

THE ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Transcript of the Public session of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2008

[NB: Decisions in square brackets and narrow type are taken from the unconfirmed minutes of Council and therefore are subject to amendment].

The Transcript of the public meeting of the Council is not the formal record of the meeting. The formal record comprises the papers presented to the meeting and the minutes as subsequently approved. The policy of the RPSGB is actively debated at the meeting. The views expressed in the transcript do not necessarily represent the Society's agreed policy.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

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 Simpson

In attendance

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

Chief Executive & Registrar, Mr J Holmes

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Hemant Patel, the President: We have apologies from David Carter and John Hanlon. Also in public business I want to take the opportunity to warmly welcome the elected Council members who take office from midnight tonight. **(Applause)** For the record, they are Nicholas Barber, Catherine Duggan, Alison Moore and Yvonne Liddell. You are all welcome to your Society.

2. Declaration of interest

May I remind you about declaration of interests when we come to the relevant item? I understand that there are two guests, but I cannot see them. I will welcome them when I see them.

3. Order of business for the 2008 Annual General Meeting

You have paper 08/05/C/34 in your bundle of papers. It contains the rules of procedure which have been agreed already in April by Council and published in the Pharmaceutical Journal. Council is asked to receive the order of business.

[Council received the order of business and noted the arrangements for the 167th Annual General meeting.]

4. Proposal for a new award for a significant contribution to medicines safety

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar: This is paper 08/05/C/35. I will not take you through all the background, but Council will be familiar with the ambition of making Britain the safest place in the world to receive medicines that the President has presented on

previous occasions. It is proposed that we should create a new award made annually to recognise significant contributions to improvements in medicines safety in Great Britain. This reflects the Society's commitment to improving patient safety. 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, because a number may be team efforts. With Council's agreement, we would like to announce it at the AGM this evening. Does the Council agree, first of all, to the proposal for a new award? **(Agreed)** Does the Council agree that a short announcement about the award be made in the President's speech at the AGM? **(Agreed)**

The President: Can I first declare an interest and thank you, Council, for this initiative? I hope that pharmacists and others who contribute to patient safety will be encouraged to focus on the work to make Britain the safest place in the world [to take medicines]. I am absolutely flattered and I cannot find words to express how I feel. Thank you. Can I at this point welcome guests?

[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.]

5. Any other business

Is there any other business?

Mr Graham Phillips: Thank you, President. I was hoping we would have time to consider the options around consulting the members. Clearly we did not have time and cannot make an announcement. Given that this is my last day on Council, I want my position to be clear that in consulting members form shall follow function. We have agreed to consult the members about function. I am pleased to see that. It is absolutely crucial that we also consult members as to form. I want to make a public declaration that it is crucial that we look beyond the options of a Charter body and consider other structures in a balanced way to inform members. So that in making their decision about the professional body for pharmacists, they are not simply making decisions about functions but form, including looking beyond the option of a Chartered body in a balanced way, so members finally decide.

The President: Graham, we will note your comments, because I do not think we will have a debate that at this stage. I will accept comments on that, if there are any.

Chief Executive & Registrar: I was going to ask Council, if we have a minute while waiting for the guests, I want to add something on the safety agenda, which Eileen Neilson and Jayne Lawrence have been doing work on the Making Britain the Safest Place agenda. They have been working on scoping a study as to how medicines safety could be improved, with a particular focus on pharmacy and pharmacists. They have consulted with 12 leading experts on various points in the drug journey. They are working on a paper to focus attention on some key areas of practising and provide recommendations about how significant proven improvements could be implemented more widely. It will highlight areas where the Society can bring influence to bear and identify ways in which the new professional body could contribute to improving medicines safety. The aim is to present the findings of this work at the BPC, with a final document to be completed by the end of September this year. I think that is a very important step forward on our mission to make Britain the safest place to receive medicines.

The President: Thank you, Jeremy. I must take this opportunity to thank all the Council for the encouragement they have given me in taking this forward. But also in particular to Jayne Lawrence and Eileen Neilson, because they have worked very hard behind the scenes. They have seen some experts – and I think if you look at the list, it really is an incredible list. Included in the list is a newly elected Council member, Professor Nick Barber. Nick, you have had a long interest in safety for a long time. I think it would be useful for you to contribute in that area as a Council member. So I am delighted that you and Catherine, from a clinical and teaching background, will be joining Council, because the future professional body will need to focus on that. In my view, the core role of a pharmacist is to ensure there is safe, effective and appropriate use of medicines. Thank you.

