

# ANNUAL REVIEW

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2015

# Continuing to lead the profession



Ash Soni OBE,  
President.

Helen Gordon,  
Chief Executive.

Royal Pharmaceutical  
Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is confident about the contribution and impact that pharmacists have on the lives of millions of people in the community and in hospitals across Great Britain, through their expert knowledge of medicines and delivery of high quality patient-centred care. The role we are fulfilling ensures that pharmacists' skills and talents are developed so that they can be the best they can be, and ensure their development of expertise and impact in healthcare is recognised, across all settings and, crucially, by the public.

As the RPS marked its 5th anniversary in 2015 all sectors of pharmacy continued to face significant challenges. There is pressure to drive up standards whilst resources remain constrained. The need for strong, progressive leadership, support and services from a forward thinking and dynamic professional body has never been greater. The RPS is committed to delivering on this for pharmacy.

In 2015 we continued our call across all three countries for the NHS to fully integrate pharmacists' expertise into the multidisciplinary team, and ensure the value of this was recognised by commissioners, politicians and stakeholders. We campaigned across Great Britain for

pharmacists to have full access to patients' health records, for example, which will help integrate pharmacy into the NHS. The ability to represent members in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as across all areas of pharmacy, is a key strength that has paid dividends with increasing proof of our influence and leadership across Great Britain.

The RPS has seen significant developments in the last year, none more so than in our publishing division. In September Pharmaceutical Press launched the redesigned *British National Formulary* (BNF). This will better facilitate digital production for the future, improve user experience, and bring information into one place in the print format. These achievements are matched with a sound financial and resourcing strategy that has allowed the RPS to invest and plan for the future.

2015 was the year we said goodbye to Lambeth and relocated to our fantastic new headquarters at 66–68 East Smithfield. The building showcases the Society's proud history and leading role within the pharmaceutical profession across England, Scotland and Wales. It is a facility for all members to enjoy with the very latest in modern meeting and conference facilities, and we look forward to welcoming those of you who are still to see the new building.

In this review we outline our major achievements in 2015, including the growing status of our Faculty and Foundation programmes. 2016 will see the RPS continue to lead the profession, recognise our members' expertise,

support and develop pharmacists as well as provide world leading medicines information. We look forward to working with the profession to improve patient care and the public's health in the year ahead.

**"The role we are fulfilling ensures that pharmacists' skills and talents are developed so that they can be the best they can be"**

**"Our new permanent home is an excellent location to serve our members and enables the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to continue to represent and support the profession at the highest level."**

Ash Soni,  
President



# 2015 in numbers

## 4.2m



Number of times RPS website pages viewed

## 70

Over 70 pieces of digital content produced by the RPS including videos, podcasts and infographics



## 60

Over 60 RPS blog posts

## 5.4%



Growth of RPS Members and Fellows



## 400

The RPS and its spokespeople appeared in national and regional media on average once a day in 2015 – over 400 pieces of media coverage

## +20

Constituency pharmacy visits for MPs, MSPs and AMs



## 86

pharmacists entered our

I Love My Pharmacist competition across GB

## 4,000

members of the public voted in the competition

## 4m

a media reach of 4 million

## 18,000



RPS Facebook page 'likes' up by 82% to over 18,000

Combined @rpharms @RPS\_Wales @RPSScotland had over 17,000 followers in 2015



Our LinkedIn followers grew by 105% in 2015 to

## 14,340

## 58,098



Medicines, Ethics and Practice downloaded 58,098 times

## 2,280,800

unique visitors to pharmaceutical-journal.com in 2015

## 21.5m

Searches conducted on MedicinesComplete in 2015

There are now almost

## 1,000

early career pharmacists completing Foundation Training at an RPS accredited Pharmacy School or Training Provider

We dealt with

## 8,875

professional support enquiries

## 155

155 RPS members achieved membership or fellowship of the RPS Faculty



# Campaigning for policy changes

**“Pharmacy Research UK engaged in research policy, working to improve the national landscape and infrastructure for pharmacy research and education”**

The RPS led on the most important issues for members in 2015. The opinions expressed by members at LPF meetings and online were used to inform RPS Board policy decisions.

