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## Overview



In this issue, we provide an update on recent appointments to the Council of the PSI. We also detail the signing of an MOU between the PSI and the NMBI which affirms the already strong working relationship in the interest of patients between the two organisations.

We thank participants for the interest shown in the recent learning events held by PSI during October. These were well attended, the engagement of participants was positive and constructive, and the feedback provided was most helpful in assessing the format and content of the events. Dependent on interest, PSI will look at running similar events in the New Year.

The newsletter contains information on Guidance on the Safe Supply of Non-Prescription Medicinal Products containing Domperidone, Guidance on Data Protection for Pharmacists, reminders of the HPRA Drug Safety Newsletter and information relating to educational programmes taking place over the coming autumn/winter months which may be of interest.

You might also note the IloP call for expressions of interest from pharmacists and other professionals to join a panel of peer reviewers maintained by the IloP to ensure availability of appropriate expertise to assess applications for accreditation of CPD programmes.

Finally, a reminder that PSI registrants who hold a Certificate of Registration expiring on the 31st December 2014 may now apply for continued registration for 2015. These applications are subject to the new continued registration fees now in place, following the signing of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Fees) Rules 2014 by Minister Varadkar.

## PSI Council Appointments

Three casual vacancies arose on the Council earlier this year as a result of

resignations of Council members. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Council) Rules 2008 S.I. No 492 of 2008 provide a process to facilitate the filling of casual vacancies arising in respect of Council members that have been elected by pharmacists.

At its meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, the Council was informed that two individuals from a panel established following the 2013 Council elections had indicated their willingness to become members of the Council. These names were furnished to the Minister of Health, and the appointments of Mr Edward McManus and Ms Caroline McGrath, to the Council of the PSI were made by him on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.

## **Memorandum of Understanding signed between the PSI and the NMBI**

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The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two regulators. The signing of this MOU is intended to assist and support both the PSI and the NMBI in performing their individual statutory functions, and to boost collaboration to maximise effectiveness and efficiency in common areas of public health protection. The agreement includes working together to promote knowledge and understanding with regard to the safe and rational use of medicines in the interest of positive patient outcomes.

The document was signed on behalf of the PSI by President, Leonie Clarke, and Registrar and Chief Executive Marita Kinsella, and on behalf of the NMBI by President, Paul Gallagher and Chief Executive, Dr Maura Pidgeon (*pictured above*).

## **Recent PSI Learning Events**

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The PSI held six successful learning event meetings in October which focussed on the PSI's inspection and enforcement, and fitness to practise processes. These meetings were held in the context of feedback provided by pharmacists following a survey conducted in March 2014. The President, Registrar and several PSI staff members, including Inspectors, were available to individual attendees at these events to address matters in public question and answer sessions, and /or through individual discussion.

The interest expressed and the registration for attendance at these events was high, and dependant on interest, PSI will look at running similar events in the New Year .

The sessions were very positive and the constructive engagement, and the significant distance travelled by attendees was sincerely appreciated. Material from the events, including the most frequently asked questions will be posted on the PSI website shortly.

## **Commencement of the new Five-Year Integrated Pharmacy Degree Programme**

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As outlined in the previous issue, the Minister for Health signed into law in August the **new Statutory Rules**. This will allow for the commencement of the five-year integrated Masters degree programme in pharmacy. Students commencing their pharmacy education in 2015 will undertake this new programme.

The integrated five-year programme to Masters level is the culmination of many years of consideration, research and discussion, particularly through the work of the National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation. The overall aim of the National Forum was to advise and assist the PSI Council in its oversight of the development and ongoing delivery of the new

fully integrated programme of pharmacy education. Having delivered in the main on the objectives set out in its Terms of Reference, the National Forum concluded its activities in March 2014.

The final report of the Chair of the Forum is available now on the [PSI website](#). The recommendation contained in this Report to establish an implementation group was accepted by the PSI Council and the work of this new group is ongoing. View [here](#) for further details.

The new integrated programme aims to ensure the best academic and training outcomes and experience for students. It is also intended to meet the changing demands and opportunities for pharmacists in industry and across the healthcare system. Additional information is available in the education section of the [PSI website](#).

