

Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2008 at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1.

Present

President	Mr H Patel
Vice-President	Mr M Astbury
Treasurer	Mr A Gush

Mr S Acres	Ms S Agha
Mrs M Allan	Mr G Alexander
Mrs C Brown	Mr J Buisson
Mr David Carter	Mr S Churton
Dr B Curwain	Professor S Denyer
Mrs D Drury	Dr P Entwistle
Mr J Gentle	Mr J Hanlon
Mrs S Hikins	Mrs L Jacobs
Mr R Jobling	Mr J Jolley
Mr A Kershaw	Mrs S Kilby
Professor B Michell	Mrs L Morgan
Mr G Phillips	Mr D Thomson
Mr D Simpson	

In attendance

Mr P Jones, Chairman, Welsh Pharmacy Board and Dr RM Parr Chairman, Scottish Pharmacy Board.

Chief Executive & Registrar, Mr J Holmes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

08/42 Apologies for absence

Mr D Carter, Mr J Hanlon, Ms J Ramsey, Ms M Saunders

08/43 Declaration of interests

The President reminded Council members that declarations of interest should be made by individual Council members at the beginning of the relevant item.

08/44 Order of business for the 2008 Annual General Meeting

The President asked the Council to consider paper 08.05/C/34, which had been circulated.

Council

received

the order of business and noted the arrangements for the 167th Annual General meeting.

08/45 Proposal for a new award for a significant contribution to medicines safety

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar introduced paper 08.05/C/35, which had been circulated.

The proposal for a new award arose from the President's ambition to make Britain the safest place in the world to receive medicines. The award would be made annually to recognise significant contributions to improvements in medicines safety in Great Britain. It would be made on the same kind of basis as the Pharmaceutical Care Awards, with a focus on winning initiatives or improvements rather than individuals, in order to be able to recognise team efforts.

Council

agreed

- i. the proposal for the new award; and
- ii. that a short announcement about the new award should be included in the President's speech at the AGM on 21 May 2008.

The President thanked the Council for the great honour afforded him in creating the award.

08/46 Presentation of Honorary membership to Professor Kamal Midha

The President presented Honorary membership to Professor Kamal Midha. He outlined Professor Midha's distinguished career in pharmacy, mostly in Canada, where he had had several academic appointments including Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan from 1979 to 1995 and co-ordinator of a Medical Research Council Programme grant *Towards more efficacious use of psychotropic drugs*.

Professor Midha worked as a scientific adviser to national and international drug regulatory agencies as well as within the pharmaceutical industry. He held several offices in the International Pharmacy Federation (FIP) and was currently the Chairman. His priorities for FIP were setting high standards for education and practice, using human resources for health, raising awareness among pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists of their role in public health, good pharmacy practice and patient safety.

Professor Midha had devoted his life to developing safer and better medicines, and his passion for his work motivated others to bring out their talents.

In accepting his Honorary Fellowship Professor Midha responded that he was deeply moved by feeling that he now belonged to the oldest pharmaceutical society in the world. That had been an aspiration for him since he first came to London 37 years ago for a year of post-graduate research.

Professor Midha paid tribute to Society for its history, its reputation and its leadership in pharmacy, and commended the Society for its international work with FIP.

08/47 Farewells

The President asked the Council to note that the following Council members were attending their last meeting before retiring. He asked the Council to join him in thanking them for their hard work for the Society during the challenging times that the Society had been through and which would continue until de-merger was completed. He wished them well for their future. The members were: Mr Jonathan Buisson, Professor Stephen Denyer, Mr Graham Phillips and Mrs Lesley Morgan.

Mr Buisson commented that he had been privileged to have been on the Council at the centre of very turbulent times. He thanked publicly Moss Pharmacy, Alliance Pharmacy and Boots UK, the companies which had supported him during his term of office. He urged the Council to move forward quickly to building a new professional body which pharmacists would be proud of and would want to join. He urged the pharmacy technicians to contribute fully to building their future and asked the lay members to use their experience of other organisations to build the new professional body.

Professor Denyer commented that the best parts of being on Council had been the commitment of members of Council and particularly thanked the lay members who did not have the professional ties of the registrant members. He also paid tribute to the staff with whom he had had the pleasure to work. He regretted that successful member engagement had not been achieved. He thanked the Council members for their friendship and support.

Mrs Morgan commented that she had been involved with the Society since 1987 and had seen many changes. She had been privileged to be one of the first pharmacy technicians on the Council and had been able to play an influential part on Council trying to set the scene for technicians and open the way for them. Technicians were a very important part of the pharmacy profession and should be embraced.

Mr Phillips commented that he had immensely enjoyed his time on the Council.

The President also thanked Mr John Hanlon, who was unable to be present, for his contribution to the Council and wished him the best for the future.

Mr Martin Astbury thanked the President for his 15 years on Council, 4 as President, for his outstanding commitment to the Society, his bold leadership and vision for the profession.

Professor Bob Michell, as a non-pharmacist, said that he greatly admired Mr Patel's commitment to his profession, particularly in encouraging young people who might not think of envisaging that they too might become pharmacists and his leadership through very difficult times. He wished Mr Patel well with his continuing endeavours.

The President responded, thanking the Council and staff for their hard work and dedication over his time on Council and in particular over the last few difficult and challenging years. He was concerned about the lack of engagement of community pharmacists with the Society, which he thought derived from the impression that the Society was not concerned with an ordinary pharmacist's day to day problems. He felt that community pharmacists needed emotional, financial and educational support and urged the Society to understand the human needs of pharmacists to help them to be empowered to do the work the public wanted to see. He urged the Council to work with other organisations to achieve an effective future. He was proud to be a member of the Society.

The President closed the public business of the Council.