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Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This month we bring you an update on the FIP Dublin 2013 congress and news of a special one-day rate for pharmacists in Ireland to enable you to attend at least a part of this prestigious international event.

We also have updates in relation to new legislation, flu vaccination, IMB safety notices, as well as some Masters courses available which will be of interest.

The PSI will publish its Annual Report for 2012 in the coming days and this will be available to view on the PSI website. The PSI will also shortly be publishing its corporate strategy for 2013-2017 which was recently approved by the PSI Council.

One-Day FIP Registration

The PSI and the FIP Local Host Committee are pleased to announce that pharmacists registered with the PSI or the PSNI, who wish to attend the FIP congress in Dublin for the purposes of CPD, can avail of a one-day rate of €250.

Details for this discount day registration, along with the highlights of each day's programme, will shortly be circulated to pharmacists.

Check out the [preliminary programme online](#) to choose your sessions of interest on one of the four congress days from Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th September.

Pharmacy students and recent graduates (since 2008) can register for the entire congress for €350.

Flu Vaccination Update

The PSI Council recently approved [revised guidance for the 2013/2014 'flu season](#). For ease of reference the principal revisions to the guidance are highlighted in grey and bolded.

The Council has also approved the training requirements for those pharmacists intending to provide a vaccination service. Details of these requirements, including the training programme format and content, can be found on the [PSI website](#).

The PSI has also published a notice on its website for prospective training providers requesting they indicate their intention to seek PSI Council approval no later than Friday, 31 May 2013. The accreditation and approval process will then begin in early June and pharmacists will be updated later in the summer as to the training providers and programmes that have been approved. The PSI recognises the importance of pharmacist training being delivered in advance of the commencement of the 2013-2014 national 'flu vaccination campaign.

Pharmacists should be aware of the vaccination training they require for 2013, whether *ab initio*, Level 1 or Level 2. They should also be aware whether they need re-certification this year for anaphylaxis management training, including CPR and basic life support (most of the training for these latter issues requires re-certification every two years).

Pharmacists should note however, that in order to comply with the requirement under the Regulations for their training to be approved by the PSI Council, only anaphylaxis management training courses that are specifically aimed at vaccinating pharmacists will meet the necessary requirements.

Further updates in relation to the provision of seasonal influenza vaccination services will be circulated in due course as necessary.

New legislation

Pharmacists will be aware that the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill 2012 has passed through both Houses of the Oireachtas. The Bill has now been referred to the President for signature and is expected to be brought into operation next month.

The new legislation will also amend the Pharmacy Act in respect of a number of provisions, and will have implications for pharmacists and their practice. In addition, as pharmacists will be interacting directly with patients in respect of the changes introduced by the legislation, it is important that pharmacists have the appropriate information and supports to assist them in revising their own policies and procedures, as well as dealing with patient queries.

The PSI will provide more detailed information to pharmacists once the legislation is in operation and is working with the Department of Health, the HSE and other stakeholders to ensure that pharmacists, patients and prescribers are supported in the implementation of this legislation.

IMB Safety Update

The Irish Medicines Board (IMB) is planning changes in relation to how they disseminate Drug Safety information and is expanding the use of electronic media to facilitate prompt and efficient notification of safety information.

To that end, they intend to discontinue provision and distribution of hard copies of the Drug Safety Newsletter (DSN) in the coming months. Instead the DSN will be disseminated by electronic means only.

Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals are therefore requested to either register with the IMB via its website www.imb.ie to receive email alerts or to submit their email address to imbpharmacovigilance@imb.ie before the end of September to ensure that they will receive electronic versions of the DSN when the changeover happens later this year.

For further information and to subscribe to email alerts visit the IMB website www.imb.ie.

Supervising Pharmacist Film

The PSI has produced a [short film on the roles and responsibilities of the supervising pharmacist](#). This film is to complement the short film previously published on the role of the superintendent pharmacist.