6. Presentation of honorary membership to Professor Kamal Midha

We are now item 6 of public business, presentation of the honorary membership to Professor Kamal Midha. Before I introduce him, may I take the opportunity to welcome our guests, John Ware and Muriel Ware from Australia? John is Vice-President of FIP. A very warm welcome to you John, and also to his wife Miriam, welcomes. Also, a surprise guest for me at least – Sneha [the President's wife] **(Laughter)** I do not know what she is doing here, but I am getting nervous now! Welcome to you as well. If there is anybody else I have forgotten please forgive me.

Professor Midha, I am delighted to present you this afternoon with an honorary membership of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The Society was given the power to elect honorary members, by virtue of its Royal Charter. We can elect as honorary members those who have rendered distinguished service to the Society or to pharmacy. Only two or three members a year are elected so, Professor Midha, you are joining a very select band of people.

You graduated from the University of Saugar in India and then went on to undertake MPharm, before obtaining your doctorate from the University of Alberta in 1969. In 1985 you were awarded a DSc at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. You have had several academic appointments and are currently Joint Professor of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Saskatchewan in Canada.

You were Professor of Pharmacy at that University from 1979 to 1995 and co-ordinator of a Medical Research Council Programme grant entitled *Towards more efficacious use of psychotropic drugs*. This research group was converted into Pharmalytics Incorporated, a not-for-profit drug metabolism drug disposition institute at the university you served as a Chair of Board of Directors from 2000 to 2006. In March 2006, the research institute was privatised by the University.

Also you worked as a scientific adviser to national and international drug regulatory agencies around the world, as well as with the pharmaceutical industry and have held many leadership positions, including Chairman of the FIP, Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences, member of the Board of FIP Foundation for Education and Research, an expert member of the Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Chair of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Grant Committee of the Medical Research Council of Canada. You are President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, and in your inaugural address at the 2007 FIP Congress, you said that "strong leadership is essential to ensuring that the pharmacist dedicated efforts produce fruitful results". This is something with which, of course, I very much agree.

Your priorities for FIP are 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.

Kamal, your innovative approach to drug studies have yielded over 300 research articles. You are an internationally recognised authority on issues of bioavailability, bioequivalence, bioanalysis and pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and are best known for your ground-breaking research into the drug treatment of psychotic and schizophrenic patients. You have devoted your life to developing safer and better medicines, and your passion for your work motivates others to bring out their talents. You have received numerous awards from around the world. There are too many for me to mention, but they include the Plenary Award of the Federation Council of Pharmacy in Brazil, in recognition of your contributions towards the improvement of health of the world, the FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress Research Achievement Award, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, Canada's highest award, the Order of Canada, and awards from India, Japan, Rumania and America.

Honorary membership of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society recognises the important contribution you have made to pharmacy in all aspects of our work. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present you with this certificate today. **(Applause)**

PROFESSOR MIDHA: Mr President, respected Councillors, colleagues, ladies and

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gentlemen. I am deeply moved with this award of Honorary Membership in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. I truly cherish it. I will truly cherish the feeling that I belong to the oldest pharmaceutical society in the world. As honorary member, it is indeed an honour for me to be in the company of such distinguished Honorary Members and Fellows such as Louis Pasteur and Lister.

Many years ago, 37 years ago, I came to London, UK, as a Medical Research Council Fellow from Canada for a year of post-doctorate research, with the eminent pharmaceutical scientist many of you know, Professor Arnold Beckett. Being a pharmacist and a pharmaceutical scientist, I had known of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and during my year in London, Professor Beckett often would talk about the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, in those days. The more I heard, the more I got interested in the activities of your Society, and how the distinguished Society was influencing pharmacy practitioners and scientists alike.

Since that time, I chose a life that has made me – and I say it frequently – a citizen of the world, as I have lived in the UK, Canada, US, Bermuda and have worked as a research professor and scientist all over the world pursuing pharmaceutical research over the nearly past 40 years.

