

Council Bulletin September 2008

Consultation Process on Implementation of Pharmacy Act 2007

- The public consultation process on statutory rules for Registration, Education and Training, and Council Rules, and for the draft statutory Code of Conduct, inviting the public and stakeholders to submit their views was initiated on 11th September. The public consultation process was notified in the national media and on the PSI website and will close on the 26th September.
- As part of the consultation, a public meeting is to be held on 23rd September in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin to which key stakeholder groups and individual pharmacists have been invited.
- Submissions and amendments proposed during the consultation process will then be reviewed as part of the finalising of these documents.

Pharmacy Ireland 2020

- The Pharmacy Ireland 2020 initiative has held several focus group meetings, facilitated by Cathriona Hallahan, with a wide range of stakeholder groups during the past number of weeks. A number of patient and public support, advocacy and representative bodies have taken part, as well as representative bodies within the pharmacy sector, the wider healthcare and statutory sector and pharmacy education.
- The level of attendance and engagement at these meetings has been very positive and the discussions have been constructive. In addition, many groups attending have indicated that they will also make a formal written submission to the process to be considered for the drafting of a final report. Written submissions will continue to be accepted during the next couple of weeks.

- These focus group meetings have also been beneficial in terms of establishing and building relationships with key stakeholder groups and for promoting the image and reputation of the PSI.

President's Report

- The Registrar and President, accompanied by Head of Communications Kate O'Flaherty, met with the Taoiseach Brian Cowen, on Wednesday 10th September, at the Taoiseach's offices, where a number of high-level policy matters were discussed.
- The President and Registrar are to meet with their counterparts in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on 25th September to discuss matters of mutual interest.

FIP Annual Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

- The Registrar, President and Vice-President and Kate O'Flaherty represented the PSI at the FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) annual World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Basel, Switzerland (29 August to 4 September).
- Founded in 1912, FIP is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists in official relations with the WHO, representing and serving almost two million practitioners and scientists around the world.

Meetings

- It is expected that the Registrar and President will meet Minister for Education and Science Batt O'Keeffe in the near future, to discuss matters relating to the pre-registration programme and pharmacy education generally.
- An initial meeting has been held with the Patient Safety Unit of the Department of Health and Children to discuss the report of the Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance – *Building a Culture of Patient Safety*. This seminal report will be brought before the Cabinet in the coming weeks for consideration and decision. The PSI Executive will meet to more fully consider the implications of report shortly.
- Damhnait Gaughan, Standards and Practice Unit, attended an initial meeting of the IMB's working group on point-of-care-testing (POCT) in the Primary Setting, to discuss the drafting of POCT Guidelines for community pharmacists and GPs .

- Head of Legal Affairs, Marita Kinsella attended a preliminary exploratory meeting of a subcommittee of the Council of Europe Committee on Quality and Safety Standards in Pharmaceutical Practices and Pharmaceutical Care. This Committee plans to embark on a three-to-four year project to develop and implement indicators for the assessment of the quality of pharmaceutical care in Europe.
- The Registrar will take part in the Pharmaceutical Managers Institute of Ireland's annual great debate in the Four Seasons Hotel, 9th October, proposing the motion that 'This house believes that pharmacy is the only way to effectively distribute medicines'.
- The Forum of Health and Social Care Regulators met at 18 Shrewsbury Road on 16th September - this forum of CEOs of various regulators and statutory agencies meets regularly to progress matters of mutual concern and interest.

Education Matters

- **Pharmacy Education & Accreditation Reviews (PEARs) Project:** The first meeting of the PEARs Project Steering Group took place on 1 August 2008 at the PSI offices. The Group is composed as follows: Mary-Rose Burke (Boots); Shaun Flanagan (HSE); Dr. Paul Gallagher (Chair)(RCSI); Tamazine Grimes (AMHNCH/RCSI); Noeleen Harvey ; Dr. Anne-Marie Healy (TCD) ; Marita Kinsella (PSI); Niall O'Shea (GSK); Dr. Laura Sahm (UCC); Judith Strawbridge (RCSI). A fourth-year pharmacy student remains to be appointed to this Group. The appointment process for the high-level Policy Steering Committee is ongoing.
- The Project moved to 'go-live' status on 29 August with a presentation on the aims and objectives of the Project made to the current pre-registration year cohort by the one of the Project Team Leaders from Aston University, Prof. Keith Wilson. The purpose of the presentation was to engage the current pre-registration trainees in the process.
- As part of the first phase of the research, a focus group session will be held in Dublin on 24th September.
- **Forensic Pharmacy Course:** The Forensic Pharmacy Course organised by the PSI for the current pre-registration training year took place on 27-29th August 2008 in Trinity College Dublin and was attended by 142 trainees. The purpose of the Course is to prepare the trainees for the syllabus of the Licence Examination which takes place on 3rd November 2008. Lectures were delivered by:
 - Mr. Brian Kilgallen, Veterinary Inspector, Special Investigation Unit, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
 - Dr. Mike Morris, Senior Scientific Advisor, Irish Medicines Board
 - Dr. Catriona Fisher, Quality Manager, Irish Medicines Board

