

# London and South East Pharmacy News

Issue Eight, October 2018

## Inside this issue

Ben Smith - Celebrating 70 Years of the NHS	1 - 2	National Pre-registration Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme	5
Gail Fleming	3	Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician Scheme	5
Team Update	3	Medicines Optimisation Programme	5
Supervisor Training Update	4	Pre and In Process Checking Course for Aseptic Services	6
Qualification and Retention Data (PRP and PTPT)	4		

## My Experience of Celebrating 70 Years of the NHS with an Invitation to 10 Downing Street

Benjamin Smith MPharmT, Pharmacy Technician, APTUK/AAH Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician of the Year 2017, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June was a normal average day, until by pure accident I went onto my NHSmail and found an email sent late on Friday night addressed 'Invitation to a reception at 10 Downing Street to Celebrate 70 Years of the NHS [OFFICIAL]'. My first thought was, this is a scam! Someone is out to wind me up! So I decided to ring Downing Street, like you do. They confirmed this was a genuine event, and I was informed there would be a drinks reception, the Prime Minister would meet a few guests, deliver a speech, meet more guests, and then depart. I felt so honoured to have been invited to such a prestigious event that was simply a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Continued on Page 2

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# My Experience of Celebrating 70 Years of the NHS with an Invitation to 10 Downing Street

Continued from page 1

I later learnt that Gail Fleming, Dean of Pharmacy for Health Education England (London and Kent, Surrey, Sussex) and the team at Health Education England (HEE) put my name forward to attend Downing Street as a 'big thanks' for my contribution 'above and beyond' during my Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician training for the work I did with HEE. This was such an honour and showed my work with them had been recognised.

The day of the event arrived, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, the middle of the heat wave we have recently experienced. I got a train up to London and a tube to Westminster, then walked up to Downing Street. On arrival, there was a huge turnout for the event. There was around 200 healthcare professionals from around the country attending this special event queuing to get into Downing Street. There was high security present, a bag and body search was in operation before anyone was allowed to walk near the famous black door. Unfortunately I think the cat was out for the day as he wasn't present on the day, neither was any news reporters lining the front of Downing Street. When walking through No10, I was directed through a long corridor, past a beautiful picture of the Queen and many different art work including the different past cabinets in office. I was then directed outside into the garden of Downing Street where pin badges were available to guests, and a drinks reception was present, along with professional photographers taking pictures of all the guests. And then in true British spirit, the heavens had opened, and it chucked it down with rain! We were all directed to head back into No10 and told to go upstairs to some reception rooms. I walked up and down the famous staircase, the yellow walls which are lined with portraits of past prime ministers, also the stairs that Hugh Grant danced down in 'Love Actually', which I nearly tried myself! On arrival to the reception rooms, drinks were being offered to guests and everyone was networking with one another, where I met a paramedic from Southampton General Hospital and we shared our roles with one another. I managed to meet the chief pharmacist from Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who I had met before during a pharmacy quality visit. I also met Ravi Sharma, the National Clinical Lead (Clinical Pharmacy & Genomics) at NHS England, someone who I have never met before, but communicate a lot to through Twitter.

I then spotted Jeremy Hunt entering the room, walking around speaking with guests. This was my opportunity to have a conversation with him face to face and to get one of the professional photographers to take a picture of me and him! I introduced myself to Jeremy Hunt, told him my role within pharmacy, and we discussed patient safety around electronic prescribing within East

Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. I then spotted the Prime Minister speaking with guests in the other hall, and before I could get anywhere near her, she was being escorted by her bodyguards to deliver her speech to guests. She told guests 'It's not the Labour Health Service or the Conservative Health Service – It is the National Health Service – It belongs to all of us', and finished her speech by wishing the NHS a Happy Birthday, before quickly departing the hall. The event finished with Jeremy Hunt presenting badges to NHS workers with more than 40 years' service and had their photograph taken with Mr Hunt. Before leaving Downing Street, it was a no brainer to ask someone to take my picture in front of 10 Downing Street!



After the event, the Pharmaceutical Journal got in contact with me via Twitter and asked to interview me about my experience at Downing Street and an article was published about mine and other healthcare professional's experience. On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, the birthday of the NHS, BBC South East Today was reporting from my place of work at the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital in Margate to speak with staff about their roles in hospital and how the NHS has changed in 70 years. I was lucky enough to be interviewed live for the BBC to share my journey as a Pharmacy Technician and about my experience at Downing Street. This interview is available on the BBC South East Today Facebook page for viewers to watch.

## Gail Fleming

The HEE LaSE Pharmacy team bid a fond farewell to Gail Fleming on the 7th September 2018.

Gail has worked in the NHS for nearly 30 years and is truly one of the most committed people I have ever come across. Her track record of transformation and innovation is inspirational and the awards cabinet plays testament to that.

