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## Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This month we bring you updates on appointments to PSI Council and the official opening of PSI House. We also have a reminder on how to sign up for the reduced one-day rate for pharmacists registered with the PSI who wish to attend FIP Dublin 2013 and information on some upcoming CPD opportunities which may be of interest.

The PSI is pleased to facilitate the National Cancer Control Programme, which is seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists to collaborate in an important project to develop national drug protocols for the treatment of patients with cancer – further details below.

The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 was commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Information is available on the [Department of Health website](#) and the [IMB website](#).

The PSI will shortly circulate further information and guidance for pharmacists on this legislation.

## PSI House Opening

The PSI's new offices, PSI House, in Fenian Street Dublin 2, were officially opened earlier this month by the Minister for Health Dr James Reilly TD. The Minister and guests from a wide range of stakeholders were welcomed to the new offices by the Acting Registrar Ciara McGoldrick and immediate past President Paul Fahey. PSI House was formally designated as a 'tobacco free campus' as part of the opening event, as part of a Government initiative to have all healthcare campuses and hospitals tobacco free by 2015.

In his address to guests Paul Fahey noted that the opening of PSI House marked a significant milestone in the history of the PSI and that it was fitting that the PSI operates from a facility which supports and facilitates its role and functions under the Pharmacy Act 2007, including having suitable facilities to hold educational or other meetings with pharmacists and other stakeholders, and a library resource for pharmacists and the public.

The Minister highlighted the importance of the educational reform programme of the PSI – the introduction of the five-year fully-integrated Masters programme and the Irish Institute of Pharmacy – in supporting and enabling the development of the pharmacy profession. He also expressed his support for the PSI and its partners in the pharmacy sector in hosting the 2013 FIP Congress.

Minister Reilly's and Paul Fahey's addresses are available to read on the [PSI website](#).

A selection of photos from the event is also available to view [here](#).

## PSI Council Appointments

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The Minister for Health has made a number of appointments to the PSI Council.

The following pharmacists have been appointed (or reappointed) following the election process earlier this year: Nicola Cantwell, Richard Collis, Georgina Ann Frankish, Eoghan Hanly and Conor Phelan.

Rita Purcell has been reappointed to the Council as the nominee of the Irish Medicines Board. Dr Chantelle McNamara is a new appointment. All of these appointments are for the period ending 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

In addition, Pat O'Dowd has been appointed to the Council for the period ending 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015, as the nominee of the HSE to fill the casual vacancy arising for this position.

A further four Council members are expected to be appointed shortly.

Further details, including a short biography of the new Council members, will be available shortly on the PSI website and the first meeting of the new Council is scheduled to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

## NCCP Drug Protocols – Call for EOI from Pharmacists

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The National Cancer Control Programme has announced that work is commencing on the development of national drug protocols, for the treatment of patients with cancer, for those drugs already in use.

Drug protocols have already been developed for all new drugs for the treatment of cancer since late 2012.

The aim of these protocols is to support the safe, evidence-based, and cost-effective cancer treatment of all cancer patients in Ireland. Once the protocols have been developed and approved, they will be disseminated to the hospitals involved in the care of cancer patients, in addition to being published on the NCCP website.

The NCCP drug protocols are being developed based on the latest evidence, related to the management of specific cancers, under the guidance of a Medical Consultant. The intention is to develop these protocols on a collaborative basis with the health care professionals involved in the drug treatment of cancer patients.

To this end, the NCCP would like to invite all pharmacists, involved in the treatment of patients with cancer, to register their interest in collaborating in these landmark developments.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to:  
[oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie](mailto:oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie).

All persons contributing to the drug protocol development will be individually acknowledged as contributors on the NCCP website.

Your support and cooperation with this important initiative will be appreciated.

## FIP Update

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Pharmacists are reminded that a reduced one-day rate is available for pharmacists registered with the PSI or the PSNI who wish to attend the

Dublin congress for the purposes of continuing professional development. Further information on the Congress and how to avail of this special rate is available on the PSI website.

