

## Message from the Chair



Welcome to our 'Winter Newsletter'. I hope the sudden onset of cold winter weather is not affecting you and your teams too much.

Just prior to the bad weather hitting, in the nice warmer than average May, Council held its second Council meeting for the year in Wellington.

During this meeting:  
I thanked Claire Paget-Hay for her dedicated, hardworking stewardship as Acting Chief Executive/Registrar while Council progressed through the Chief Executive appointment process.

Both Council and the team really appreciated Claire's valuable time and input.

I warmly welcomed Michael Pead, as the Council's new Chief Executive. Michael comes to us with a wealth of experience and has already hit the ground running, attending a two-day Council meeting in his first week and various stakeholder meetings with me in his second week. Welcome Michael, Council and the team are really looking forward to working with you.

I congratulated Dr Owain George on his appointment as Registrar. Owain was previously our Deputy Registrar and has been appointed Registrar as a result of splitting the Chief Executive/Registrar role. Council is looking forward to working more closely with Owain on a number of pharmacy related matters.

I also congratulated Marie Bennett on being elected Council Deputy Chair. Maree replaces Viv Gurrey, who unfortunately needed to step back from this position given her current workload.

During the May 2016 Council meeting we discussed a number of important issues including: mandated cultural competence continued professional development (CPD), clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics, 450 hours of practice, reconsideration of decisions and related fees, integrated IT Project, the medicines reclassifications process, Law and Ethics interviews costs and policy and the MoH's Therapeutic products regime. Some of these items are covered in more depth in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Council and its work. We are still in the formative stage, with a new Chair and three new members. I am pleased with the way we are developing and progressing together as a strong group who have the task of promoting enhanced wellbeing through excellence in pharmacy practice at the forefront of our minds.

Mark Bedford  
**Chair**

*"promoting  
enhanced wellbeing  
through  
excellence in  
pharmacy practice"*

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*"I'm thrilled to take on the role of Chief Executive of the Pharmacy Council.*

*Of course, my challenge is to ensure that you think the same as time moves on."*

*"In my previous positions I have completed:*

- *major business formations and valuations*
- *regulatory submissions/ considerations for large energy companies/trusts*
- *formation of regulation and regulatory organisations*
- *business plans and business cases*
- *legislative reviews and compliances*
- *operational delivery and strategy execution.."*

## Message from the Chief Executive

### Kia ora

It is an exciting time for your profession as you further enhance your role in lifting primary health outcomes of New Zealanders. I trust, in time, you will note that my actions are very much in alignment with the outcomes through ensuring the delivery of Council's strategy. In particular, helping to ensure your profession continues to play a critical role in New Zealand's healthcare, whilst ensuring the health and safety of members of the public are protected through pharmacists being competent and fit to practise.

I am cognisant of the critical role occupational regulation plays in shaping a profession. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming years. Pam Duncan, Council's Professional Standards Advisor, and I will visit various regions, probably in mid to late July 2016. This will be an opportunity to meet and discuss your thoughts and understanding on the role of the Pharmacy Council, and expand on the execution of the Council's 2016-2020 Organisational Strategy.

Perhaps biased, but I hope my varied career experiences will stand me in good stead for serving you well. I have held senior positions within the New Zealand public sector (Treasury, Prime Ministers Department and Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment) and private sector (Telecom New Zealand (now Spark), Ernst & Young and a partner of our own international consulting firm.)

As Mark mentioned, I have already attended my first Council meeting, which I found extremely beneficial. I better appreciate the importance Council places on the organisational strategy and the need for the team and I to ensure we deliver Council's vision and expectations.

It's great to be part of the pharmacy whānau. I look forward to serving your Council to ensure your profession maintains its credibility and continues to protect public health and safety now and in the future.

Ngā mihi  
Michael  
**Chief Executive**





## Minimum 450 Hours of practice

From April 2017, pharmacists will be required to practise for a minimum of 450 hours (~12 weeks' full time work) in the three years immediately prior to applying for an annual practising certificate (APC) in order to be issued with an unconditional APC. More information regarding the rationale behind the new requirement and how we will apply it from April 2017 is available on the Council's website [here](#).