The RPS is committed to robust and effective advocacy, which has enhanced the impact of our policy work. Sandra Gidley, RPS English Pharmacy Board Chair, gave evidence to the House of Commons Health Select Committee and All-Party Pharmacy Group in 2015.

Under the banner ‘Shaping Pharmacy for the Future’, the **English Board** led work to promote the potential for pharmacists to undertake more patient care roles. In March 2015, the English Board launched a campaign to increase numbers of pharmacists working alongside GPs in surgeries. Extensive work

with the media, Westminster and Whitehall, and joint working with the Royal College of General Practitioners, played a major part in securing £31m of funding to facilitate pharmacists working in GP surgeries.

The English Board led a campaign for pharmacists to have access to the electronic patient record, engaging with key stakeholders. As a result, the Government announced the roll-out of a programme in England that gives pharmacists access to the summary care record, to be completed by March 2017. Work is ongoing to gain acceptance for pharmacists to have full read/write access to the electronic

patient record across Great Britain.

Local practice forums (LPFs) in England have been extremely supportive of the RPS ‘Shaping Pharmacy for the Future’ campaigns. Twelve LPFs hosted an event on one of the 2015 campaigns, encouraging members to take action at a local level.

The **Scottish Board**, working in partnership with Community Pharmacy Scotland and the NHS directors of pharmacy, produced a joint pharmacy submission into the Scottish Government’s ‘Review of Out of Hours Provision in Primary Care’. This, and the RPS policy on assisted dying, resulted in RPS representatives speaking to the Health and Sport Committee in Holyrood.

As part of comprehensive policy work throughout 2015 in Scotland, a highlight was the production of a policy paper on ‘Seven Day Working’, which was submitted as written evidence to the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee’s evidence taking session on seven day working.

The Scottish Board also developed a manifesto for the 2016 Scottish parliamentary elections, which was well received by current and prospective MSPs.

The **Welsh Board** published ‘Steps to Better Health and Wellbeing’, a vision for pharmacy in Wales, to influence public policy in time for the 2016 Assembly Elections.

The board in Wales followed up on the

2014 ‘Your Care Your Medicines’ vision for pharmacy in Wales, and engaged with the Prudent Prescribing Implementation Group in order to produce a joint all-Wales policy on Models of Care for Pharmacy within Primary Care Clusters.

The Welsh Board also began engagement with the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales on co-working to improve quality and safety of medicines use in care homes.

Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK) engaged in research policy, working to improve the national landscape and infrastructure for pharmacy research and education. The charity responded to and created three consultations and briefings since the initiation of their research policy programme in October 2015.

Expert advisory groups for hospital pharmacy and antimicrobials were established in 2015, and a pre-registration advisory group was also set up.

The Pharmaceutical Science Expert Advisory Panel continued their work to deliver on the recommendations of the ‘New Medicines, Better Medicines, Better Use of Medicines Guide’ on patient safety, new technologies, the evidence base for pharmacy, and antibiotics. Meanwhile, we gave lectures and participated in public debates on important issues in pharmaceutical science, including antimicrobial resistance, payment for medicines and personalised medicine.



## OUR MEMBERS

EMILY ROSE

**Winner of I Love My Pharmacist in 2015, Emily Rose works at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. She was chosen by the I Love My Pharmacist judging panel as the National Winner due to her outstanding contribution to rheumatoid arthritis care. Emily designed a new pathway for appropriate prescribing and monitoring of arthritis medication to ensure patients are getting the treatment that is right for them. Emily is one of our many members who go the extra mile for patients on a daily basis.**

# +20

Constituency pharmacy visits for Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly Members.



