimately patient care.

Having worked throughout the pandemic, I realise the essential contribution pharmacies made to the people of Ireland. I believe it is now time to expand the pharmacy offering through the roll out of new services and the enhancement of the pharmacist's health advisory role.

My extensive tenure in industry has afforded me the ability to understand the regulatory and operational requirements for medicines, both in the EU and internationally. I therefore believe the expansion of the 'P' Medicines portfolio from 'POM' is an important step to ensure equal access of care to our patients.

I believe that a modern and practical approach to regulation will ameliorate some of the current stress points in the pharmacy profession. I would appreciate your vote as I believe I have the experience, passion and commitment necessary to positively impact the work of the PSI Council and our profession.

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### **Biography of Mairéad McGuire (5750)**

Mairéad McGuire is a pharmacy graduate from John Moore's University in Liverpool. She also holds an honours Science degree from University College Dublin, a Master's degree in Clinical Pharmacy from University College Cork and a Diploma in Healthcare Management from the IPA. Mairéad has a wide range of pharmacy experience, starting in community pharmacy before moving to hospital pharmacy over 20 years ago. Mairead has previously been seconded to the HSE to develop guidelines for the National Clinical Programme for Obstetrics & Gynaecology. She also served as National Medication Stream Lead for the Maternal and New-born Clinical Management System (MN-CMS), an Electronic Health Record initiative for centres providing maternal care in Ireland.

Mairéad has a special interest in Women's Health Advocacy and Care of the New-born. She is a member of the editorial committee of the antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for primary care in Ireland. She is employed as the Director of Pharmacy Services in the Coombe Hospital in Dublin. Mairéad is applying to be a voice for pharmacists across all sectors and particularly to promote the interests of vulnerable patient groups through the profession.

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### **Biography of Brian McManus (8473)**

I am a community pharmacist and have practiced in Clara, Co. Offaly for the past 13 years. I qualified in Brighton and completed my pre-registration year in Banbridge.

I believe passionately in the role of community pharmacies as an essential primary healthcare access point in rural areas, which is essential to the continued viability of rural Ireland. As the founding chairman of Clara Chamber of Commerce, I have gained experience in dealing with the regulatory and political hurdles faced when implementing change and improvement in rural Ireland.

Recent expansions of community pharmacy services have, while welcome, placed huge pressures on individual pharmacists who often find themselves trying to do three jobs at once, which can compromise patient safety. I believe technician registration is critical in order to spread the workload and improve patient care. The recent regulatory anomaly where a pharmacy technician could train as a vaccinator to vaccinate in a hub but was prohibited from doing it in a pharmacy is an illustration of a bizarre situation at the moment.

I will be a voice at the PSI Council for the pharmacists of rural Ireland, who work long hours in their communities and face huge challenges keeping vital primary healthcare services accessible in their communities, where they work and live.

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### **Biography of Joseph McNeela (12237)**

I'm a pharmacist graduate from Ulster University, NI. I have over six years of experience in maintaining the safe and effective running of numerous pharmacies across the UK & Ireland and maintaining the high standards of the GPHC & PSI guidelines.

I started my career in Exeter, Devon serving the public in a patient facing role in a community pharmacy. I partook in voluntary training including a course providing me with a certificate to

prescribe antibiotics to treat UTIs, so that I could serve my community as best as I could. After this I moved to Dublin, I worked in an independent pharmacy, building up relationships and becoming a strong resource for healthcare advice in the area.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, I took on a role as a senior pharmacist for the HSE in managing the vaccines for the vaccination programme; in addition to working in community pharmacy. In this role, I provided leadership and training to the many healthcare professionals working with me so that the public could be vaccinated efficiently and safely.

Whilst doing this, I completed a Masters in Pharmaceutical Medicine in Trinity College, Dublin. I gained invaluable knowledge on pharmacovigilance and the regulatory systems in place for the approval of medicines. At the same time, I volunteered at HIV Ireland, providing free HIV antigen testing and advice to the public, in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

My current role is at the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA). In this position, I am involved in communications and publishing literature, such as the Drug Safety Newsletter to pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. I also deal with queries from patients regarding side effects that they may wish to report.

