



# ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Assembly Induction Day – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Assembly Induction Day

To be held from 11.00am to 16.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> July

### Agenda

#### OPEN BUSINESS SESSION

1. **Welcome Assembly members 11.00**  
*President*
2. **Apologies for absence 11.00**  
*President*
3. **Election of Treasurer 11.00 – 11.05**  
To note next steps as no nominations for the post were received by the required deadline  
*Chief Executive/President*
4. **Museum Presentation 11.05 – 11.25**  
To receive a presentation on the Society's Museum collection  
*Museum Officer*

#### END OF OPEN BUSINESS SESSION

<b>Title</b>	<b>Museum Accreditation</b>
<b>Open, confidential or restricted</b>	
<b>Author</b> (include email/phone)  <b>Position</b>  <b>Director responsible</b>	Catherine Walker <a href="mailto:Catherine.walker@rpharms.com">Catherine.walker@rpharms.com</a> 0207 572 2286  Museum Officer
<b>Purpose of item</b> (for noting/discussion/ decision/approval)	For noting
<b>Item Summary</b>	To update the Assembly on The Museum Accreditation Scheme
Related Risk Register item (where applicable)	Maintaining Accreditation
Related RPS Strategy item (where applicable)	Creating a Sense of Belonging Deliver Valued Products and Services
<b>Actions/decisions required of the Assembly</b>	For Updating

## **Background**

The aim of this update is to inform the Assembly about The Museum Accreditation Scheme, the benefits of the scheme, how it applies to the RPS museum and what the museum is currently doing to work towards the next stage of accreditation.

## **What is Accreditation?**

Arts Council England define the Museum Accreditation Scheme as *'The nationally agreed standards to ensure all museums are sustainable, focused and trusted, inspiring the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. Delivered in partnership across the UK.'*

The scheme sets the standards for all museums in the UK and is run in partnership with Arts Council England, Museums Galleries Scotland, Northern Ireland Museums Council, and Museums, Archives and Libraries Division, Welsh Government.

The Scheme particularly focuses on how museums are run, how they manage their collection and how they engage with the public. These three key areas encompass the key work that museums carry out.

The aim of the scheme is twofold. One is to create a sense of trust in museums. This can apply to the fact that museums have an important role in caretaking the nation's material culture and history. It also creates trust in the way museums use public resources, particularly in the case of publicly funded grants like the National Lottery or Arts Council.

The second aim of the scheme is to standardise the way all museums across the UK work, particularly in the case of the Code of Ethics for Museums.

## **What are the benefits?**

Different people benefit from the Accreditation Scheme, from staff, governing bodies, and visitors. The standards the scheme give museums a framework to work towards, and guidelines that ensure that the way we work is fair, ethical and legal. This supports museum staff and governing bodies in the way a museum might be managed, and it lets the public know that a museum is working within a particular framework.

The scheme encourages museums to better understand their visitors so that they can develop the right kinds of programmes for their target audiences. In the case of RPS that is both members and the general public. We can't just focus on the membership alone.

By showcasing our professionalism and boosting our reputation we create the trust with the public. We prove that we hold objects for the benefit of society, so people feel safe donating objects to us. It also helps to secure partnerships with other organisations, or grant funding through Arts Council England or National Lottery.

## **How does this apply to RPS Museum?**

Each museum applies for accreditation on a five-year cycle and the RPS museum was awarded ours in 2019. Typically we would have to renew our accreditation by 2024, but this will likely be delayed, as the Scheme was paused in 2020 due to COVID-19 disruption across the museum sector.

When the RPS Museum is called up to renew our accreditation we will have to ensure all our relevant policies and plans are up to date. These will demonstrate that we meet standards in

- Governance
- Financial Sustainability
- Risk Management
- Collections Development, Management and Care
- Public Access and Engagement
- Audience Development

Once our documentation is reviewed, recommendations will be set and as long as we meet the right standards, accreditation will be awarded for a further five years.

### **What are we doing to work towards Accreditation?**

We are regularly reviewing the Museum policies and plans on an ongoing basis, rather than waiting until we are called to renew our accreditation. These policies include our Collections Development Policy, our Documentation Policy and our Collections Care and Conservation Policy.

We are in the process of reviewing the recommendations given in 2019 to ensure that we are working towards them, for example revising our museum Forward Plan in response to COVID-19.

The Museum Officer has been liaising with the Museum Development Officer at the Museum of London to ensure that we are on the right track.

All this work will put us in the best position for when we are called up to begin the accreditation process.

**Catherine Walker**  
**July 2022**