# Ensuring the value of pharmacists is understood

**“The RPS featured in national and regional media once a day on average in 2015”**

**79**

submissions and nominations across nine categories in the RPS Awards 2015



Over 400 pieces of media coverage throughout the year.

Throughout 2015, the RPS continued to increase the public’s recognition of pharmacists’ expertise, as well as stakeholders, politicians and other healthcare professionals.

In 2015, the RPS had success with several initiatives, including the ‘I Love My Pharmacist’ competition that ran for a second year. Nearly 4,000 members of the public voted for their favourite pharmacist, with widespread recognition of the profession reaching almost 4 million people through media channels. ‘I Love My Pharmacist 2016’ has now launched and we hope for even more success in the year ahead.

In 2015, the RPS featured in national and regional media once a day on average, with more than 400 pieces of media coverage throughout the year. We spoke on a wide range of topics, including pharmacists in GP surgeries, antimicrobial resistance, dinitrophenol (DNP) and the dangers of buying drugs online, and calls for clearer labelling on sunscreen. Our spokespeople appeared on a range of programmes, including BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 4 Today, Sky News, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, STV News and BBC Radio Wales. We also featured in print media, such as *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail*, *The Scotsman*, and the *Western Mail*. None of this would have been possible without the support of RPS members, who give up their time and use their expertise to advise the public on a range of subjects.

The RPS continued to raise the profile of pharmacy with both patients and the public by engaging with patient representative organisations. This led to the production of ‘The Role of Pharmacy in Delivering Person-Centred Care’, for example. In Scotland, the team hosted and delivered engagement seminars for representatives from various patient groups, including Alzheimer Scotland, Parkinson’s UK, Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Asthma UK and Carers’ Trust. These patient perspectives informed our work and helped shape the RPS Scotland 2016 manifesto.

Continuing its recognition of the expertise of pharmacists, the RPS Faculty welcomed 155 new members and Fellows in 2015. Faculty submission was opened up to members with between two and ten years post-registration experience and a quarter of the submissions were received from this group. In 2016, we will continue to develop the Faculty submission portal and resources to improve the process and introduce monthly submission points to widen access to assessments and reduce the time it takes to receive awards.

Through our Foundation Accreditation programme, we recognised three higher education institutions and two community

pharmacy employers for their high quality Foundation Training programmes that support the professional development of pharmacists in their first 1,000 days of practice. There are now almost 1,000 early career pharmacists completing Foundation Training at an RPS accredited pharmacy school or training provider.

The RPS aims to harness the expertise of pharmacy to support and develop the pharmacy evidence base. We were able to share and showcase pharmacy innovation with the RPS ‘Map of Evidence’, which enables the collation of existing evidence and ongoing initiatives that can ultimately inform policy and practice relating to pharmacy. The ‘Map of Evidence’ holds 361 pieces of evidence, with content comprising research, audit, service

evaluation, service development and case studies, and it was accessed more than 4,700 times in 2015.

The flagship Research Ready Community Pharmacy Programme recognised the expertise of individuals by certifying pharmacies to engage in research and evaluation activity. In 2015, 178 pharmacies were certified as Research Ready across the UK.

Through the RPS Awards and Pharmaceutical Care Awards, we continued to recognise and reward excellence and innovative work in pharmacy. In 2015, the RPS Leadership in Pharmacy Award was presented to Philip Newland-Jones, and the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Raymond Fitzpatrick for his outstanding contribution to the profession during his career.



## OUR MEMBERS

SEE MUN

A formulary and procurement pharmacist at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, See Mun is a member of the RPS Faculty. She is participating in the Faculty Champions 2016 programme and will be delivering workshops for the Society on the benefits of Faculty membership, as well as mentoring members through to submission of their Faculty portfolios.