I believe my diverse experience in pharmacy will bring a great contribution to the governance of the profession as a member of the PSI Council.

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### **Biography of Denis O'Driscoll (5673)**

Denis O'Driscoll, Superintendent LloydsPharmacy [\(13\)](#) [Denis O'Driscoll | LinkedIn](#) I would like your first preference vote to represent you at Council as a voice for patient-facing pharmacists.

Since qualifying in 1994 I have continually worked in community pharmacy. This has provided me with greater insight into the challenges and difficulties that pharmacists face. I have seen the huge impact that clinical services in pharmacy have had on public health and the positive impact on the morale of the profession. It is clear that the clinical value of a pharmacist is underestimated, and we need to ensure that this is front and centre of our identity.

Some of you may remember me when I was Liaison Pharmacist for the Addiction Services HSE and I would hope that you recall my support, encouragement and retention of pharmacists within the Opioid Substitution Treatment Programme as well as the development of a pharmacy-based needle syringe programme.

I am Superintendent for LloydsPharmacy since 2018 and in that time have steered the organisation through extremely challenging yet rewarding times. I have participated in the PSI's assessment panel reviewing NIO training for COVID-19 vaccination and as representative for community pharmacists on the Future Pharmacy Workforce Project Working Group. I am a member of the IPU executive and take an active role in involving myself in a number of working groups there.

So why do I want the role as a member of PSI Council? I believe the greatest challenges for us all are:

1. To have a Pharmacy Act that reflects modern pharmacy and allow us to grow professionally.
2. As a profession we need to be decisive in our role and autonomy.
3. Ensure that the future of our profession is safe, and our clinical skills are utilised.

Thanks to my proposers, Michael Tierney MPSI and Keeva McAuley MPSI for supporting my nomination to PSI Council.

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### **Leon O'Hagan (7943)**

As a pharmacist of nearly 20 years' experience, I have worked in both the North and South of Ireland, England and Australia as a locum, Pharmacy manager and GP pharmacist – so I have seen almost all aspects of pharmacy practice.

Most recently I have been working as a HSE Senior Pharmacist in the innovative iSimpathy Project which sought to integrate pharmacists into the primary care team to conduct in-depth and patient centred polypharmacy reviews.

I have a long history of working to support pharmacist colleagues and engaging to improve the profession. As the regional representative in Northern Ireland for the PDA Union I assisted and supported many pharmacists through grievance and disciplinary procedures, and I was involved in the recognition of the Union as the body to represent and support the interests of Federation employed practice-based pharmacists to advance career structures, terms and conditions.

Future roles for pharmacists including non-medical prescribing will need appropriate regulation for the protection and safety of patients, but it should be proportionate, measured and take a common-sense approach to its application - so that forward thinking pharmacists have a framework to create advanced services to better the health of their communities.

I will work on council to advance, expand and protect the profession, so that colleagues no longer feel isolated, disengaged or disenfranchised, but are instead connected, excited and inspired by the future.

I welcome engagement from fellow pharmacists on Pharmabuddy.ie or at my personal email address; [Leonohagan@gmail.com](mailto:Leonohagan@gmail.com)

Thank you

Leon O'Hagan  
MPSI 7943

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### **Biography of Caitriona O'Riordan (6771)**