In September 2006, I was elected to lead the International Pharmaceutical Federation, a role I accepted with humility, but I also took it that I will make sure that I set the sail of the Federation in the direction we as pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists can feel good about – hopefully some day proud about. This is an organisation that has over 120 member organisations from nearly 90 countries. Thus directly or indirectly, it represents two million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. FIP is the only international federation which connects pharmacy and pharmaceutical scientists globally. As we are moving into the new area of pharmaceutical practice and research, I look forward to continuously receiving the support of your Society and its influence in that fact. FIP has had nine Vice-Presidents since 1912, who have influenced the direction of FIP and two of them at present in the Bureau serve as Vice-President.

FIP also has had a distinguished President from your Society, Sir Hugh Linstead who served FIP from 1953 to 1966 as President. At this juncture I am reminded that I am also joining a list of highly distinguished FIP presidents who have simply been honoured by the Society. Those who come to my mind are Dr Host Madsen – you hear about the Madsen Award in FIP; Dr Duke Winter Senior, Dr Joseph Odis and late Nippe Strandqvist). The Past President I mentioned forged a long link with your Society, and it is my intention to continue this with a greater movement/moment.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has, in the past and continues to contribute much to influence the practice of pharmacy globally through education, innovation and pharmaceutical research. You should all feel good that it is felt by every person I have had the opportunity to exchange views. As the oldest established Society in the English-speaking world you have led, and continue to lead the way, in influencing other distinguished professional pharmaceutical organisations and associations. As pharmacy practice changes from product-focus to patient-focus in pursuit of what has become known as pharmaceutical care, the guidance of your Society will be much needed in developing many other cognitive services. Your Society initiatives in clinical services to support primary healthcare, influencing medicines reviews, pharmacist prescribing, providing immunisation and monitoring the public for lifestyle diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular and diabetes, I think sets a roadmap which can provide professional satisfaction to the new generations of graduates which we have.

The recently published White Paper, *Pharmacy in England: Building on strength, delivering the future*; this review and its conclusions provide a unique launching pad to promote the practice of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences into a new era of teamwork towards the provision of primary healthcare.

The WHO has been promoting a role for pharmacists to be involved in public health, and the White Paper's suggestion that community pharmacies should be healthy-living centres, surely

epitomises this. As the Royal Pharmaceutical Society moving moves into its changed structure as a professional association, the policy paper provides a note-worthy opportunity for the new opportunity to seize clinical leadership for the profession. From a professional point of view, I was delighted to see that the report also stresses the need for research and innovation.

Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on your leadership of the Society during this difficult of period change and innovation. Change is always disruptive. You have had a vision for the future that you fearlessly pursued and are now poised to see it hopefully come to reality.

I am delighted that you have also expressed your interest in international pharmacy by being elected to the Executive of the Community Pharmacy Section of FIP, and I do hope you will continue to expand your influence and contribute your expertise to the future development of FIP as a global body. We need such leaders within FIP.

Finally, Mr President, Fellows, Members of the Society, let me repeat my gratitude in receiving this great honour you have so graciously bestowed upon me. As I launched my career in London, this particularly, amongst the many awards I have received, represents something very special to me and to my family. Mr President, please accept my deep appreciation for receiving this Honorary Membership in your distinguished Society. I will do my utmost to do it and keep it. Thank you. **(Applause)**

The President: Thank you very much, Kamal, for your kind words for my Society. Your message about joint working with FIP is loud and clear, and I hope that in the last three years the improved relationship will continue and strengthen. We have, as you know, new Council members. They are not unfamiliar with the work of FIP, because some of them I know have been there. I would like to take the opportunity of once again congratulating you on joining our Society. Welcome, thank you. **(Applause)**

Council, a number of Council members are retiring: myself, Jonathan Buisson, Stephen Denyer, Graham Phillips and Lesley Morgan. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank you for the contribution you have made. I wish you well in your future. We started to work together soon after a very difficult period. It seems to me there was always a new challenge on the horizon, and each one of you contributed in a significant and magnificent way.

In the early days I needed help and Stephen, you were always willing to spare a minute or two – or an hour or two sometimes. Graham, your energy, enthusiasm and passion enabled us to drive some new initiatives, and in public affairs and communications you made a contribution. In education too, you leave a legacy there. Lesley contributed throughout her three years on Council. Thank you all very, very much. Jonathan, you wanted to say a few words, and Stephen and Graham you are welcome to do so.

