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Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This month's newsletter highlights new guidance for pharmacists on the use of digital and social media, which was approved by the PSI Council at its meeting on 25th April.

The results of the recent election process for pharmacists to be appointed to vacancies on the PSI Council are available on the PSI website and highlighted below.

As the Irish Institute of Pharmacy moves into establishment phase, interested pharmacists are advised that the call for expressions of interest from the profession for appointment by the PSI Council to the Institute's Steering Group will shortly be issued – see below for further information.

The School of Pharmacy in RCSI will be holding an information evening for prospective tutor pharmacists in June – further details below.

Finally, pharmacists are reminded that the **early bird deadline for registration for FIP 2013 is May 15th**, so anyone wishing to avail of the early rates is encouraged to register as soon as possible. Further information on www.fip.org/dublin2013 and on the [PSI website](#).

Guidance on Digital and Social Media

The PSI Council has approved guidance for pharmacists on the use of digital and social media. The rapid growth in the use of these types of media provides opportunities and challenges alike for healthcare professionals, and the PSI has been receiving an increasing number of queries in this area.

This guidance is intended to be helpful to pharmacists in reflecting on their professional interactions and profiles online, and ensuring that these meet the standards of professionalism that patients and the public expect from healthcare professionals.

The guidance in full is now available to view and download from the [PSI website](#).

Council Election Results

Following the counting of votes on 18th April, and in accordance with PSI (Council) Rules 2008, the Returning Officer Ciara McGoldrick, PSI Acting Registrar, has declared the following five pharmacists as elected for the purposes of Section 10(3)(f) of the Pharmacy Act 2007, for appointment by the Minister for Health to the PSI Council: Richard Collis, Conor Phelan, Georgina Ann Frankish, Eoghan Hanly and Nicola Cantwell

In accordance with Rule 13(2) of the above Rules, the full election results, including details of the number of ballot papers issued (total electorate), the total valid poll and the votes and transfers at each count are published on the [PSI website](#).

Institute Update

The Irish Institute of Pharmacy is now moving into the establishment phase and commencement of its operations. One of the critical next steps is the appointment of the Steering Group, which will assist and advise in the management of the Institute.

This Steering Group will comprise 16 members from the various stakeholder groups, including the PSI, the Department of Health, the HSE and the pharmacy profession.

As well as members being nominated by recognised pharmacist organisations (IPU, HPAI and PIER), four (4) members will be sought through a call for expressions of interest issued to the Register of Pharmacists.

These will be one (1) pharmacist representing pharmacists practising in hospital pharmacy; one (1) pharmacist practising in industry/regulatory affairs/research, and two (2) pharmacists representing pharmacists in community practice, where one is practising in owner-operated pharmacies where there are one to five pharmacies in a group, and the other is practising in a group of more than five pharmacies.

The call for expressions of interest for these four nominations will shortly be published on the PSI website and issued to pharmacists by email, with further detailed information about the role of the Steering Group and the application process.

Tutor Info Evening

The School of Pharmacy at RCSI will host an information evening at its premises on York Street, Dublin 2 for prospective tutor pharmacists on **Wednesday 19th June 2013 from 7-9pm**.

This meeting is aimed at any pharmacist giving consideration to acting as a tutor for the current National Pharmacy Internship Programme (NPIP), which the RCSI has operated on behalf of the PSI for the last four years, as well as those interested in tutor roles for the new five-year fully-integrated programme.

This information evening, presented by RCSI staff involved in the internship programme, will cover various areas of interest to prospective tutor pharmacists such as:

- Brief overview of the NPIP
- Being a tutor pharmacist – what is involved
- How to become a tutor pharmacist
- Being a pharmacy intern – what is involved

In addition, the Chair of the National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation Marian Shanley will be in attendance to outline the new roles for tutors in the new five-year fully-integrated programme.

Pharmacists attending will have ample opportunity to ask questions and to gain a better understanding of the important role tutors play in the education and training of future cohorts of pharmacists.

There will be free car parking in RCSI car park and refreshments will be provided.

If you wish to attend, please email mpharm@rcsi.ie by Wednesday 5th June next to notify your attendance.

For any enquiries in relation to the information meeting, please e-mail mpharm@rcsi.ie or call Hugh Carroll on 01 402 2774.

eHealth Week

The use of technology to revolutionise healthcare delivery and improve patient outcomes will be the focus of international *eHealth* Week, taking place in the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) from 13th – 15th May 2013.

eHealth Week events are being co-organised by the European Commission and the Irish Presidency and the WoHIT (World of Health IT Conference & Exhibition) organised by HIMSS Europe, a not-for-profit organisation focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology and management systems for the betterment of healthcare.

Attracting over 2,500 international delegates, the overall theme of the conference is “**eHealth: Delivering Innovative Healthcare and Well-being**” and aims to encourage innovative policy development and will look at maximising health and economic benefits and potential for employment through new technologies.

Further information is available on the following websites:

www.ehealthweek.org and www.dohc.ie

And you may join the pre-event networking and get the latest updates on Twitter [@EU_eHealthweek](https://twitter.com/EU_eHealthweek), #eHW13 and on [Facebook](#).

Smoking Cessation Training

The HSE regularly delivers Brief Intervention for Smoking Cessation training events around the country in a number of locations. These training sessions are free-of-charge and are open to all healthcare staff, including all members of the pharmacy team.

Brief Intervention for Smoking Cessation training provides up-to-date facts on smoking and its impact on public health, aiming to motivate participants to be proactive in this area through the development of a more positive attitude to smoking cessation and the skills necessary to provide an effective smoking cessation service.

Pharmacy staff can find the schedule of dates and venues of upcoming training sessions, and register for a course, at the following link: [BI Train Q2 2013](#)

UCC Clinical Pharmacy MSc

The MSc. in Clinical Pharmacy is a two year part-time distance learning Masters Degree offered by the School of Pharmacy, University College Cork. Applications are invited from pharmacists for this course, commencing in September 2013. Applicants must hold a primary pharmacy degree and ideally, should have a minimum of two years' practical experience. Further information about the course is available at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx03/>

Closing date for applications: **Friday, 27th July 2013.**

Applicants must apply online at www.pac.ie/ucc. Full details of the application procedure are available on this website.

For further information, please contact School of Pharmacy, UCC on 021 490166 or by email to pharmacy@ucc.ie. Alternatively, further information may be obtained from Dr Stephen Byrne (Course Director, stephen.byrne@ucc.ie) or Dr Teresa Barbosa (Course Co-ordinator, t.barbosa@ucc.ie; + 353 21 490 1792).

Multidisciplinary Team Prompts

The HSE has recently published guidance on Quality and Safety Prompts for Multidisciplinary Teams.

The purpose of this guidance is to provide a practical, easily assessable guide for any multidisciplinary team to use in

discussing quality and safety at regular team meetings. The approach is aligned with the *National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare*. The guidance and further information is available on the HSE website on the clinical governance page of the Quality and Patient Safety Directorate section:
http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/qualityandpatientsafety/Clinical_Governance/CG_docs/QSprompts_multiteams.html

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