

In Focus

Welcome to the October 2015 issue of *In Focus*.

We love hearing about and sharing good news and excellent practice, so please let us know of your achievements (or those of your colleagues if they are too modest!).

If you would like anything included in *In Focus* please email Sarah Carter: general.secretary@ukcpa.com

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UKCPA
CLINICAL PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

Credit: Stuart Miles



We have a new home!

UKCPA
Suite 1.2F, Lyn House
39 The Parade
Oadby
Leicestershire
LE2 5BB

We have now moved to a new office in a small town in Leicestershire. Oadby is famous for Leicester Racecourse, the University of Leicester Botanical Garden and now, of course, the UKCPA.

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www.twitter.com/UKCPAChair

www.twitter.com/UKCPA

www.facebook.com/UK.Clinical.Pharmacy.Association

www.linkedin.com (United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association)

New telephone number!

Tel: 0116 2714894

www.ukcpa.org



Where can I find the UK's most experienced clinical pharmacists under one roof, sharing their expert knowledge?



What do a Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, a recovered heroin addict, CQC inspections and an innovative clinical pharmacy service all have in common?



Where can I find education sessions delivered by clinical pharmacy experts aimed at Foundation and Faculty level, and for both generalist and specialist practitioners?



Would you like advice about putting together a business case?
Need to know everything about clinical governance?
Would you like to improve your mentoring skills?
Would you like one-to-one advice on getting your Faculty portfolio together?
Are there ways of becoming more resilient when faced with stressful situations?



Would you like to learn about how to support your pre-registration trainees through the new GPhC registration assessment?
Would you like to know more about getting involved in research?



Would you like to know more about the management of respiratory conditions, the urgent care agenda, how to manage patients in the peri-operative period, monitoring the safety of new medicines or confidently choosing diabetes treatments?

ANSWER:

At the UKCPA Autumn Symposium!

13 -14 November 2015, Leicester

**Come and meet the
clinical pharmacy experts**

www.ukcpa.org/events/conferences

UKCPA

CLINICAL PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

13 -14 November 2015

Autumn Symposium

The Marriott Hotel, Leicester

Come and meet the clinical pharmacy experts

- ◆ Interactive workshops on clinical and core topics, including:
 - * Improving your personal resilience
 - * Making every contact count
 - * RPS Faculty: Walking you through the journey
 - * Mentoring and coaching
 - * How to choose diabetes treatments
 - * Pharmacy and the urgent care agenda
 - * Investigating medication incidents
- ◆ Inspiring keynote presentations
- ◆ Innovative research and award presentations
- ◆ Plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues
- ◆ Medical exhibition

[www.ukcpa.org/events/
conferences](http://www.ukcpa.org/events/conferences)

Booking now open!

Research team awarded UKCPA grant to evaluate pharmacy technician support

A research team at the University of Manchester have been awarded the UKCPA-PRUK Clinical Pharmacy Research Grant for 2015-16. Their year long project, named TECHMED, will involve a randomized controlled trial of a technician-led intervention within an NHS teaching hospital.

The aim of the study is to find out whether introducing a pharmacy technician to support nurse drug administration rounds in a NHS teaching hospital can reduce the number of omitted doses when compared to wards where this technician support is not provided.

Principal Investigator, Dr Richard Keers (pictured right), says *“Omitted doses of medication are a concern for many NHS hospitals as some have the potential to cause patient harm. The TECHMED study aims to minimise the burden of omitted doses for inpatients by enabling pharmacy technicians and nursing staff to work together during medication administration rounds on the ward.”*



I am delighted that UKCPA can support this work. It is vital that UKCPA continue to support practitioners in developing research skills and in adding to the evidence base around the value of the pharmacy team in clinical settings.

Ann Page, UKCPA Chair

“This collaborative approach may therefore support patients to receive the full benefit from their prescribed treatment, help to strengthen relationships between pharmacy and nursing staff in solving medication administration challenges, whilst also highlighting important ways to develop pharmaceutical services in the future.”

The UKCPA General Secretary reported that Dr Keers and his team submitted an excellent application alongside other very strong candidates. *“The grant awarding panel was impressed with the robust design of the study, the high calibre and highly motivated research team, and the opportunities that the project presented to develop the research skills of the practitioners involved”*, says Dr Sarah Carter.

Dr Keers is grateful for the opportunity that this grant has provided: *“As an early career pharmacist researcher, the Clinical Pharmacy Research Grant will play a vital role in supporting me to develop my research skills, particularly project management, statistical analysis techniques and leadership.”*

The next round of applications for the UKCPA-PRUK Clinical Pharmacy Research Grant will be invited in February 2016.