## Request to reconsider a Council decision – what is the process?

During June 2016 we will publish, on the Council website, a new policy and process to guide pharmacists or organisations who request reconsideration of a Council decision. Many decisions made by Council, together with possible outcomes of review or appeal, are described in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. For decisions that are not prescribed in this Act, the policy and step-by-step process reflect Council's determination to be fair and transparent in its consideration of requests.

## Code of Ethics 2011 Review

Late in 2015 Council consulted on Clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics 2011. Feedback received indicated that further consideration was necessary. Appropriate wording must reflect the clinical and ethical obligations expected of the profession, whilst respecting patient beliefs, traditions and autonomy. To this end Council will work with other Regulatory Authorities to ensure alignment of health professionals with regard to the use or supply of Complementary and Alternative medicines. Over the next few months a Council appointed working group will review the entire Code of Ethics 2011.

The intention is to ensure the Code is future proofed for anticipated evolution in models of pharmacy practice, IT developments, use of social media and innovative service provision. It is anticipated that the Council will consult with the profession for feedback on the draft Code of Ethics later this year.

See our related [Press release](#) dated 25 May 2016.

## What if an event outside my control happens during a Council assessment?

On 22 June 2016 we will implement a new policy and process to assist candidates who ask Council for consideration after experiencing an event during a Council assessment that they believe may have adversely affected their result. The policy replaces the current Examination and Assessment Centre Appeals policy and will be in place in time for the July 2016 Written Examination.

## Annual Practising Certificate Renewal

Another round of practising certificate renewals has passed successfully. Council issued 3501 new Annual Practising Certificates by the beginning of May 2016 (2 percent more than 2015) and renewed 'non-practising' registration status for 855 pharmacists (similar numbers to 2015). The current manual process caused a few frustrations for pharmacists and the Council team alike. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Council is actively working on a new IT platform that will deliver, amongst other things, an online application process.



## Sale of Pharmacy Only Medicines

Council has fielded queries regarding what is an appropriate quantity of Pharmacy Only Medicines to sell to one customer at one time. There is no definitive answer to this as a decision should be made on a case-by-case basis. Pharmacists should ensure that the medicine is appropriate and safe for the end user. The period of supply should be considered, for example 6-12 month's supply of Elevit could be appropriate to cover one gestational period for a single patient, whereas a request to purchase 20 boxes of Proctosedyl ointment should raise alarm bells, both from a clinical and ethical perspective.

Selling huge quantities of Pharmacy Only Medicines to one patient could also breach a pharmacy's licensing agreement as such quantities could not reasonably be used by one patient or even one family, but is more likely to be purchased to be on-sold. Please be aware that this may constitute "wholesaling" under the provisions of the Medicines Regulations, rather than retailing. There have been reports of Pharmacy Only Medicines being supplied from non-pharmacy premises, where the patient does not have access to a registered health professional.

## Integrated IT Project

Council's integrated IT project has commenced. Our Request for Proposal (RFP) posted on the Government's Electronic Tender website (GETs) closed on Friday, 3 June 2016. We are now in the process of considering the applications. The preferred solution will be the most cost effective option that helps Council manage its day-to-day business, as well as deliver priorities as set out in the our [Organisational Strategy \(2016-2020\)](#) e.g. offering more convenient online renewals and payment processes and improving our access to the information we need to be a more effective and proactive regulator.

## Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Inc – 2016 Regional Symposium

Council's Professional Standards Advisor, Pam Duncan and Assessment and Examinations Manager, Peter Lourié, attended the Sunday session of the Auckland Symposium on 29 May 2016 to validate Law and Ethics questions for the Council's Intern Written Exam.

Council would like to thank those who participated in the validation process and the Pharmaceutical Society for looking after us.

*"It was a great opportunity to meet with members of the profession and to have their contribution in the development of these questions."*

Peter Lourié



## Cultural competence

Legislation requires us to think about cultural competency. To this end, Council has commenced work on a policy and plan around cultural competence. We will be providing regular updates as this work progresses.