

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Scottish Office

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Meeting Report

15 June 2007

ANNUAL MEETING OF SCOTTISH MEMBERS

Chairman of the Scottish Pharmacy Board, Dr Rose Marie Parr, opened the Annual Meeting of Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in Scotland on 12 June by providing an overview of the year, which she termed *a year of transition and change*.

The overview of the year included the formation of the new Scottish Pharmacy Board, working within a transformed political environment and reaction to the White Paper: *Trust, Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*. During the keynote speech, Dr Parr launched the Annual Report for 2006 -2007 and introduced the overarching theme of the evening - discussion around professional leadership and the Society's role in delivering this. Dr Parr then welcomed the distinguished guest speakers who each provided their views on aspects of professional leadership.

David Thomson, Council Member for Scotland, shared his insight into his second year as a Member of Council, which included an overview of his main activities in addition to his recent appointment as Fourth Officer. He underlined his commitment to provide a Scottish voice at Council level during a period of unparalleled opportunity for change for the Society and the profession.

Hemant Patel, President of the Society, highlighted the role of the Scottish Pharmacy Board in developing and shaping the professional agenda and the opportunities afforded to Scotland in leading practice development. The President shared his thoughts on the opportunities for professional leadership presented by the White Paper and called on the membership to participate in fierce debate about the future of the profession and what they want from a professional body.

More follows.../

The President was followed by Professor Bill Scott, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, who impressed upon the audience the need for the profession to have strong professional leadership with firm, yet realistic expectations. He called on the audience to think radically about the direction of travel for the profession and the best vehicle in terms of professional leadership for this. Professor Scott emphasised the importance of having a professional body that ensures patients get the very best standard of care.

Professor Peter Noyce, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, University of Manchester, reflected on the impact of professional leadership at a local level, sharing observations from a 'bottom up' perspective and his work at the University. Professor Noyce raised questions regarding professional leadership and a variety of areas including education, assessment, career development and recruitment. He provided an overview of the North American approach to professional leadership in pharmacy and suggested lessons that might be beneficial to the UK situation, such as looking after the niche needs of the profession.

In his vote of thanks, Vice Chairman, Frank Owens, reflected that if the profession is to succeed in its future endeavours then this requires strong leadership.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr Parr said, "I'd like to thank all our distinguished guest speakers for participating in the Annual Meeting and opening up the debate yet further about professional leadership and the opportunities afforded to us as a Scottish Pharmacy Board. I'd also like to thank all those members who attended and raised issues from the floor. This is just the beginning of discussions and debate around the subject of professional leadership and a professional body to drive pharmacy forward."

Copies of the Scottish Pharmacy Board's Annual Review 2006-2007 have been distributed to all pharmacists in Scotland and further copies are available on the Scottish Office's website www.rpsgb.org/scotland or by contacting the Scottish Office on 0131 556 4386.

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Left to right: President of the Society, Hemant Patel, Professor Bill Scott and Professor Peter Noyce.

Ends

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