Mr Jonathan Buisson: Thank you, Mr President. I did indicate that, as I think is sometimes traditional, I might have a couple of words, but I will keep them fairly brief. I have been very lucky and, as everyone says, privileged to be here for three years at the centre of what have been very turbulent times. I want to thank publicly the companies that have allowed me to be here: Moss Pharmacy, Alliance Pharmacy, Boots UK. It has been a pleasure and a pain. Council meetings have been dynamic, positive, visionary and decisive (occasionally); long, boring, repetitive, dysfunctional and maddening (far more often than I would have liked).

My advice to Council is: tomorrow does come; get a grip; get a move on – please. Just a few things I would like to say to people in general. To the officers, and to the new officers, I say you have to lead the Council, not run the organisation -- the staff are there for that sometimes. To the lay members, I would really like to hear the lay members bring their experience of other organisations as we move into this transitional time, what worked for them and what did not work for them. To the technicians I say: be vocal; it's your future too. To the pharmacists, I say: build an organisation that the members will be proud of and will want to join.

Finally, to Martin I say welcome to England, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. **(Laughter)** I am afraid Morris Dancing is compulsory. **(Laughter)** I would like to thank all members of Council for your friendship and your company over the past three years.

Professor Stephen Denyer: Like Jonathan, I never quite anticipated being at the start of such momentous change. Our extremes of debate, often at extremes of circumstances, have been character building. **(Laughter)** There are some best parts, and for me the best parts are the commitment of members of Council. I make this special thank you for the commitment of the lay members, who do not have the professional ties we do. Another best part has been the quality of the staff it has been my pleasure to work with. I have to say that the General Pharmaceutical Council and the professional body are much blessed with those staff. The worst part has been the lack of member involvement. I do not mean members of Council. Despite all the opportunities that we have been given, we do not have successful member engagement, and I do not attribute that to us, the members of Council. I attribute that to a relatively lacklustre engagement of members. I really regret that I will not be at the last or later stages of change – my other responsibilities call – but I know you will extend to Keith Wilson the same courtesies and kindness you have given to me. You have my very best wishes and promise of support wherever needed. I may leave, but my heart will remain. I thank you for your friendship and a truly formative three years. Thank you very much. **(Applause)**

Mrs Lesley Morgan: How can I follow those two? I would like to say some thanks and to make some observation. I have been a member of a working party of the Society since 1987, which is rather a long time, and I have seen many changes. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would play an influential or important part in those changes and be one of the first technicians to sit in this Council Chamber. I remember coming into the Council Chamber, probably on my first visit to the Society – it looked very different to this – and was told, “You can’t sit in that chair!” How different things are now. I am very glad for that, because I am sure it has improved the working of Council. I have gone on a very steep learning curve and hope that I try to set the scene for technicians and open the way for them. I do feel that they are a very important part of our profession and should be embraced. I wish Yvonne all the best, but I will not be there and will be happy to contribute in any way I can. Thank you, Mr President. **(Applause)**

Mr Graham Phillips: What can I say? It has been a blast!

The President: One name I did not mention is John Hanlon. John is not here today, but he will be missed. He had his own way of doing things and as President and Council Member, whenever I approached him for help and advice, he was ready to lend a hand – sometimes even at 11 o’clock at night. He cares deeply about the Society, I know that for sure. I wish him well.

One person who will be leaving the Society at the end of the month is Deborah Oliver, who joined us about a year ago. Deborah, some time ago, at the AGM, members passed a motion to persuade the Council to improve their communications and public affairs. People say Council does not listen, but it actually did. There was a review, an external review, of the performance of Public Affairs and Communications, and a lot of changes have taken place in the last year. In particular, in the last six months we have moved to the fifth gear and things continue to progress well. We are getting TV coverage as we never had before and increased press coverage. So, Deborah, simply thank you. **(Applause)**

Mr Martin Astbury, The Vice-President: Can I say a few words?

The President: You are not leaving, are you? **(Laughter)**

Mr Martin Astbury: I would like to take a couple of minutes to say a few words about our outgoing President. Hemant Patel has been on Council for 15 years, a commitment of heart, mind body and soul. During this time, Hemant has been President for four years, a feat only reached by Presidents preceding the Second World War.