[Keep an eye on updates on the website and via email messages.](#)

See our interview with Richard Keers on page 8

Five UKCPA members win prestigious Royal Pharmaceutical Society awards

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) announced the winners of their prestigious awards at the RPS Annual Conference last month. We are delighted and proud to see that five awards went to UKCPA members.

Surely that's not a coincidence...

- * **Satinder Bhandal** of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust won the Clinical pharmacist of the year award
- * **Philip Newland-Jones** won the Leadership in pharmacy award
- * **Diane Ashiru-Oredope** of Public Health England won the Public health pharmacist of the year award
- * **Sياما Kausar** won the Student of the year award
- * **Trudi Hilton** was given a Special recognition award for her humanitarian work

Other RPS Awards presented were:

- Lifetime achievement award: Raymond Fitzpatrick, clinical director of pharmacy at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Excellence in education award: Roohi Mehra, from the University of Hertfordshire
- Preregistration pharmacist of the year: Saran Amin
- Commendation for contribution to pharmaceutical science: Claire Thompson, co-founder and director at NanoScientium
- Pharmacy Research UK award: David Alldred, associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Leeds



New Chair of RPS Panel of Fellows

Dr Gill Hawksworth (pictured right), UKCPA Trustee and other accolades far too many to list here, has been appointed Chair of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Panel of Fellows.

The Panel, appointed by the RPS Assembly, reviews all Fellowship nominations and has the authority to designate Members to be Fellows.

Being appointed a Fellow of the Society is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed upon members of



the pharmacy professional body. Fellowship is an honour which recognises those individuals who have attained

distinction in their pharmacy career.

As Fellowships are based on nominations from Members, they signify the esteem in which the individual is held by his or her peers.



Member achievements

Committee member of the UKCPA Pain Management Group **Yousaf Ahmad** is involved with an exciting piece of work in Tayside developing the knowledge and skills of community pharmacists to provide chronic pain consultations.

The 'Teach and Treat' scheme has already been proven in ophthalmology and now addresses chronic pain management, improving working relationships between specialist services and pharmacists providing front line services.

Mark Gilchrist and colleagues **Paul Wade, Diane Ashiru-Oredope, Philip Howard, Jacqueline Sneddon, Laura Whitney** and **Hayley Wickens** have published an article in *Infectious Diseases and Therapy*.

The article describes the evolution of the antimicrobial pharmacist role, its impact, the progress toward the actions listed in the UK five-year resistance strategy, and novel emerging areas in stewardship in the UK.

[See the article here](#)

We love hearing about and sharing good news and excellent practice, so please let us know of your achievements (or those of your colleagues if they are too modest!).

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Jacqui Sneddon, Chair of the UKCPA Pharmacy Infection Network, is now the UKCPA representative on the Royal College of Physicians Joint Specialty Committee for Infectious Diseases.

The work of **Diane Harris**, committee member of the UKCPA Pharmacy Infection Network, across four Derbyshire CCGs has been highly commended by PrescQIPP.

This work involves educational meetings for prescribers where local GPs explain how they have reduced their prescribing and offer advice and tips for other GPs. The initiative also includes treatment guidelines, protocols on GP computer systems, education sessions for dentists, community pharmacists and district nurses, CQUIN contracts for Out of Hours prescribing, and education in over 180 schools.

Several UKCPA members have been asked to join the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Antimicrobial Expert Advisory Group.

Philip Howard, Paul Wade, Hayley Wickens, Kieran Hand, Harpal Dhillon, Jacqueline Sneddon, Alison Cockburn, Diane Ashiru-Oredope, Diane Harris, Mark Gilchrist, Laura Whitney and **Esmita Charani** will all provide expertise on antimicrobial stewardship, resistance, infection prevention and management and related issues which impact on the pharmacy profession and the public.

[More information can be found here](#)

Spotlight on: Richard Keers



We want to celebrate our members and their professional achievements. In this issue of *In Focus* we interview

Richard Keers, recipient of the 2015 Clinical Pharmacy Research Grant.

How did you get where you are today?

During my postgraduate clinical diploma studies, I had the opportunity to learn about the positive impact of health services research as well as the different methods available to conduct my own projects. Whilst I continued to enjoy my roles in secondary care clinical pharmacy I knew that my future career should be more research oriented.

