



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society**

1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN

Tel: 020 7572 2335

Fax: 020 7572 2503

# News release

**For immediate release**

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## **COUNCIL AGREES CHAIR OF TRANSITIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NEW PROFESSIONAL BODY**

The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have appointed Nigel Clarke as Chair of a Transitional Committee (Transcom) which will guide Council through the process of establishing a new professional body for pharmacy.

As Chair, Nigel Clarke will provide regular reports to Council, setting out the key issues discussed by Transcom.

Martin Astbury, the Society's Vice President, said of the appointment: "I am delighted that Nigel Clarke has accepted the role of Chair of Transcom. He has already demonstrated to the profession through his independent Report that he is able to work across pharmacy and to reflect the views and needs of pharmacists.

"We have a challenging timeframe to work with and the Society looks forward to working together with Transcom and key stakeholders to produce a prospectus for the new professional body."

**Ends**

**For media enquiries please contact the  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's Public Relations Unit  
020 7572 2336**

## **Notes to editors**

### **Nigel Clarke**

Nigel Clarke previously chaired the Clarke Inquiry, an independent inquiry commissioned by the Society to look into possible options for a new professional leadership body for pharmacy. He has held many other high-profile positions in the health sector, such as Chair of the General Osteopathic Council and founder and Chief Executive of Vidapulse Ltd, a medical research business.

### **About Transcom**

The establishment of a Transcom was a specific recommendation of the Clarke Report. Council have made a number of recommendations concerning the role of Transcom, most importantly, it should provide advice on effective action to ensure that the new professional body is fit for purpose and is financially viable. It should also ensure that work proceeds in partnership with the Society and identified organisations, and that other stakeholders are engaged and kept informed of progress. Furthermore, it should ensure that Council members and equivalents in stakeholder organisations may properly discharge their fiduciary duty.

In particular, in advising and reporting to Council and stakeholders, Transcom will:

- Produce a prospectus for a new professional body by the end of 2008 so that potential members can make an informed choice about membership
- Identify and put forward proposals to address the financial, legal and employment issues supporting the transfer of functions, staff and other resources into the new professional body
- Take into account decisions relating to the regulation of pharmacy in Great Britain and of regulation and professional leadership of pharmacy in Northern Ireland
- Produce proposals to engage with the full spectrum of members and potential members of the professional body, with a specific emphasis on meeting the everyday needs of pharmacists
- Make recommendations to Council regarding the incorporation of the new body which may include changes to the Royal Charter
- Oversee the arrangements to establish a shadow Council for the new professional body