



guild matters

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE GUILD OF HEALTHCARE PHARMACISTS

Welcome to the latest edition of *Guild Matters*, the newsletter from the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists.

On 3 December, Guild members will have decided whether or not to take part in a day of industrial action, organised by our parent union Unite. We hope that the action will lead to a reopening of the pay negotiations for all NHS staff. We also hope that the independence of the NHS Pay Review Body being recognised by all parties. In the meantime, we will continue to keep our members informed of any developments.

Richard Cattell, Guild president

Pharmacists urged to read Transcom's prospectus

All pharmacists should have now received a copy of Transcom's prospectus, which outlines the services that should be offered by pharmacy's new professional body when it opens for business in 2010.

The prospectus is a landmark document. The Guild suggests that every pharmacist should take the time to read and digest its contents, since it represents the first signs of the most important change in pharmacy leadership that any current pharmacist is likely to see during his or her career.

The prospectus has been developed from an open consultation process involving thousands of pharmacists and pharmacy organisations. However, the consultation process does not end with the prospectus's publication. Members' feedback on whether the prospectus actually reflects what is wanted from the professional body is required by Transcom. Feedback forms are included at the back of the document and on the Transcom website (www.transitionalcommittee.com).

According to the prospectus, the new professional body will be close to its members and will provide services, which are supportive and valued for their relevance, timeliness and accessibility. The Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has welcomed the prospectus and agreed to its publication, but it is pharmacists who must have the final say over whether or not the prospectus paves the way for a body that members of the profession will be proud to join. We urge all pharmacists to respond to the consultation and maximise this opportunity to develop their future.



Guild updates

2009 conference

Our 2009 Conference, held jointly with the United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association, will be held at the Marriott Hotel, Leicester, on 15–17 May.

Further information regarding registration for the conference and a call for abstracts is available at the Guild's website (www.ghp.org.uk).

On-call payments

Guild members are reminded that the current Agenda for Change on-call arrangements will remain in place until October 2010. Future arrangements for on-call payments are a long way from being agreed, however the Guild will continue to work with NHS Employers to make sure its members are rewarded fairly.

Responsible pharmacist

The regulations governing the responsible pharmacist have been laid before Parliament. In its original response to the regulations, the Guild highlighted several concerns, including that a registered hospital pharmacy would be unable to comply with the regulations, particularly when junior pharmacists were performing on-call duties. The Guild is working closely with the Government, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Unite to ensure the regulations allow for hospital pharmacy services to be delivered safely and effectively.

Farewell to Jean Curtis who retires as Guild secretary

The Guild would like to wish farewell to Jean Curtis, who is retiring after more than six years as the Guild's professional secretary.

Jean's last day was at the Guild's group secretaries meeting. Anyone who has worked with Jean over the years will know how dedicated she has been to the Guild. We all wish her all the best for her retirement.

We will inform our members of the identity of Jean's successor as soon as he or she has been appointed.



Jean Curtis retires as Guild professional secretary

Contacting the Guild

Members can provide comments or feedback to the Guild through its network of regional representatives. A list of these representatives can be found on the Guild website (www.ghp.org.uk).

Guild commits to find solution to recruiting issues

Discussions are taking place between Unite, NHS Employers and the Department of Health to find an appropriate solution to the problem of recruiting and retaining basic grade pharmacists in the NHS. All parties are in agreement that any solution would need to operate within the Agenda for Change framework. Once agreed, it will be referred to the NHS Staff Council.

The first oral evidence session for 2008–09 with the NHS Pay Review Body (PRB) took place on 2 December. The Guild presented its evidence at this session and our arguments and proposed solutions were well received. The PRB is now seeking to hear evidence from individual employers.

While the Guild remains determined to agree a national solution to this problem, we are also aware (and supportive) of local and regional attempts to implement a solution. If you have any examples of such local initiatives, or require further support, the Guild would like to hear from you.

New Guild website unveiled



The new Guild website was unveiled at the recent Guild group secretaries meeting. See it for yourself at www.ghp.org.uk.

Unfortunately, the forum has had to be temporarily removed from our website while our membership database is updated. However, Guild Council is always keen to keep members informed of

its working. We do send out an electronic newsletter four times a year but we are dependent on the membership to sign up for this. If you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter then e-mail your membership details (including your membership number) to vilma.gilis@nhs.net.

Joining the Guild

Details about joining the Guild can be obtained from the Unite (Amicus) membership department, telephone 020 8462 7755 / 0845 8504242, e-mail membershipdepartment@amicustheunion.org.

Details can also be found at www.amicustheunion.org.