RPS I Love My Pharmacist 2015 Regional Winners, left to right, Helen Watton, David Halliwell, Owain Brooks, Emily Rose, Karen Dolphin, Johnathan Laird





# Helping members become the best they can be

**“Support and development resources were viewed more than 30,000 times in 2015”**

During 2015, the RPS Professional Support service provided support to members on all aspects of practice and professional development, publishing 120 online resources and issuing around 80 online and email support alerts.

In 2015, the RPS published *Medicines, Ethics and Practice* 39 (MEP39); a collection of resources in our patient engagement hub; a dedicated web area for hospital pharmacy teams; a suite of new resources to support pre-registration trainees; resources around the RPS workforce vision; animations to support with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and RPS Faculty; a new edition of Stockley's Drug Interactions Pocket Companion; medicines optimisation briefings; webinars and resources about biologics and biosimilars; and a research and evaluation handbook.

The RPS is encouraging members to gain new roles, for example working in GP practices, care homes and urgent and emergency care. In 2015, we developed an “ultimate guide” for pharmacists working in GP practices, in addition to a range of supporting materials, a job description and a series of webinars.

Many events were held across Great Britain, including nine pre-registration mock assessment and revision courses, with more than 1,700 pre-registration members attending, and several masterclasses on the topic of pharmacists working in GP surgeries.

We also supported students at university fresher and career events. Events were held across all three countries to support members with their RPS Faculty journey and the RPS Foundation Programme.

Around 120 delegates attended our first RPS Scottish National Seminar ‘Pharmacy working together to advance quality’, focusing on four main themes: supporting professional development; quality in practice; promoting effective joint working; and embedding research into practice.

Throughout 2015 we continued to support members to develop confidence and recognise competence in delivering research. This has included a dedicated ‘Getting Research Ready’ workshop at the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference, LPF visits, and development of an ‘Introduction to Research Ready’ webinar in collaboration with the English Clinical Research Network. We provided dedicated advice, guidance and coaching on research engagement and activity. We continue to coach members in research capacity building grants and fellowship support through both an RPS research advisory role and PRUK research funding.

**WINNER**



In 2015, *The Pharmaceutical Journal* received an award of excellence for its overall redesign

**“Monitoring the way members use *The Pharmaceutical Journal* has helped us decide the next steps”.**

**32,500**

members and subscribers received *The Pharmaceutical Journal* in December 2015

We also relocated the RPS Museum to our new building in East Smithfield and provided members with free access to electronic databases, e-books and e-journals via our online library services.

In 2015, we rolled out a political monitoring service for members across England, Scotland and Wales to provide information about developments in policy and we continued to keep members up-to-date with health stories in the media through ‘Today's Headlines’.

As part of the Pharmacy Professional Sponsorship Scheme, we supported pharmacy students from overseas studying at universities in Great Britain by providing certificates of sponsorship for the 2015/16 pre-registration year.

Over the past year, we have been monitoring the way members and readers use *The Pharmaceutical Journal* in print and online, what matters to them most, and what they would like to see changed. This has informed and helped us decide the next steps for our product development programme. *The Pharmaceutical Journal's* print frequency changed from weekly to monthly, and all members now receive *Clinical Pharmacist* as part of their membership. In 2015, *The Pharmaceutical Journal* received an award of excellence for its overall redesign.

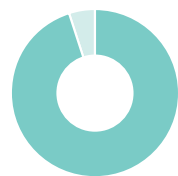


**OUR MEMBERS**  
MALCOLM CLUBB

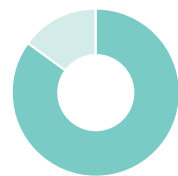
As an active member of the RPS in Scotland Malcolm Clubb helps fellow professionals access and use IT infrastructure to support the care of their patients on a day to day basis. Malcolm is keen that the profession gains access to online patient records to support the delivery of patient care portfolios.

# Enabling members to advance in their careers

**“Around 3,000 practitioners are building their Faculty portfolios”**



95% of students are members



85% of pre-registration pharmacists are members

**400**

credentialed Faculty members and Fellows

The RPS aims to ensure members are supported during every stage of their career, from day one as a student to career end, across all sectors and areas of expert practice.

