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## Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This first newsletter of 2013 includes initial information about the upcoming series of information meetings on the pharmacy education reform programme that the PSI will be holding nationwide in late February/early March. Further details about these meetings, including exact venues and information about how to book attendance, will follow shortly.

This newsletter also has an information piece from the PSI Inspectorate about what happens after an inspection, a reminder for anyone interested in becoming a tutor pharmacist for 2013/2014, and a notice about the Pharmacy Benevolent Fund's annual confined draw.

Finally, registration for FIP 2013 has opened and the preliminary programme has been published. Both the FIP and PSI websites have lots of information about this year's Congress and the opportunities for getting involved. So save the dates – 31<sup>st</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September!

## PSI Information Meetings

The overall pharmacy education and training reform programme of the PSI Council aims to assure, sustain and develop the pharmacy profession in Ireland. This reform programme encompasses the implementation of the various recommendations of the PEARs report and the introduction of mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacists.

At this important stage in the ongoing implementation work, the PSI will be holding a series of information meetings for pharmacists, as part of its engagement with the profession on the reform programme.

These meetings will offer an overview of the key developments

- the five-year integrated Masters qualification for practice;
- the core competency framework for pharmacists and
- the CPD model which will be introduced via the new Irish Institute of Pharmacy

The meetings aim to set out what stage these developments are at, how they will impact on pharmacists and their professional practice in the near future, and the opportunities for the future development of the profession. The meetings will also offer an opportunity for pharmacists to ask questions and share their views on the various initiatives and contribute to and shape the ongoing implementation work.

Further detailed information on the meetings, including exact venues and how you may book attendance, will follow shortly. However, you may wish to take note of the following dates and locations:

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Dublin (North)
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Dublin (South)
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Sligo
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Galway
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Athlone
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Waterford
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Cork
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Limerick

All meetings will take place in the evening, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

## FIP 2013

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Registration has now opened for FIP 2013 which will be held in the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September. The PSI, along with our various partners on the local host committee, is looking forward to welcoming pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from across the globe to Ireland. For pharmacists in Ireland, FIP 2013 offers a unique opportunity to be involved in this global pharmacy gathering.

- The 2013 Congress theme is 'A Future Vision for Complex Patients' and the preliminary programme is now **available online**. Sessions of general interest will include those on the role of the pharmacist in managing patients with specific conditions such as cancer, asthma, mental illness, coagulation disorders and renal impairment. Issues such as medication reconciliation and medicine use review, inter-professional collaboration, integrated care, electronic patient records, to mention a few, are all topics which will be discussed and debated at FIP 2013.
- A number of Irish speakers have already been confirmed on the main programme and these currently include:
  - Dr Tamasine Grimes, Trinity College Dublin, on the needs of complex patients in ensuring continuity of care, particularly when transitioning from one care environment to another
  - Dr Denis O'Driscoll, pharmacist with the national addiction services, on integrating drug therapy and patient care, focussing specifically on methadone patients
  - Community pharmacist Paul Fahey will speak about the challenges and opportunities around electronic patient health records
  - Tim Delaney, HSE Safety and Quality Directorate, on health information management models
  - Pharmacist Niamh Buckley (liaison pharmacist on the HSE clinical care programme for asthma) and GP Dr Eamonn Shanahan on pharmacist-physician cooperation in the care of asthma patients

The **FIP Congress website** also contains details of the social programme, registration, accommodation and exhibition and sponsorship opportunities. The 'Early Bird' registration fee applies until 15th May and there is a reduced rate for students and recent graduates (since 2008).

### ***FIP 2013: A unique opportunity for CPD!***

The FIP congress provides a number of possibilities for continuing professional development (CPD), from gaining new knowledge and ideas in the educational sessions, to discussing how developments and issues affect practice and patient care, to sharing experiences with fellow practitioners. Attendance at the various sessions is recorded through scanning the barcode on delegate badges, which provides a record of your attendance. Certificates of attendance are also available for delegates to incorporate into their personal CPD records or portfolio.

Another opportunity for CPD is to present a poster on your own research or work at the Congress. The deadline for submission of abstracts for posters is 1<sup>st</sup> April and posters on a broad range of topics across all practice areas are welcome. A number of abstracts will also be selected for short oral presentations at the Congress. This is a unique opportunity for Irish practitioners and researchers to present their work to an international audience. Further information and guidelines on

[www.fip.org/dublin2013](http://www.fip.org/dublin2013)

### ***Planning Ahead:***

- Early Bird registration fee available until 15th May
- Students and recent graduates (2008) avail of discount rates
- Remember the registration fee is tax deductible for employers
- Consider your recent initiatives or research - 1st April abstract submission deadline
- Book your holidays or CPD/study leave
- 35 years and under – get involved with the Young Pharmacists' Group
- Organise a *Gathering* - if you studied in the UK, invite your old classmates to Dublin
- Provide local welcome with a Dublin pharmacy visit for delegates
- Promote your business or product with an exhibition stand

Further information available on [our website](#) and [www.fip.org/dublin2013](http://www.fip.org/dublin2013).

