

# Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 14/7/10

## Group Meetings

There have been no meetings since my last report to Council.

## In the Press

**11.5.10** - As part of a wider campaign to prevent the spread of infection, NHS Grampian is to reduce visiting times at four wards at the infirmary in a month-long trial. Under the scheme, visiting hours will be restricted from the current 2 x 2.5 hours to 2 x 2 hours. The trial will run for a month from 17 May.

**17.5.10** - Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon has offered a guarantee that no NHS employee will face compulsory redundancy amid pressure on budgets. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde announced proposals to shed 1,252 jobs in the next 18 months. "The NHS has a policy of no compulsory redundancies and that will continue to be the case," she said. About half the proposed cuts in NHS Glasgow and Greater Clyde are nursing and midwifery posts, while other jobs to go include administrative and clerical positions. NHS Lothian wants to reduce its workforce by about 2,000.

**18.5.10** - Scotland's Chronic Medication Service has been finalised following lengthy negotiations between Community Pharmacy Scotland and the Scottish Government. A service specification, directions and implementation plan for NHS Boards has now been released by the Scottish Government. Under the agreement, contractors will be expected to create a list of patients eligible for the service, register up to 50 patients by December, assess and develop patients' care plans and dispense any serial prescriptions. An independent review group will oversee this initial phase of the service which will run from May to December 2010. Community Pharmacy Scotland said it was important this new service is introduced in a gradual and phased manner. It has released standard operating procedures for registration, care planning and serial prescriptions for contractors to consult during the initial phase.

**18.5.10** - Guidelines have been issued to make it easier and clearer for patients to access new drugs. Scottish health boards will now follow the same guidance when approving newly licensed medicines. All medicines are covered, including drugs which have not been approved by the Scottish Medicines Consortium. It is intended that the uniform national policy will ensure the same guidance is followed by health boards, regardless of where in Scotland a patient lives.

**24.5.10** - A major project at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee will see the grounds of one of Scotland's largest hospitals transformed into a woodland haven to help boost patients' chances of recovery. Currently, a six-hectare wood in the grounds of the hospital is never used by patients, visitors or staff, and remains largely impenetrable and unmanaged. Studies have shown that even having a good view from a hospital window can help a patient's recovery, and that patients use fewer painkillers if they have a good view. Another study has shown that even five minutes of green exercise can have a positive impact on a person's mental health.

**7.6.10** - A new database set to provide NHS staff with online information on areas such as patient care, clinical practice and research was unveiled by Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon as she launched the Knowledge Network during the opening address at the NHS Scotland Event in Edinburgh. Managed by NHS Education for Scotland the online resource will include a "Google-style" search engine giving instant access to 11 million learning and information resources from over 100 providers as well as personal space for employees to gather information.

## **AfC**

There has been no update on the Review results in *Greater Glasgow & Clyde* for those staff for whom the process is not yet complete. A number of reviews have been sent to STAC to see if they can be resolved.

## **Other**

I have dealt with a number of member queries and one new membership application.

## **George Downie**

It is with regret that I have to report the passing of George Downie, a long-standing member of GHP in the North of Scotland, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010. There have been a number of contributions to the Pharmaceutical Journal from friends and colleagues. I met George when I started attending meetings of the Association of Scottish Trust Chief Pharmacists. He was very supportive of the Guild locally and will be missed.

Colin Rodden  
12.7.10