I was then extremely fortunate to be successful in applying for a PhD at Manchester Pharmacy School, The University of Manchester which had a focus on medicines administration safety in hospital settings. Since completing my PhD studies in 2014, I now work at Manchester Pharmacy School as a lecturer whilst continuing with a patient facing role in mental health hospital pharmacy.

What keeps you motivated in your work?

Being continuously challenged at both a personal and professional level to adapt, improve and find pragmatic solutions to clinical problems. It also helps that I am my own severest critic!

What is your next professional challenge?

To apply for Faculty membership of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

What's the best thing about UKCPA?

There are actually three! Access to research funding support for early career researchers to carry out innovative projects, the opportunity to attend clinical pharmacy training events and conferences, and the availability of online discussion forums with specialist colleagues for advice and support.

What do you think are the most valuable qualities someone should possess in order to be a good Pharmacist?

To listen to patients and make their holistic needs your primary concern; to appraise available evidence, come to a decision, and



justify your position; to recognise and not be afraid to embrace your own professional limitations; and finally, to never be satisfied with anything less than the best you can achieve.

Who or what inspires you?

There are people I work with who are very supportive and have inspirational vision for health care services, safety and patient care. In the patient safety field I regularly see publications and reports identifying new challenges in health care services as well as exciting opportunities to plan and test new ways to improve care. However, without my wife I would not be here today and it is her, and now my son, who are my main inspirations in life.

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing the profession today?

With new and exciting roles for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in places like general practice and accident and emergency, as well as shifting responsibilities in established roles following the more widespread use of prescribing skills, the profession must now focus on establishing our presence in these settings and gathering evidence of our impact using robust health services research.

Tell us something people don't know about you.

I love cult British comedies!

One of our General Committee members, **Aamer Safdar**, has recently been invited to sit on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Social Media Expert panel.

The role of the Expert Panel is to discuss how the RPS can optimise its social media use, adopt new social media tools effectively, measure success and share good practice with staff and members.

The Panel also oversees the outputs of a working group within the RPS, reviewing and approving new resources such as social media user guides produced for members and made available through the social media toolkit in the members' area of the RPS website.



Aamer can be followed on Twitter as [@asafdar1](#)



Aamer is a prolific tweeter and an advocate of the professional use of social media. He is also working on a social media MPharm project with King's College London, a collaboration with @WePharmacists and De Montford University.

Aamer's top tips for social media use

- * Do not post unkind things online
- * Do not post threats online
- * Do not post offensive comments online
- * Follow policies in place
- * Make use of social media professionally and personally to keep up to date and network



As well as a social media expert, **Aamer** (pictured left) also has expertise in education and training, particularly tutoring pre-registration trainee pharmacists. As such, he was

delighted to accept the invitation to sit on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Pre-registration Advisory Group.

The role of this group is to support the RPS in providing guidance and tools for pre-registration tutors and pre-registration trainees. This can be done by giving advice, mentoring, through the use of networks and through guidance documents.

The group is newly formed and consists of a range of pharmacists and trainees from across England, Wales

and Scotland. The role and purpose of the group will be clarified at an inaugural meeting in October 2015.

This is an exciting opportunity for the UKCPA and its existing collaboration with the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA), the official student organisation of the RPS. We can continue to work together to support our pre-registration trainees in addition to providing support and advice to the RPS in terms of pre-registration tutors and their training needs with respect to clinical pharmacy and clinical decision making. The GPhC registration assessment will be changing from June 2016 and the importance of clinical decision making and reasoned judgement will be paramount.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the UKCPA and the BPSA to support pre-registration trainees."

Find your support network

Our members have told us that the number one benefit of their UKCPA membership is the online networks.

The UKCPA website hosts online networks on all the specialties that UKCPA covers, plus more on non-clinical areas such as leadership and management.

Each forum has hundreds of members who are contributing, responding, asking questions, or just taking all the information in.

There is something going on at all hours of the day and night. If you work in a specialty, this online connection is vital, particularly if you work in isolation as you are able to contact other specialists regardless of their geographical location.

If you don't work in a specialty they are equally as valuable, as you can tap into the expertise in several therapeutic areas to gather the information that you need.

Our members tell us that the ability to contact an expert or a peer via the online networks is hugely valuable. They can seek advice, share best practice, gather information, find other practitioners, and generally support each other.

"The peer support from the online networks has been the backbone of my career progression and, more importantly, helps me care for patients in my day-to-day practice."

"Fast, friendly, experience-based answers from peers to help you out in a tricky situation."

To get full use of the online networks, go to:

www.ukcpa.org/groups and join any groups you like

Find your support network with

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