## Pharmacy Inspections & Reports

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The PSI is aware that many pharmacists and pharmacy owners are anxious about the inspection process, and so it has developed a number of tools to provide transparency and improve pharmacists' understanding of the process. These include an ['inspection checklist'](#), a ["short guide to inspections"](#) and a [podcast](#) which set out what inspectors look for at inspection. The inspectors advisory bulletins, published as part of PSI newsletters, are also aimed at helping pharmacists review practices and prepare for inspection by highlighting common issues identified through inspections that need improvement. Previous newsletters are accessible via the PSI website and on the [pharmacy inspections page](#).

The PSI is also often asked about what happens after an inspection and this notice sets out to provide some further information about that.

### ***Routine Inspections***

Routine pharmacy inspections are generally unannounced and will typically take two hours, although many inspections may be completed in an hour. Following the inspection, a report will be issued to the Superintendent Pharmacist. This report will set out the observations made at the inspection – some of these observations will have been already discussed with the pharmacist present during the inspection. It will also detail any matters which you are expected to resolve, or confirmations that you are required to provide, in order to demonstrate that all issues raised in the inspection report have been addressed. For example, you may be requested to develop or update an existing policy or standard operation procedure, implement temperature monitoring in an area of the pharmacy where medicines are stored, or review record-keeping practices at the pharmacy.

A period of three weeks is generally given before your response must be furnished to the PSI. Once the response has been provided to the PSI in full and all matters have been addressed, the inspection process is complete.

### ***Investigation/Inspection Reports and Section 71***

In circumstances where matters of a significant and serious nature are disclosed in the course of the inspection, a more detailed report will be issued. In certain situations, inspectors may need to make additional visits to the pharmacy. Once the full report is compiled, you will be afforded the opportunity to address the observations made in the report and provide any additional comments you may wish to make. The report and your written response will be forwarded to the Registrar or Council of the PSI for consideration under Section 71 of the Pharmacy Act 2007. Further to the consideration of the report and your response, the legislation provides that a number of actions may be taken:

- no action;
- Commence disciplinary proceedings under Part 6 of the Act (i.e make a complaint);
- Commence summary proceedings (i.e. bring prosecutions against the pharmacist/pharmacy);
- Take such other action as it considers appropriate in the circumstances;

It may be appropriate for pharmacists and pharmacy owners to seek legal advice in these circumstances.

However it should be noted that the vast majority of inspections are routine and do not result in disciplinary or legal action.

The inspections process is designed to help pharmacists and pharmacy owners address their practice standards and compliance with the legislation.

All pharmacies will be inspected in the coming years so why not make self-auditing of your pharmacy, using the PSI 'inspection checklist', part of your plan for 2013?

## Tutor Pharmacists Reminder

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Pharmacists who are interested in applying to be tutor pharmacists for the 2013/2014 National Pharmacy Internship Programme (NPIP) can still register their interest with the RCSI.

The role of the tutor is intrinsic to the successful formation of Ireland's future pharmacists. And in acknowledging that key role, a tutor support infrastructure has

been developed which includes access to RCSI electronic libraries, reference material and online virtual campus and a helpdesk to assist with tutor queries and concerns.

Tutors have access to an on-line programme (Tutor Training and Accreditation Programme) which supports them in the skills required for effective tutelage. Completion of this programme is recognised by the PSI as a formal activity for the purposes of your own continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for continued registration, as is participation in the tutor 'refresher' training, the 'Tutor Network Meetings'.

Tutors are also recognised and certified as Associate Faculty of RCSI for the academic year they are supervising an intern and as such can display a certificate to the public in their training establishment that attests to their status.

Further information about the NPIP programme, the role of the tutor and also how to apply to be a tutor is available on the PSI website – the application form is available on [our website](#).

Queries may be directed to Hugh Carroll on (01) 402 2774 or email [mpharm@rcsi.ie](mailto:mpharm@rcsi.ie).

## Benevolent Fund Draw

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The Pharmacy Benevolent Fund's Annual Confined Draw form is now available to download from the Fund's website [www.pbf.ie](http://www.pbf.ie).

The Pharmacy Benevolent Fund supports pharmacists and their families who are experiencing difficult times, and funds raised are used to provide dignity and quality of life to those in need. Supports provided by the Benevolent Fund range from on-going financial support, to one-off help with a fill of heating oil or large household repair, to simply being a friendly face calling to the door, or providing advice on social welfare entitlements. Further information about the work of the Fund is available on their [website](#).

## EU Tobacco Directive Update

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The EU Commission recently adopted its proposal to revise the Tobacco Products Directive. The proposed legislation consists of new and strengthened rules, and includes an extension of the scope of the Directive to nicotine containing products such as electronic cigarettes.

Under the new proposal, electronic cigarettes above a certain nicotine threshold will only be allowed if they are authorised as medicinal products; below this threshold these products must carry health warnings.

Overall, the new proposal aims to discourage young people from taking up smoking, and among some of the other elements of the proposal are stricter rules on packaging and labelling. The proposal has been the subject of extensive consultation and, following discussion in the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, is expected to be adopted in 2014.

Further information on the details of the Directive revision is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/revision/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/revision/index_en.htm)

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