Pharmacy interns can also be registered for this one-day rate: please use the code **INT2013** in the field marked PSI Registration Number. Any queries please contact Louise Canavan at [FIPDublin2013@thepsi.ie](mailto:FIPDublin2013@thepsi.ie)

Also look out for Irish pharmacists appearing on the [www.iamapharmacist.com](http://www.iamapharmacist.com) website as part of the international promotion of the Dublin Congress, and the FIP Facebook page and Twitter for all the latest news and information.

## Upcoming CPD Opportunities

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### ***TCD cardiology course***

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin is due to launch a new module entitled **Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice** in September 2013. The module is open to registered pharmacists working in hospital or community practice. The course will run over 12 weeks, predominantly online, and will carry 5 credits under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Further information will follow shortly. Enquiries can be made to Niamh McMahon at [nmcmahon@tcd.ie](mailto:nmcmahon@tcd.ie) or by telephone at 01-416 2586.

### ***TCD Community Pharmacy Postgrad***

Applications are also now open for TCD's **Postgraduate Diploma/M.Sc. in Community Pharmacy** (closing date 31 July 2013). This programme has been specifically designed to meet the needs of community pharmacists practising in Ireland. Because of its distance-learning format, it is suitable for participants in full-time employment. Two- year and three-year options are available. Further information can be obtained from [community.pharmacy@tcd.ie](mailto:community.pharmacy@tcd.ie) or by telephone at 01 896 3736.

### ***NUIG Cert in Health Promotion***

NUI Galway are commencing a collaborative education initiative involving Diabetes Ireland, Croi and the Irish Heart Foundation. **A Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion - Approaches to Cardiovascular Health and Diabetes Prevention** is now open to applications. This one-year distance education programme aims to provide candidates with professional education and training in the principles and practice of health promotion as applied to the promotion of cardiovascular health and diabetes prevention. The programme comprises three modules, each carrying 5 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points. Further information is available on the [NUIG website](http://www.nuigalway.ie) or by contacting Anne O'Grady at [anne.ogrady@nuigalway.ie](mailto:anne.ogrady@nuigalway.ie) or by telephone at 091-493644.

### ***Medicines Management in Palliative Care***

A one-day education course on medicines management in palliative care will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Developed by Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, this comprehensive education day, aimed primarily at pharmacists, focusses specifically on medicines in palliative care. This is a unique opportunity for learning offered by the Palliative Meds Info service and the multidisciplinary specialist palliative care team at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services.

The course will provide training in the optimal use of medicines for patients with palliative care needs in all care settings, examining the principles of palliative care as they apply to the use of medicines. A comprehensive discussion of the pharmacological management of pain and other common symptoms in caring for patients with palliative care needs will be included. Strategies to optimise pharmaceutical care of patients with palliative care needs will be discussed in addition to the clinical, legal and administrative aspects of prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines for patients at

end of life in the Irish setting. The course is supported by the School of Pharmacy at Trinity College Dublin. See Palliative Med Info at [Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services website](#) for the details of the full programme.

## Dianette Safety Info

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Important safety information from Bayer Ltd, as approved by the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) is available to view on the [IMB website](#).

The safety information follows a review of the known risk of thromboembolic events and benefits of medicines containing cyproterone acetate 2 mg and ethinylestradiol 35 micrograms (Dianette). The evaluation has been performed by the European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) following concerns about the risk of venous and arterial thromboembolism (VTE and ATE) associated with those products.

Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals are encouraged to report any adverse reaction, including possible thromboembolic or cardiac events, which may be associated with the use of Dianette to the IMB or to Bayer at [adr-ireland@bayerhealthcare.com](mailto:adr-ireland@bayerhealthcare.com)

For further information, please contact Bayer at [info.ireland@bayerhealthcare.com](mailto:info.ireland@bayerhealthcare.com) or by telephone at 01-2999313.

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