

Branch Meeting

**Wednesday
25th
February
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Whitehall College,
amicus's educational
facility, located at
Bishop's Stortford,
Hertfordshire

Page 2

- **LRD booklets**
- **amicus—the activist**
- **Scottish NHS Bill progresses**
- **A f C pay rates 'below market'**

Darkroom Disease Down Under

Marlene Barrie, Senior Amicus Rep in South Glasgow, has represented 11 members who have had successful claims for ill health effects as a result of exposure to x-ray film processing chemicals.

None of these claims would have been successful without the research carried out by the late Marjorie Gordon – a New Zealand Radiographer who was the first to connect her ill health with her workplace.

Marjory's daughter Phillippa Martin has now taken over the organisation of a self help

group for the Chemically Injured, and Marlene has recently spent a week with her and members of the group in New Zealand.

As one of these chemicals is also present in sterilising solutions, others who may have been chemically injured include Biomedical Scientists, Pharmacy Technicians, Nurses, Podiatrists and Dentists etc.

If you feel that you may be suffering ill health as a result of chemical exposure at work, you may be interested in the presentation Marlene is giving to this month's Branch Meeting.

Contacts

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Latest LRD Booklets

The Branch subscribes to, and distributes to senior Branch representatives, the Labour Research Department (LRD) booklets on matters connected with industrial relations such as the Working Time Directive, Time-off for Trade Union Duties etc. The latest in the series are now available: 'Pain at Work' and 'Lesbian and Gay Workers' Rights'. Contact your local senior representative for further information or if you wish to borrow a copy of any of the LRD booklets. (P.S. the Labour Research Department is not part of the Labour Party, New or otherwise—the booklets are fact based, not political propaganda)

amicus: the activist

Earlier this month, all amicus group representatives should have received a copy of the union's publication 'the activist'. The launch issue contains numerous articles covering the full range of amicus membership, including the NHS. One item which may be of interest is the launch of the amicus 'top bosses' award. The awards encompass a prestigious award for best employer and an amicus charter mark for employers that meet certain criteria. If you wish to nominate your particular NHS Trust (before it is abolished on 1st April) email topboss@amicus-m.org.

Scottish NHS Bill Progresses

The NHS Reform (Scotland) Bill has passed its first major hurdle in the Scottish Parliament. The Health and Community Care Committee endorsed the general principles of the Bill which, inter alia, abolishes NHS Trusts. However, the committee expressed some concerns over the culture change required to ensure that the NHS and other organisations such as local authorities worked together for the benefit of patients. The committee also queried whether the move away from Trusts would be cost neutral complaining that they 'not been given a breakdown of costs for the new bodies'.

Agenda for Change Pay Rates 'below market rate'

According to management consultants the Hay Group, almost all the pay rates set by Agenda for Change are significantly below the market median for both the public and private sectors. For example, the proposed bands 3 and 4 are about 17% below market rate for the public sector, band 5 is 12% below, band 6 is 6% below. Band 7 is 2% below and band 8a approximately equal. Bands 8b and 8c are 3% above, and 8d is 9% above. However, nearly all of these figures are worse when the comparator is the private sector; for example band 8a is 5% below and band 6 is 9% below market rate.

Branch Meeting Wednesday 25th February

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Darkroom Disease Down Under
4. Correspondence.
5. Reports.
6. Motions.
7. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Thursday 25th March at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG.
(Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