- Ms. Leonie Clarke, Independent Consultant
- Ms. Marita Kinsella, Head of Legal Affairs, PSI
- Ms. Damhnait Gaughan, Senior Inspector, Standards & Practice Unit, PSI

The Forensic Pharmacy Course was preceded by the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association sponsored seminar on OTC medicines.

- **Tutor Pharmacist Course:** A Tutor Pharmacist Course took place on 22-23rd September in the IPA and was attended by 17 pharmacists. The breakdown of pharmacist attendance across sector of activity was as follows: community: 12; hospital: 2; academia: 2; industry: 1.
- **2008/09 Pre-Registration Training Year:** 167 applications have been received by the PSI from pharmacy graduates wishing to undertake the 2008/09 practical training year. All applications are in the final stages of being approved.

Registration Matters:

- **Registration of pharmacists:** The total number of registered pharmacists as at 23.09.2008 is 4,702 (compared with 4,504 at 31 December 2007).
- The breakdown of registration in 2008 is as follows under the routes of registration currently in operation (total of 198 new registrants):
 - EU route 180
 - National 18

ICT project progress report

- The public online register of pharmacists went 'live' in August. The register of pharmacists can be accessed via the website by clicking on the 'Search our Registers' button.
- The system for the registration of retail pharmacy businesses is being developed and is planned for completion by October. The collection of practice addresses from registrants is continuing.
- Facilities to enable pharmacists and pharmacies to update their information and pay their renewal fees over the internet are also being developed.

Inspection and Enforcement

- The vacancy of Inspector has been advertised in the Irish Pharmacy Journal, the UK Pharmaceutical Journal and its website pjonline, irishjobs.ie and publicjobs.ie, with a closing date for receipt of applications of 13 October.

Communications

- Since the last Bulletin the PSI has issued three press releases: announcing the introduction of the online register; welcoming the Patient Safety Commission Report; announcing the public consultation on the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists and the statutory rules for Council, Registration and Education and Training.
- These three issues were covered by various national and pharmacy/medical media, including an interview on Kildare radio KFM with the Registrar on the online register and the facility for patients and others to check the registration status of pharmacists.
- Nursing Homes Ireland for September 2008 carried a feature article on the Pharmacy Ireland 2020 initiative.
- Interviews with the President were carried by the Irish Times Health Supplement (29 July 2008) and the Irish Pharmacist magazine (September 2008 issue). The President was also interviewed on RTE Radio One's Today show (8 August 2008).
- The PSI has also dealt with a variety of media queries relating to the sale of the properties, patient safety issues and inspection reports.

Next Meetings

- The next Council meeting will take place in NUI Galway on October 7th at 10.30am and that meeting will go on until lunchtime at 1.00.
- After lunch, the two consultative forum lectures will take place in the Siobhan McKenna Theatre, Arts Millennium Building. These lectures will be given by Dr Mary Keys, lecturer in Health Law and Policy at NUI Galway on the subject of Patient Capacity, and Professor Keith Wilson, Deputy Dean, School of Life and Health Sciences, Aston University on Changing Pharmacy Services and Educational Implications.
- The Council and guests will also make a courtesy call on Galway City Mayor later that afternoon.
- The National Pharmacy Summit will be held on Tuesday 4th November at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. The Minister for Health and Children has confirmed that she will attend and give the keynote address at 2.30pm.
- The four speakers confirmed for the Summit are:

- Prof Han de Gier, Head of Department of Pharmacotherapy and Pharmaceutical Care at Groningen University, Netherlands. Prof de Gier is lead on DRUID (EU project on drugs and driving) work package 7 – Dissemination and Guidelines, and formerly President of ICADTS (International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety).
- Dr Catherine Duggan –member of Council of RSPGB and Associate Director for Clinical Pharmacy- Development and Evaluation, S&SE England, NHS and Programme Director, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Programme, School of Pharmacy, University of London.
- Prof Joy Wingfield, Professor of Pharmacy Law and Ethics at Nottingham University (who spoke at consultative forum in UCC on May 27th).
- Dr Almath Spooner, Market Surveillance Executive, Irish Medicines Board.