## **IIOp issues call for Expressions of Interest for Peer Review Panel for Assessment of CPD Programmes**

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The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOp) has issued a call for Expressions of Interest from pharmacists and other professionals to join a panel of peer reviewers. This Peer Review Panel will be maintained by the IIOp to ensure availability of appropriate expertise to assess applications for the accreditation of CPD programmes. Panels will include experts in quality and risk management, patient advocates, subject matter experts and pharmacists with practical experience. Interested persons are asked to submit their CV and register their interest with the IIOp by 21st November 2014. For further details please see the [IIOp website](#).

## **Guidance on the Safe Supply of Non-Prescription Medicinal Products containing Domperidone**

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In light of the findings of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) review published in April 2014, advice issued by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in May 2014, and the reclassification of these products to prescription only in a number of European countries including the UK, the PSI has produced [Guidance for pharmacists on the safe supply of non-prescription medicinal products containing domperidone](#). This guidance supercedes previous advice provided by the PSI in November 2011 and May 2014 (PSI eNewsletter, Issue 5). The Package Leaflets and Summaries of Product Characteristics (SmPCs) are being updated and will be available to view on the [HPRA's website](#).

Pharmacists should also note that domperidone is now subject to additional monitoring, as indicated by an inverted Black Triangle displayed on the updated Package Leaflets and SmPCs of relevant products, to allow continued assessment of the benefit/risk balance of this medicine.

## **Guidance on Data Protection for Pharmacists**

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PSI Council recently approved [Guidance on Data Protection for Pharmacists](#). This guidance is intended to help pharmacists understand and meet the requirements of Data Protection Legislation. Pharmacists handle personal data every day when dispensing prescriptions, providing pharmacy services and interacting with patients and other healthcare professionals. This guidance considers data protection legislation in the context of pharmacy practice, highlighting the 'Eight Principles of Data Protection' that must be complied with and circumstances when it may be appropriate to disclose confidential information. The guidance has been prepared in consultation with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner which is the body responsible for enforcing this legislation.

The approval of the guidance follows a public consultation process on the

initial draft guidance which closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> July. The PSI would like to thank all those who contributed to the consultation. The submissions received and PSI responses are [available on our website](#).

## HPRA Drug Safety Newsletter

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The latest issue of the HPRA's Drug Safety Newsletter (DSN) is now available on the [HPRA website](#) and includes updates to support safe and appropriate use of the following medicines:

- Transdermal fentanyl: Reminder about the potential for life-threatening harm from accidental exposure to transdermal fentanyl
- Denosumab (Prolia): Updated information to minimise the risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw and hypocalcaemia.
- Ferumoxytol (Rienso): New important advice to mitigate the risk of serious hypersensitivity reactions.
- Beta interferons: Risk of thrombotic microangiopathy and nephrotic syndrome.

## Upcoming CPD Opportunities

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### Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIoP)

The IIoP has been set up to oversee the establishment and operation of a new CPD system for pharmacy in Ireland. Its website, [www.iio.ie](http://www.iio.ie), acts as a central hub to enable pharmacists from all areas of practice to engage with CPD. Pharmacists can access the website for information on the courses offered by the IIoP, and on courses and events from other providers. Pharmacists can also connect with the IIoP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates on all CPD opportunities.

### Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice

The School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, is now open to receive applications for the February 2015 intake of the Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice module. The module is open to registered pharmacists working in hospital or community practice. The course entails 12 weeks engagement, predominantly online, and all additional information is available on the [School's website](#).

The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Application forms and additional information are available from Niamh McMahon, Course Coordinator, email [cardioclipharm@tcd.ie](mailto:cardioclipharm@tcd.ie); or Cynthia Mannion, Executive Officer, [cmannion@stjames.ie](mailto:cmannion@stjames.ie) Ph. 01-416 2586/2467.

### Medicines Management in Palliative Care Programme

A reminder that this year the course is delivered using an online learning component, and an education day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Education & Research Centre, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W. Programme and registration details are available from the Palliative Meds Info pages of the [hospice website](#).

### 4th National Patient Safety Conference

A reminder that the 4th National Patient Safety Conference will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the Croke Park Conference Centre. Additional information is available on the [Patient Safety First website](#), or by contacting Antoinette Treacy in the Department of Health at 01-6354060 or [antoinette\\_treacy@health.gov.ie](mailto:antoinette_treacy@health.gov.ie).

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