



Minutes of Assembly Induction Day meeting held on 16th July

Present: Sandra Gidley (SG), Claire Anderson (CA), Buge Apampa (BA), Mike Hannay (MH), Lynne Smith (LS), David Carter (DC), Martin Astbury (MA), Sibby Buckle (SB), Ash Soni (AS), Suzanne Scott-Thomas (SST), Jamie Hayes (JH), Ewan Black (EB), Jonathan Burton (JB),

In attendance: Paul Bennett (PB) – Chair, Karen Baxter (KB), Jeremy Macdonald (JM), Harvey Sondh (HS), Robbie Turner (RT), Helen Gray (HG), Mair Davies (MD), Alex MacKinnon (AMK), Ravi Sharma (RS), Gail Fleming (GF), Gino Martini (GM), Alison Douglas (AD), Simon Redman (SRed), Yvonne Dennington (YD)

Apologies: None

Item	Paper	Notes and actions	Action by
Item 04a M		All new Assembly members were welcomed. There were no apologies.	
Item 02 Election of President		Following the closure of nominations for the post of President on Friday 5 th July, PB confirmed that two nominations had been received: Sibby Buckle – nominated by Martin Astbury, seconded by David Carter Sandra Gidley – nominated by Suzanne Scott-Thomas, seconded by Martin Astbury & Claire Anderson and confirmed that their supporting statements had been duly circulated to members. Following the first round of voting, SG received the most votes and was duly elected as President of the Society, for a term of two years.	

		<p>SG thanked the Assembly members who had voted for her and paid tribute to AS, as outgoing President, for the excellent job he had done over the last two years.</p> <p>She noted there were lots of challenges facing the Assembly over the next two years and is looking forward to working with all Assembly members. She would like her term in office to be characterised by 3 'Cs':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• collegiate approach (and would particularly like Assembly to interact more often than it does at present)• challenge (in a polite and constructive way)• communication (particularly by working closely with the Board Chairs and by increasing communications to members) <p>see Appendix A for formal President's statement.</p> <p>PB congratulated her and noted it was good to see a woman hold the office for the first time in the history of the RPS since it split from the regulator in 2010.</p>	
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APPENDIX A

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT – SANDRA GIDLEY

The last nine years have been overseen by two Presidents who have played a major part in setting the scene for our professional body. I want to thank them both for their dedication and achievements and explain why it is time for new energy.

We are increasingly recognised as an authoritative voice and RPS is the “go to” media choice for comment on pharmacy matters but we need to be bolder and clearer about what we stand for.

I have sat through too many meetings where decisions are being deferred, for good and bad reasons. Quite simply, it is now time to get on with it.

This role is about leading our organisation and I have three clear priorities:

Membership: Working with others towards being a more inclusive organisation and becoming better at involving our members. This would include our LPFs and our special interest groups. This is imperative as we need to see our membership numbers grow. Our staff are highly dedicated to the task of providing the best possible offer for pharmacists at all stages in their careers and in all work settings, as well as recognising the role of pharmaceutical scientists, but there is more that elected members can do to assist. And as our Schools of Pharmacy increasingly face challenges in attracting the brightest and the best, the RPS needs to take a more proactive approach to working with Schools of Pharmacy and developing ways to persuade bright young children to choose pharmacy as a career.

Membership has to be our number one focus and a “One RPS” approach, involving every elected member and every staff member.

Royal College: We need to actively start the process which was agreed by Assembly some time ago. We need to articulate the advantages in being a Royal College and then work with others to ensure that our structure and membership are fit for the future. We have ducked the issue of technician membership for far too long and, whatever our personal views, this is an issue that needs resolving, sooner rather than later. Our pharmacy teams are hugely important, and it is vital that we have a clear vision which articulates how our profession can improve patient care and outcomes.

Promoting the role of pharmacists: Health is a devolved issue and there are some fantastic exemplars of best practice in all three countries. We need to become better at spreading that best practice and ensuring that we provide solutions for NHS problems in all countries. Make no mistake, this is definitely the work of the boards but we can be much stronger in our individual countries if we are better aware of what is going on elsewhere. I have served for four years as Chair of the English Board and have worked well with colleagues from Wales and Scotland. I would want to nurture that close working and work with Board members in all three countries to ensure that pharmacists in *all* settings are making the most of their training and expertise to benefit the public.

Underpinning this is a simple theme: Communication, communication, communication.

There are three aspects to better communication.

The first is to restore our press resources to previous levels so that we can be even better at promoting our profession. The second is to build on the work that has already started to engage more comprehensively with our members. Third is to ensure that Pharmaceutical Press are fully integrated into the organisation and not considered an “add on”. Finally, a personal commitment from me that I will regularly inform you of my activities as your President and consult you ahead of key events.

I have a unique skill set which will equip me well for this role. Importantly, I have a thorough understanding of the Society’s activities and of the political and business environment. As Chair of the English Board for the last 4 years I have worked closely with Presidents and other Board Chairs so can hit the ground running. I have taken time to work out what makes this organisation tick and have formed positive relationships with the many staff members who deliver for us. I am an experienced media performer and used to dealing with a wide variety of stakeholders.

I have real, practical experience of government at local and national level and understand how to influence politicians of all parties. But it is equally important to have good working relationships with the experts who help shape the thinking of politicians and I would want to work collaboratively with all those at country level who are already influencing at a variety of levels. I have also worked hard to understand all sectors of the profession and have forged links with pharmacists in all sectors and have the time and capacity to develop these further.

There are huge challenges ahead as the profession faces challenges from funding cuts, reorganisations and increasing demand. In order to ensure that we are able to help our members we need clarity of purpose as an organisation and full commitment to that purpose. I am committed to making our organisation and our profession succeed and I hope you will entrust me with leading that challenge.

Sandra Gidley FRPharmS