

English Pharmacy Board -Nomination statement for position of Chair -June 2023

Erutase (Tase) Oputu

The three pillars on which I am putting myself forward for Chair of the EPB are Collaboration, Connection and Allyship.

I believe these three areas will be crucial to how the English Pharmacy Board navigates its way through a pivotal moment in the history of the pharmacy profession. I believe I have the right set of skills and experience to take us through a unique period- seeing momentous changes in pharmacy leadership and our healthcare landscape in England.

Collaboration

The formation of integrated care systems has brought sectors of practice together, we now exist in a world where collaboration is fundamental to everything we do. Our members work seamlessly across traditional boundaries. Our 'one pharmacy' is a rich tapestry of interwoven skills delivering high quality care for our patients. The Vision for Pharmacy Professional Practice highlights the opportunities to make huge differences to patient care and cement the recognition, respect and value we bring.

My experience as a hospital pharmacy manager has given me insight in multi-disciplinary working at local, regional and national levels. I have developed strategy for pharmacy technician led medicines management services. chaired numerous senior level governance and medicines optimisation committees. In addition as former school governor I was Chair of the Finance & Personnel committee and the Teaching & Learning standards committee. I am skilled at effectively bringing people together to work towards a vision.

My intention as Chair will be to ensure that our elected members are seen and heard. Each was elected with a mandate to do their best for the profession and my aim will be to collaborate closely to amplify their voices and ensure that the sum is greater than the parts.

In addition I want to work closely with our executive team to deliver on the work to make our 'Vision' a reality. The need for this was loud and clear throughout the development of the Vision and it is crucial we take this through at pace. I believe I can keep the focus and provide clarity through the inevitable turbulence that is approaching (via CPhO commission).

Connection

Now more than ever our members and future members want to see us connected and engaged to what they are experiencing. To be loud advocates, to deliver the support and generate guidance they need to be the best and achieve their full potential in their chosen career.

If elected as Chair I will implement post Board meeting communication by our elected members via social media posts in order to connect with the profession and beyond. For me it is important that members and potential members can see the good work being done by the Board and the RPS.

If elected I will be looking to engage with the BPSA in order to connect with pharmacy students so they can understand the significance of membership of the RPS in their early careers.

If elected I will also pursue much needed Board development workshops to be integral in our workplan so that in all areas, we as a Board can work effectively together. To be able to comfortably challenge, support each other and garner the best from such a rich array of expertise. I will be looking to see how we can ensure the time we spend together is used in the most efficient way possible to get our important work done and give the best possible direction to the executive teams.

Allyship

England is our most diverse country and therefore so are our members and patients we serve. It almost goes without saying that inclusion, diversity and allyship are core to my personal values. I have been an advocate on I&D in particular racial equality for many years. I have chaired staff BME networks in the organisations I work in. I am on the Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Advisory Board. I am part of the government Inspiring the Future initiative regularly visiting local schools to talk about Pharmacy as a profession.

I am proud of the national I&D work the RPS has undertaken over the past few years. There is still so much more that needs to be done to ensure our policy making at country level is viewed with an eye for inclusion and the confidence to address issues of inequality. To drive the progress we need a Board who will stand collectively as an 'Ally to All'. If elected I will pursue as a priority cultural competency training for all Board members and for it to be refreshed as mandatory annually. This in turn will reap dividends for future policy making.

Finally I would like to outline that as a person I am authentic, values driven, open minded and collegiate in my approach. I listen and understand different perspectives and make my decisions carefully. I take a measured, balanced view. I provide constructive challenge where necessary. I am calm and confident to hold my own in difficult situations and I always do so with compassion, dignity and respect for my colleagues.

If elected I will be representing the EPB voice on the Assembly at a time when the next steps for the CPhO Commission will be ongoing. There will be hard decisions to be made however I am confident in facing the challenging and turbulent times ahead and will represent the views of the EPB and work collaboratively with our counterparts in Scotland and Wales.

It has been an honour over the past 2 years to have been involved in the work of the RPS. I am passionate about the difference we as a profession make to people's lives. I care deeply about what we as the EPB can do to make a positive difference for our fellow Pharmacy professionals in England. I hope that as Chair I will be able to do even more.