This film is intended to promote an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a supervising pharmacist, as well as the legal requirement, governance and accountability aspects of the role.

Tutor Training Update

The PSI Council approved the [tutor training requirements for the academic year 2013-2014](#) at its meeting on May 16th:

- All tutors who successfully completed the Tutor Training and Accreditation Programme (TTAP) in 2012/2013 will not be required to undertake any further mandatory training. These tutors may however attend a Tutor Network Meeting if they wish.

- Any pharmacists who have not previously completed a TTAP and who wish to supervise a pharmacy intern or a Third Country Qualification Route applicant for the 2013-2014 academic year will be required to successfully complete all elements of the TTAP.
- Tutors who successfully completed the TTAP in in 2010/2011 or 2011/2012 will be required to attend a mandatory one-day Tutor Network Meeting if they did not attend one last year.

For further details on the Tutor Network Meetings, please contact Hugh Carroll, NPIP Programme Co-Ordinator, at hughcarroll@rcsi.ie.

Prospective tutors are also reminded that the School of Pharmacy at RCSI is planning to host a 'Tutor Information Evening' at its premises on York Street, Dublin 2 on Wednesday 19th June 2013 from 7-9pm. Attendance should be confirmed with Hugh Carroll at the RCSI at mpharm@rcsi.ie.

HIQA Career Opportunity

HIQA are currently recruiting for an Inspector (Medication Management) to assist the regulation and review of the management of medication across the full range of children and adult services. HIQA is seeking to appoint one such position (in the first instance) and this opportunity is available for a registered pharmacist.

Full details and information on the application process are available on [HIQA's website](#).

The closing date for applications is **5pm Monday 17 June**.

MSc in Hospital Pharmacy

Applications are invited for a two-year (part-time) course leading to a [Masters Degree in Hospital Pharmacy](#) and commencing in January 2014.

The course covers all aspects relating to the practice of hospital pharmacy including clinical pharmacy, aseptic services, medicines information, dispensary services, health services management and pharmacoconomics. The programme consists of lectures, workshops, tutorials, practice-based learning and a research thesis. Students are released from their base hospital one afternoon per week to attend teaching sessions and all students have an onsite tutor to provide tuition and support.

Applicants must hold a first or second class (Grade 1) honours degree in pharmacy, and have experience working in hospital pharmacy. Participating hospitals will hold their own separate interviews for training posts. These hospitals include: Adelaide and Meath, incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St.James's Hospital and St. Vincent's University Hospital. Hospital interviews will be held the week commencing 7th October 2013. Applicants must also be registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, prior to commencement of the course in January 2014.

[Applications for this course should be made online here.](#)

The closing date for applications is **30th June 2013**.

One academic and one professional reference should accompany each application. A letter of intent should accompany each application, stating the applicant's reasons for wishing to pursue the M.Sc. in Hospital Pharmacy and listing their preferred hospitals. Please note that applications with incomplete documentation will not be accepted.

Please note: participating hospitals may require separate application to be made through their Human Resources department, after initial TCD short listing has been completed. Candidates will be advised accordingly. Intending applicants may obtain further information from the Graduate Studies Office in Trinity gradinfo@tcd.ie and further information about the course may be obtained from Niamh McMahon, Course Coordinator, St. James's Hospital on 01-416 2586/416 2467 or by email at nmcmahon@stjames.ie

MSc in Health Informatics

Applications are invited for an **MSc in Health Informatics** in Trinity College Dublin, which runs part-time over two years, on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Run jointly with the School of Medicine at TCD, this course aims to educate people who will play leadership roles in the effective use of information and communications technology in the delivery of healthcare. Applicants should hold a good honours degree in a professional (health sciences or computer/engineering) discipline. However other qualifications and/or experience may be acceptable. No prior knowledge of computing is required.

Further information available from Course Director Dr Lucy Hederman, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin Lucy.Hederman@scss.tcd.ie

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