Gail has started her post as Director of Education with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and we wish her every success.

We look forward to building upon the strong foundation that Gail established and supporting the incoming Pharmacy Dean – Helen Porter to continue to support workforce transformation and quality education.

Liz Fidler  
Interim Pharmacy Dean



## Team Update

**Liz Fidler**, Interim Pharmacy Dean will be moving onto pastures new in November. We are delighted that Liz will not be moving very far from the Crawley office, just down the corridor in fact with her new role as Associate Dean for Quality within Health Education England Kent, Surrey and Sussex local office. We wish Liz the very best of luck with this new venture in her career.

We congratulate **Laura McEwen-Smith** on the birth of her first child Annabelle on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, what a fantastic day for her to be born with the NHS celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! They all made the local news! <https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/News-room/news-posts/Meet-the-babies-born-on-NHS70.aspx>

We are pleased to announce that **Helen Porter** will be joining the team as **London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Pharmacy Dean** on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Helen joins us from The Royal Marsden where she is currently the Deputy Chief Pharmacist, we are looking forward to welcoming Helen to our team.

We also welcome into the team, **Iain Taylor** who joins us from a clinical based role at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare and will lead on Assessment and Trainee Voice.

**Shalini Ganasan** joined the team from Barking, Havering and Redbridge where she worked as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner. She is covering Laura's maternity leave and is leading on Primary Care Development.

**Atif Shamim** has taken over as National Pharmacist Lead for Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment which is keeping him extremely busy so Shalini will be supporting Atif with any ongoing Primary Care projects.

**Rachel Stretch** is the Regional lead for the National Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme which involves responsibility for the London selection centre and employer engagement.

We are also delighted to welcome **Suraj Varia** into our team, Suraj is the National GP-Pharmacy placements Lead for Recruitment. An introduction from Suraj can be found below:

"I started with HEE LaSE in August as Regional Facilitator: Integrating Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists into General Practice. This is a very exciting national project, in which I am supporting the partnerships in my region. I have been carrying out introductory visits with all that are part of project. The national team is now in place, and over the next few months we will be leading on designing the curriculum for the trainees to follow whilst in General Practice.

We have 20 partnerships across the patch, with some very dynamic placements with a mixture of Community Pharmacy and Hospital Trusts.

We are also working very closely with the General Pharmaceutical Council to ensure high standards of education and training for trainees.

I am also using this the learning from this project to design a module on General Practice Pharmacists for MPharm students at the Reading School of Pharmacy."

# Supervisor Training Update

## Educational Supervisor and Practice Supervisor Course

Training for both Educational and Practice Supervisors is being delivered by the Pharmacy Training Company (PTC) as online learning which is supported by webinars, a virtual support network of educational and practice supervisors and an enthusiastic team at the PTC. The training is open to all registered pharmacy professionals who are educational and practice supervisors supporting pre-registration pharmacists AND/OR pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians within London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

## Practice Supervisor Course Update:

HEE LaSE are considering different models for delivery of Practice Supervisor (PS) training. A working group to revisit the HEE LaSE PS Framework and the PS accreditation was set up in late Spring. The group have been working together to generate curricula for a new PS course keeping in mind that it is fit for purpose, does not impact on service delivery, is not labour intensive and is of a high quality. More details will be made available soon.

For more information about future practice supervisor training provision, please contact [Pam Bahia](#).

### Educational Supervisor Course

Applications now open for November 2018 cohort

Deadline for applications: 22nd November 2018

Introductory Webinar: 8pm on 29th November 2018 OR 1pm on 30th November 2018

### Future cohort and enrolment dates:

January 2019:

Applications Open: 30th November 2018

Applications Close: 24th January 2019

Introductory Webinars: 8pm 31st January 2019 OR 1pm 1ST February 2019

### Practice Supervisor Course

Applications now open for October 2018 cohort

Deadline for applications: 25th October 2018

Introductory Webinar: 8pm on 1st November 2018 OR 1pm on 2nd November 2018

### Future cohort and enrolment dates:

December 2018 Cohort:

Applications Open: 2nd November 2018

Applications Close: 3rd January 2019

Introductory Webinars: 8pm 10th January 2019 OR 1pm 11th January 2019

### How to apply:

Further information on the courses and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

## Qualification and Destination Data

### Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists

We are very proud to announce our regional GPhC pass rate for the June 2018 exam was a huge 97%! With a national pass rate of 79% we continue to be far above the average within London, Kent Surrey and Sussex.

From the 248 trainees of the 2017-18 cohort, 238 sat the June exam of which 231 were successful.

Of the trainees who successfully registered with the GPhC, half are currently employed within the NHS. Further follow up is underway for trainees who stated they were undecided post registration or looking for hospital to inform the national report in early November.

### Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians

We had 87 qualifying PTPTs this summer with 89% of these staying within the NHS in London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex which is fantastic news for the Pharmacy Technician profession. We hope you are enjoying the transition from trainee to Pharmacy Technician and continuing with your [APTUK membership](#) now you are registered.



## National Pre-registration Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme

The first part of this year's national pre-registration pharmacist recruitment scheme selection process is complete, with interviews being held nationally during September.

The London selection centre interviewed close to 685 applicants over a 5-day period with 90 interview rooms running and 180 interview panellists from hospital and community pharmacy backgrounds during the week. This could not have been achieved without employer support, so a huge thank you to all involved.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> October, candidates will undertake the second part of the selection process

by completing a Situational Judgment Test (SJT) and numeracy test at a convenient Pearson Vue centre (also used to conduct driving theory tests).

By 31<sup>st</sup> October, applicants will be required to complete preferencing of the pre-registration programmes listed on the Oriol IT platform to indicate those that they are interested in and those that they are not.

Offers of pre-registration training will be made in November and employers will be notified in December of the name(s) of those who have been recruited to the various pharmacy programmes within the scheme.

## Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician (ACPT) Scheme

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) continue to deliver ACPT training for NHS Hospitals and HMP Prisons across London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Training is commissioned by HEE LaSE Pharmacy and one full attempt is free to pharmacy technicians.

For further details please visit the CPPE website: [www.cppe.ac.uk/career/acpt](http://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/acpt)



## Medicines Optimisation Programme

The Medicines Optimisation Programme continues to be popular with cohorts filling quickly. In addition to updating the course handbooks and recording paperwork, we have updated the on-line application form to make it easier to select the required modules for the setting candidates work in. The module options listed on the application form are now:

- POD Assessment
- POD Assessment and Transcribing for Supply
- Medicines Reconciliation
- Medicines Reconciliation and Transcribing for Supply
- Medicines Reconciliation and POD Assessment
- Medicines Reconciliation, POD Assessment and Transcribing for Supply

Another change we have made is for candidates enrolled onto the full programme (Medicines Reconciliation, POD Assessment and Transcribing for Supply). All the lessons for these candidates have been incorporated into one course on Moodle. This means candidates no longer need to repeat the core/generic lessons and uploading their evidence has been simplified as there is only one place on Moodle for them.



Applications for the Medicines Optimisation Programme are by completion of an on-line form via our website. Course dates and further details can be found on our website at:

<https://www.lasepharmacy.hee.nhs.uk/training-1/medicines-optimisation-programme/>



## Pre and In Process Checking Course for Aseptic Services

The Pre and In Process Checking (PIPC) course was developed in line with the National Framework to provide Technicians and Senior Support Workers with a nationally recognised and transferable qualification in Aseptic Services. This year the course is being provided by University Hospital Southampton.

The course aims to equip Pharmacy Technicians and Senior Pharmacy Support Workers with the foundation skills to prepare for a more senior role in Aseptic Services as a PIPC or build on existing experience.

On successful application, you will be required to complete up to 7 hours pre-course study time to spend on the Virtual Learning Environment to learn about the basics of the legislation and responsibilities surrounding their role, good communication skills and how to prepare a robust checking procedure.

A face to face study day will take place where experts in the field of Aseptic Services will share their experience with you and encourage you to share your own experiences as well. The day will also explore the theory and impact of errors on a service and patient, how to feedback errors to individuals and what we can learn from them along with an introduction to the portfolio building

process. You will sit your practical assessment on the day and must demonstrate accuracy in checking.

On successful completion of the exam, you are required to build a portfolio of competency based experience over no more than one year at your base hospital under the supervision of an Educational Supervisor. Once complete, the portfolio is returned to the course facilitator for marking, final feedback and certification.

This course is only open to Trusts within London and South East. Please discuss first with your Line Manager and then contact the Course Facilitator if you are interested in completing this course. This is a great opportunity for networking with others in your field, to re-evaluate your existing experience or to progress your career in Aseptic Services. The closing date for applications is Friday 30th November 2018.

### The proposed dates are as follows:

Proposed Date	Activity & Study Time	Where
03.12.2018	Pre-course Work (Approx 7 hours)	Virtual Learning Environment
30.01.2019	Face to Face Study Day and Practical Assessment (Full Day)	University Hospital Southampton
Following Exam Results	Portfolio Building (1 Year)	Base Hospital

### Course Facilitator Details:

Joanne Palmer  
 Lead Pharmacy Technician, Training (Aseptics and NVQ2)  
 University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust  
 Email: [PharmacyTrainingTeam@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:PharmacyTrainingTeam@uhs.nhs.uk)  
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