

Information Leaflet On Medicines and Road Safety to be Launched at Third National Pharmacy Summit

Monday, November 3, 2008: The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, (PSI), the statutory regulator for pharmacists and pharmacies, is to launch an information leaflet with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) on the issue of medicines and road safety at the third National Pharmacy Summit which takes place tomorrow (November 4) in Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.

The leaflet will be the first step in a campaign to ensure drivers and pharmacists are better informed on the dangers in this area. Dr Bernard Leddy, PSI President, highlighted the concerns at this time of year. "This issue is particularly pertinent during the winter months and coming into the holiday season when road safety is a key concern. The leaflet will provide guidance to the public, with the next step to educate health-care professionals on their responsibilities. We also envisage creating a sticker that will be used by pharmacists on packaging at the point-of-supply in pharmacies to flag medicines that reduce the ability to drive safely."

The Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney, TD will speak at the event, which begins at 2pm. This year's summit features an array of established international speakers from the pharmacy sector. Dr Han De Gier will present on 'Medicines and Driving: How to improve information for patients and health care professionals', while Dr Catherine Duggan will discuss 'Pharmacy and Risk Management: Policy, Evidence and Practice'. 'The Role of the Pharmacist in Pharmacovigilance – A Regulator's Perspective' will be the topic of the presentation from Dr Almath Spooner of the Irish Medicines Board, and this will be followed by Professor Joy Wingfield who will explore 'Moving Morality: Developing a Pharmacy Code of Ethics'.

There will be a questions & answer sessions following each presentation. Refreshments will be served around 5.30pm.

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Note to Editors:

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the Pharmacy Regulator, is the statutory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland. It acts in the public interest to regulate the profession.