Since 2010, the RPS has changed the way it delivers career development support. In 2010, there was no membership category for student or pre-registration pharmacists. In 2015, almost 95% of students and more than 85% of pre-registration pharmacists were members.

We spent time developing undergraduate students through our Student Training Programme in 2015, providing third-year students with peer-to-peer recommendation to use RPS resources in their studies. In Scotland, we engaged with all NHS Education for Scotland (NES) pre-registration pharmacists by providing course input throughout the year, including integration of the RPS pre-registration mock exam into

the NES mock exam day. We supported the development of 2,500 pre-registration pharmacists across Great Britain by attending 50 study days, and with a new suite of resources and tools, including preparation for the new style registration assessment and day one practice.

The 'RPS Tutor Guidance' was launched in October for members tutoring pharmacists at any stage of their career, but particularly pre-registration and Foundation tutors. The guidance aims to help new tutors, and those planning to become a tutor, obtain an overview of the role and identify or develop the relevant knowledge, skills, experiences and behaviours to perform the role effectively. We also developed a suite of resources to support



Pre-reg members attending our mock assessment and revision courses

mentors and mentees across the profession.

Our post-registration career development programmes, the Foundation Programme and the Faculty, continue to grow. We now have more than 3,000 practitioners building their Faculty portfolios, and over 400 credentialed Faculty members and Fellows. We worked to review the purpose of the RPS Faculty to align it with the RPS Foundation programme, ensuring it was clear that the RPS strives to support career progression from day one in practice to career end, through support for professional development and recognition of achievement. During 2015 we expanded our range of Foundation Programme resources, including seven quick reference guides, five instructional videos and accompanying podcasts, to support both Foundation pharmacists and tutors.

In Wales, we worked with chief pharmacists to establish the place of RPS career development programmes throughout the country. The Cwm Taf University Health Board released a position statement declaring that all pharmacists should be members of their professional body and should engage with the RPS Faculty and achieve membership at an appropriate level. In England, 18 LPFs supported local members on their Faculty journey by hosting events to help them build their portfolio. Events were also held in Scotland and Wales.

A year-long joint RPS/NES Education Project was completed in 2015 and a subsequent report outlined recommendations for the Scottish Government and key stakeholders. This project reviewed postgraduate vocational training in Scotland and the RPS Foundation Programme and Faculty, with a view to achieving better alignment to enable and maximise the delivery of the aspirations and ambitions of the Scottish Government's 'Prescription for Excellence – Vision and Action Plan'.

Our work across scientific disciplines included an event for Qualified Persons where more than 150 individuals were supported in their development at the 14th Joint QP Symposium: QP responsibilities and the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The RPS encouraged pharmacies to become research active and to support the professional development of pharmacists to undertake and deliver research. In 2015, PRUK awarded £150k to research projects, including continuing collaborations with the Daphne Jackson Trust and the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA), and sponsored a number of events that aimed to build research capacity and promote pharmacy research evidence. The charity also ran the Health Service Research & Pharmacy Practice Conference; the only national dedicated pharmacy health service research conference.



## OUR MEMBERS

TIM BANNER

As a Consultant Pharmacist in the Cardiff and Vale area Tim Banner has worked closely with the RPS to lead on pharmacy involvement in community healthcare. With this specialist interest in the area of community healthcare he was drawn to the RPS to help influence improvements in medicines management in care homes.



# Sharing ideas and information with colleagues

**“There was a 25% increase in attendees at RPS events”**



**18,000**

Royal Pharmaceutical Facebook page ‘likes’ up by 82% to over 18,000



**14,340**

Our LinkedIn followers grew by 105% in 2015 to 14,340

Through local and national events, online groups, and social media, the RPS ensures that members can network with their peers to further their professional development, and optimise patient care.