Caitriona O'Riordan is a community pharmacist from West Cork. Having graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1999 she practised in a number of pharmacy settings and became involved in advocacy and policy development through the Irish Pharmacy Union. Having spent many years as a supervising pharmacist, Caitriona opened her own pharmacy seven years ago, fulfilling a lifelong dream of operating an independent patient focused rural pharmacy. Caitriona has served a number of terms on the Executive of the IPU as well as chairing the Employee Group. Most recently she was a member of the Constitution Review Group and served a term as national Treasurer of the IPU. She is a former columnist for the sector magazine The Review as well as an experienced national media spokesperson for the IPU. As a result of her interest in how we can shape the future of our profession she has taken part in various working groups of both the PSI and IIOP. Caitriona also has a

keen interest in the future of the pharmacy professional along with workforce planning and recently developed and presented a workshop for students of the School of Pharmacy UCC. Caitriona's previous experience and well-respected commitment will give her the skills and ability to serve effectively and work well on the Council of the PSI, if elected

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### **Biography of Peter O'Sullivan (10001125)**

Prior to working as a community pharmacist in Cork, I completed a Bachelors and Masters degree in Law at UCC. While the laws underpinning pharmacy are numerous, I was always interested in aspects concerning the use of regulation to modernise the profession. I have advocated in journals and research papers for the greater use of etechnologies in the pharmacy sector, and for a less stringent pharmacy regulatory framework in certain situations, where the discretion of the pharmacist to act in the best interests of the patient ought to be trusted, e.g. supply of emergency medicine.

We have all heard the repetitive cliché of the *"ever expanding role of the pharmacist"*, but how often do we have this formally recognised in our practice. I would argue that my biggest learning to date has been the unseen elements that pharmacists and other pharmacy staff alike perform on a daily basis. The level of ingenuity and innovation I have witnessed being applied throughout the pandemic and beyond, oftentimes without any formal assistance, reimbursement or appreciation from relevant stakeholders, is to be commended.

Last year, I was privileged to conduct research interviews, where pharmacists from all areas of the profession (hospital, community and administration) shared their candid views on the current perceived lack of leadership in pharmacy.\* I listened to the frustrations of my colleagues, many seeing us as divided, over-regulated and severely underrepresented. These sentiments for change and reform are precisely what I will carry with me if I was fortunate enough to be elected by you to this Council. I think that pharmacists are a skilled and trusted profession, and the PSI while being first and foremost our regulator, does have a legal duty *"to improve the profession"*.\*\* A regulator should be self-reflective and amenable to improvement, which is precisely the narrative outlined in the recent PSI Corporate Strategy. If elected, this is an approach I would lobby forcefully for on your behalf.

Thank you,  
Peter O'Sullivan  
([peterosullivanpharmalaw@gmail.com](mailto:peterosullivanpharmalaw@gmail.com))

\*O'Sullivan P, McCarthy S. A qualitative study investigating Stakeholders' perspectives on a professional body of pharmacy. *Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm*. 2022 Aug 19;7:100170. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2022.100170. PMID: 36082146; PMCID: PMC9445372.

\*\*Pharmacy Act 2007, s7(2)(a)(viii).

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### **Biography of Joan Peppard (4720)**

I am seeking election to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. I believe I can contribute to both patient care and the pharmacy profession in this role. I am passionate about pharmacy practice especially hospital pharmacy and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Council.



I am Chief Pharmacist in the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore and plan to step away from this role in the coming months. My experience as a pharmacist, hospital pharmacist, Board member and President of both the Hospital Pharmacists Association Ireland and the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists will enable me to contribute to the governance and oversight of the PSI. I have a strong commitment to patient safety as well as to continuing education. My postgraduate education includes a degree in Healthcare Management and a Masters in Ethics.

I am energetic, committed and work well on committees, with previous experience at European, national and local level. This experience includes the Midland Research Ethics Committee, Preliminary Proceedings Committee of the PSI and the Healthcare Professional Committee of EMA with recognition as a subject matter expert. I have served on committees with pharmacist colleagues from community, academia, industrial and regulatory practice.

I support the appointment of a Chief Pharmacist in the Department of Health and, in my current role, have asked Forsa to address this under-representation of pharmacy at national level.

I support the regulation of pharmacy technicians as a requirement for the further expansion of the role and contribution to safer patient care.

I would be honoured to serve on the Council if elected.

Joan Peppard  
PSI registration Number 4720

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