Since the Society's receipt of the new Charter, Hemant Patel has led the profession boldly. During this time, he has shown vision when developing and leading on projects like *Pharmacy 2020*, *Men's Health*, *Reducing Health Inequalities* and the vision to make Britain the safest place in the world to take medicines. Hemant Patel is passionate about pharmacy and he cares about people working in pharmacy. I have been very lucky to work with Hemant, and I am even luckier to be able to call him a friend. On my first day at Council, Hemant made an effort to make me feel welcome.

There can, however, be a down side to Hemant's enigmatic personality. It takes Hemant longer to walk across a room of pharmacists than it takes for my grandmother to walk to her local village shops. Both of them seem to know everyone! Hemant has been a servant to pharmacy and the Society second to none. On behalf of the profession, I thank you, Hemant.

Mr Martin Astbury: Before we go to a presentation, Bob Michell would like to add a few words.

Professor Bob Michell: As a non-pharmacist I would like say how much I have admired your commitment to your profession, particularly your unobtrusive commitment encouraging young people who might not think of envisaging that they too might become pharmacists. We have already heard how long you have served this Council, but you had to lead us in the most difficult of times and you have sometimes been up against the most difficult of people, setting out to be difficult – especially in the aftermath of the Foster Report, where we really were being painted into some awful corners. But you kept your resolve and you kept your vision and you have shown true leadership and lasting influence. You and your family should be proud of what you have accomplished and we wish you well with your continuing endeavours.

(Applause)

Mr Martin Astbury: On behalf of the Council. **(Present handed to the President)**

The President: Thank you, Martin, thank you Council. I knew it was going to be difficult. I am sure the changes that are being imposed on us will lead to a better future for every pharmacist in the country. Martin mentioned people. Pharmacists who work in pharmacies, long hours, long weeks – staff members too work very hard. During the Carter Working Party I know I used to think Council members worked hard, but the staff worked hard too. I appreciated all the help they gave.

In terms of pharmacists, people wonder why they are not engaging. I think I have an idea why. We have tended as a profession and as an organisation to look at things strategically, which means we have to look ahead 5, 10, 15 years. What pharmacists are facing are here-and-now problems. They have got real issues and the Society never really understands their daily problems. Until we change and understand what are the real issues that pharmacists are facing today, they will not engage with us. Category M is something that we never discuss around the table because it is not our issue; it is a PSNC issue. In the minds of pharmacists it is one and the same. Inability to pay bills on time affects pharmacy practice. The Society demands high standards, but does not speak up for pharmacists who need resources to deliver that high quality of practice, not only in England but in Scotland and Wales.

I think branches are really excellent structures that we have got, but in many areas they are moribund. The reason why they are moribund is because we focus very narrowly on pharmacy. We forgot that members are human beings with wider interests – more than just clinical pharmacy. They need emotional support and financial support and educational support.

When I look at the work going on here and I meet people around the country and on Council, I am so proud to be a member of this Society. If it became membership orientated – and that means understanding things which drive people mad, things which keep people awake, things which affect them adversely – then they will listen to you. You need to resonate with them, rather than the other way around. We cannot negotiate on behalf of community pharmacists or their owners, but we can make representations using quality, access of services and basic

human rights.

I urge the Society at the earliest opportunity to understand the human needs of pharmacists. So that instead of being debilitated by pressures, they are released and empowered to do the work the country wants to see. People say community pharmacists will not be interested in a clinical agenda. I have proved this wrong. There is interest in clinical agenda, as hospital pharmacists, but it is an opportunity to do a job. When pharmacists go and train and become prescribers, they have no opportunity to practise what they have learned. They have a qualification, but not an opportunity. There are thousands of people like that and we remain silent. So the point that I am making is understand the pharmacists who are members of this Society, and instead of just going on about CPD and inspectors, try and help them to achieve something by a broader [approach]. But to do that we need partnership working with others, and I welcome the opportunity to mix with other organisations. We need others also to work with us.

At the present time there is a lot of competition and somebody has to make the first move, and I hope the Society and the new Council will make the first move. I tried, but I think we need to try even harder to achieve that. Thank you very much for this very kind gift. I will be back. **(Applause)** I think we are going to the reception now and then the AGM. Thank you for your support.

The President closed the public business of the Council.