RPS events provide a place for debate on important issues. In 2015, interest in our events grew, with a 25% increase in attendees nationally. There were 11,000 bookings for events, including the Faculty reception, Fellows dinner and the RPS 5th birthday celebrations. The highlight of the year was our Annual Conference, which had around 400 delegates and trended twice on Twitter. Keynote speakers included Dr Pat Oakley from King’s College London, Duncan Selbie, the Chief Executive of Public Health England, and Roy Lilley, NHS commentator and blogger.

Our 48 LPFs are spread throughout Great Britain to ensure that members have access to networking opportunities in their area. In 2015, LPFs in England held 200 events and conferences with more than 4,700 pharmacists attending.

The RPS also reached out to pharmacists at other conferences, workshops and seminars throughout the year. RPS representatives attended the Pharmacy Show, PharmSci and College of Mental Health Pharmacy conferences, as well as pre-registration and student events.

RPS Scotland held some successful events in 2015, including ‘Prescription for Excellence

– it’s happening now!’, a joint conference with NHS Education for Scotland, seeking to highlight the developments of the ‘Prescription for Excellence’ plans; this event gained the approval of the Scottish Government with speakers including Alpana Mair, Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, and Evelyn McPhail, Director of Pharmacy at Fife NHS Board. More than 200 delegates attended.

In Wales, the 5th Annual Medicines Safety Conference, co-hosted with 1000 Lives Improvement, welcomed 150 delegates from a range of sectors, industries and specialties. Speakers included Vaughan Gething, Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Health, and Dr Bruce Warner, Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer at NHS England.

The RPS has an active presence on social media and this continues to be a fundamental part of how we connect with our members. We now have more than 17,000 followers across our three main Twitter accounts (@rpharms, @RPSScotland, @RPS\_Wales) and around 18,000 likes on Facebook, representing a large proportion of pharmacists online. Our Facebook groups are active communities allowing pharmacists to network with one another; the 2015 pre-registration group has

2,500 members and the recently qualified pharmacist group has almost 2,000 members.

Our 142 online groups and LPF virtual networks had around 5,000 posts on a variety of topics in 2015. As well as sector specific forums, other online communities for pharmacists include the Research and Evaluation Network, Humanitarian Aid and Response Network, and the Retired Pharmacists Group. The Women in Pharmacy Group launched in 2015 and has almost 300 members.

The RPS website is an essential resource

for pharmacists and this is reflected in usage statistics. In 2015 there were over 4 million page views with more than 500,000 visitors from 211 countries.

Through events, social media and virtual networks we continue to connect our members to ensure that pharmacists are able to pool knowledge and expertise. By growing our level of engagement we aim to expand the level of support we are able to offer pharmacists, and maximise the impact that members have on patients.



## OUR MEMBERS

LIZ ARTHUR

Since Liz Arthur took the reins as the lead of Jersey LPF, it has progressed dramatically and now offers RPS members in Jersey a place to network, learn and keep abreast of important pharmacy matters. Going from strength to strength, Jersey won the LPF of the Year 2015, as part of the RPS Awards, for making the most progress.



RPS President Ash Soni at the RPS Annual Conference 2015 – top left; RPS I Love My Pharmacist Regional Winner for Scotland Johnathan Laird with Nanette Milne MSP – top right; delegates at the RPS Annual Conference 2015 – bottom left; Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Health Vaughan Gething



# Providing medicines information on various platforms

**“A redesign of the BNF has enabled clearer, faster and easier access to the information required”**

The RPS is committed to providing information on a range of subjects in a variety of formats for healthcare professionals and students, from reference works and professional journals to member specific reports.

During 2015, Pharmaceutical Press – the publishing arm of the RPS – continued to provide specialist, up-to-date medicines information. This included new editions in print, online and e-Book formats of the *Orange Guide (Rules and Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors)* and the *Green Guide (Rules and Guidance for Pharmaceutical Distributors)*; *Handbook of Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes*; *Stockley's Drug Interactions Pocket Companion*; and *Clinical Pharmacy Pocket Companion*.

To help students through their pharmacy and pre-registration exams, we published new editions of our learning and revision

guides – among them were *ONTrack*, our digital revision aid for undergraduates and pre-registration students; the fourth in our successful Registration Exam Questions series; and a new edition of the popular *Physicochemical Principles of Pharmacy*.

In 2015, we introduced a new content management system, enabling the editorial team to work more efficiently. Our next task was a major project to deliver a new BNF user experience. The BNF on MedicinesComplete and all three BNF print products were redesigned and reformatted, giving clearer, faster and easier access to the information required. This not only paves the way for future digital developments to be

implemented, but also provides an improved set of products for use in today's modern healthcare environment. We continue to provide up-to-date, independent prescribing information with two print editions of the BNF per year, in addition to digital access via MedicinesComplete, the *NICE BNF* app, and the NHS Evidence website. In 2015, we began work on our own BNF app, which will be launched later in 2016.

In 2015 we developed a variety of new resources for members, including guidance on “specials” and unlicensed medicines, guidance on biosimilars, repeat medicines, collection and delivery services and sodium valproate, and a new Near Miss Error Log for pharmacy teams.

We often work with other membership bodies to produce joint reports on medicines information, and 2015 was no exception. We successfully delivered a joint Royal College of Nursing and RPS report on helping patients make the most of their medicines.

Pharmaceutical Press continues to support pharmacists to improve healthcare for the benefit of patients and the public. To this end, PRUK funded three research projects related to improving the quality of medicines information, led by the University of Manchester, the University of Bradford and the University of East Anglia. A total of 11 projects on the current PRUK portfolio directly seek to build the evidence base

around medicines information.

Throughout 2015, we developed the content and applied new quality standards to *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. Features on interesting topics within the scope of pharmacy and science are becoming points of reference in the industry for the subjects they cover. For example, we have had encouraging unsolicited feedback from Adrian Hutber, Vice President of the Exercise is Medicine initiative at the American College of Sports Medicine, on our feature ‘Tracking down the optimum dose of exercise’. Another feature, ‘A visual guide to the Ebola virus epidemic’, won the Data Journalism Award at the Medical Journalists' Association. Our opinion pieces are contributing to ongoing discussions and sparking new debates about healthcare and science, while our career articles have attracted thousands of readers and encourage pharmacists to look beyond predefined boundaries to further their careers.

*The Pharmaceutical Journal* team also worked towards relaunching *Clinical Pharmacist* as a peer-reviewed journal at the beginning of January 2016.

Lastly, we recognise the increasing demand for access to online medicines information. We have continued to enhance our flagship digital product, MedicinesComplete, with the addition of new content and a new tool designed to help users answer drug interaction queries.

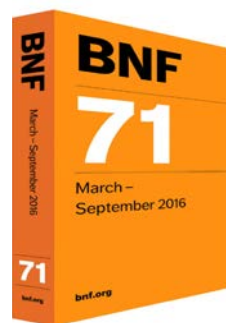


## OUR MEMBERS

NINA BARNETT

As a Consultant Pharmacist working with older people Nina Barnett is based in secondary care (NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service and London North West Healthcare NHS Trust). The issue of medicines adherence, supporting people to take their medicines in a way that works for them is very close to Nina's heart. She has taken her own initiative to help pharmacists develop skills in how to best undertake a medicines review that really puts the person at the centre of the consultation.

PRUK funded 3 research projects related to improving the quality of medicines information



In September Pharmaceutical Press launched the redesigned BNF



Pharmaceutical Press led on the relaunch of *Clinical Pharmacist* as a peer-reviewed journal. It was relaunched in January 2016

# Income and expenditure

“This has been a year of moving towards financial balance after an intense period of sustained investment. That journey continues into 2016, underpinned by a sound financial and resourcing strategy that will allow us to invest and plan for the future”

During 2015 the RPS developed the role of pharmacists in patient care through recognition of their skills as well as producing guidance, support and medicines information for the profession.

In 2015 the RPS continued to invest in new products and services for its members and customers and so planned an operating deficit as we build a strong base for the Society. The investments have generated increased revenues in membership and publications, and with tight control over expenditure, the operating result was better than budget. We are still on our planned journey to break even in 2017 and beyond.

The relocation to new headquarters has given us the opportunity to right size our property assets to fit with the needs of the organisation, now and for the future. Along with investing in our new London headquarters, this has generated realised and unrealised book profits of £12.3m in 2015 and a net increase in our cash reserves of £2.8m. Together with asset revaluations, this has improved the strength of our balance sheet in 2015 significantly, from net assets of £10.9m to £26.2m at the end of 2015.

The RPS placed £10m of its reserves in a Diversified Growth Fund, investing in a variety of asset classes, designed to achieve long-term capital growth for the Society, a foundation for long term sustainability and growth of the Society in its efforts to serve members and customers.

Year on year revenues generated from digital formats of publications have increased by 12%, demonstrating the desirability of more flexible online medicines information by health professionals, alongside our printed resources.

RPS Members and Fellows grew by 5.4%, increasing both in number and diversity, reflecting the success of the career-stage focus on

member services offered by the RPS Foundation programme and the RPS Faculty.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* continued to evolve in 2015, along with *Clinical Pharmacist* which was relaunched in January 2016 and is now available to all members in new style monthly editions.

Our most important publications, the *BNF* and *BNF for Children*, have been redesigned from the ground up in order to better facilitate digital usage, and bringing the drug information into one place in the print format, we have provided an improved user experience.

Pharmaceutical Press has developed capacity for continuous improvement of its processes to create better products at lower cost and is developing a wider customer base internationally through new sales partnerships.

The relocation of the RPS Headquarters to a modern facility, was funded from the sale of our ageing and underutilized property at Lambeth, and the move brings a substantial saving of £0.4m a year in running costs for the RPS. With this successful relocation complete we now have an excellent London base which we are encouraging RPS members to use. We have also invested in our vibrant offices in Scotland and Wales.

This has been a year of moving towards financial balance after an intense period of sustained investment. That journey continues into 2016, underpinned by a sound financial and resourcing strategy that will allow us to invest and plan for the future. From this investment we anticipate further sales growth in 2017/18, providing the RPS with a solid foundation from which to support its membership and the profession.

Income and expenditure For the year ended 31 December 2015	2015 Total (£'000)	2014 (restated) Total (£'000)
Income	20,745	20,085
Expenditure	(21,850)	(21,552)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(1,105)</b>	<b>(1,467)</b>
Net investment (loss)/gain	634	–
Surplus on disposal of land and buildings	11,724	–
Interest receivable (payable) and similar income	11	12
<b>Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	<b>11,264</b>	<b>(1,455)</b>
Taxation	(163)	–
<b>Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities after taxation</b>	<b>11,101</b>	<b>(1,455)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
Recognition of heritage assets at valuation	3,500	–
Pension scheme actuarial gain / (loss)	879	(4,434)
Deferred tax on scheme liability	(202)	775
<b>Retained surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>15,278</b>	<b>(5,114)</b>

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2015	2015 Total (£'000)	2014 Total (£'000)
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>31,921</b>	<b>18,242</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stock	116	104
Debtors	5,247	4,464
Cash in hand and at bank	1,252	2,108
	6,615	6,676
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(9,206)</b>	<b>(9,401)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>(2,591)</b>	<b>(2,725)</b>
Creditors amounts falling due more than one year	–	(1,200)
Provisions	(378)	–
Pension Scheme Liability	(2,865)	(3,873)
Deferred Taxation	103	468
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>26,190</b>	<b>10,912</b>

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