



## From the Chair and Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou

It's fair to say winter has certainly made itself felt in the last weeks. It has been a typically busy time for Council. Its May 2018 meeting included:

- **Strategic Session** - Undertaking a strategic session to reaffirm its five-year strategy. This was beneficially informed by several external speakers from the sector and outside the sector presenting their views on where the profession is at and where it is likely to be in the future.
- **Accreditation** - Considering the accreditation recommendations in respect to the BPharm programmes at Auckland and Otago Universities; the EVOLVE programme and the joint pharmacist programme;
- **Financial and organisational matters** - Reviewing governance and delegations of its various committees and groups; monthly financial performance; progress in respect to returning to our office at 80 The Terrace;
- **Registration and compliance issues** – Considering Professional Conduct Committee reports and Tribunal report;
- **Pharmaceutical Society** – We appreciated the Society's National Executive joining our meeting to review how well we are working together and what more we can be doing to ensure our combined effort provides the best results for the pharmacy sector.

As was announced at the time and further detailed in this newsletter, it was a particularly tough Council meeting as we regrettably farewelled Leanne Te Karu from the Council table. Fortunately for the pharmacy sector, Leanne will be continuing to do great work through her many other "hats" and/or roles. Our sincere thanks to Leanne and our best wishes for her continued work in the sector.

At an operational level the last quarter has included the following key activities:

- **Annual Practising Certificates** – Completing the registration processes and ensuring everyone that should have an APC, does have one.
- **Consultation submissions** – Two key submissions have been prepared on: (1) the Integrated Pharmacists Services in Community Agreement, and (2) the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill.
- **Stakeholder engagement** - Two of our senior managers have been visiting various parts of the country to talk about what Council does; opportunities for learning through review of a recently published Health Disability Commission case; seek your input on some critical projects in terms of understanding your thoughts on the future role of a pharmacist; etc.
- **Sector groups** – Participation in various sector groups, including Pharmacy Reference Group for the Implementation of the Strategy for Maori Health (PRISM), Heads of Schools and Professional Organisations in Pharmacy (HOSPOP) etc.
- **Financial Planning Processes** – Significantly advancing our budget planning for the next financial year, 2018/19, and forecasting the 2019/20 financial year for Council to consider at its June 2018 meeting.
- **Assessment Centre / Written Exam** – Undertaking the May assessment centre and preparing for the July written exam (including finalising the proposed fee and commencing a review of the examination purpose to inform future considerations).

We hope this provides you a quick update on the activities of Council in the last few months, but if you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ngā mihi

"Promoting enhanced wellbeing through excellence in pharmacy practice"

### In this Issue:

- [Queen's Service Medal](#)
- [Deputy Chair](#)
- [Pharmacist Vaccinators](#)
- [First Aid](#)
- [Safety Alert— High-user shelves/fast-movers section](#)
- [Safety Alert— Tramadol oral drops](#)
- [Cultural Competence](#)
- [APC Online 2018](#)



Mark Bedford  
Chair



Michael Pead  
Chief Executive



# COUNCIL

## For services to the Community – Queen’s Service Medal

We would like to congratulate our Council Member – Mrs Lynnette Flowers – who was honoured in the 2018 New Year’s Honours with a Queen’s Service Medal for her work in the business and not-for-profit sectors.

To read more, please click [here](#) and scroll to her name.



Lynnette Flowers (right) pictured with the Governor-General of NZ, Patsy Reddy

## Resignation of Deputy Chair— Leanne Te Karu

As mentioned in our recent press release, the Council has regretfully received the resignation of Deputy Chair, Leanne Te Karu. Chair, Mark Bedford, has sincerely thanked Leanne for her immense contribution over a seven-year period and has commended her for being a role model for the profession.

Leanne is a prescribing pharmacist who was in the first cohort of pharmacists in New Zealand to achieve this qualification. Leanne’s decision was driven by her personal passion for her clinical work and research to inform that clinical work. Leanne was able to continue her Council role for a further term and as she reflected on whether the effort required to fulfil her Council role added to her passion, or in fact remove time for her to pursue her professional dreams, she sadly concluded the latter.



## Congratulations to the new Deputy Chair— Dr Jeff Harrison

Dr Jeff Harrison has accepted the nomination and support of the Council to take on the role of Deputy Chair of Council effective immediately.

Jeff is well respected by all Council members and throughout the profession and is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland.

Mark Bedford said “Jeff does have tough shoes to fill but as Chair I speak with absolute confidence for all of Council, that he will be equally superb in the role.”





# PHARMACY PRACTICE

## Pharmacist Vaccinators

A friendly reminder to all pharmacist vaccinators that you **do not** need to notify Pharmacy Council when you complete or update any vaccinator training and assessment.

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) requires vaccinators to notify the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand. Please contact the Society to ensure your name is added to the list of current vaccinators.

We welcome you to look at our Pharmacist Vaccinator Statement by clicking [here](#).

## First Aid

With many pharmacists doing their vaccinator training courses and assessments, a timely reminder of the first aid requirements for pharmacists. There are two first aid documents on our website for you to access to check what level of first aid competence is required for your area of practice.

[First Aid Requirements for Pharmacists Statement](#)

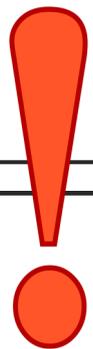
[First Aid Requirements for Pharmacists Flowchart](#)

## Safety Alert – High-user shelves / fast-movers section

Some pharmacies have a section of their dispensary where regularly used medicines are stored for ease of access in the dispensing process.

This factor has been identified in some Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) cases whereby the wrong medicine was picked, including selecting similar looking medicines (e.g. tramadol 50mg capsules instead of fluoxetine 20mg capsules).

Consider the layout and the risks versus benefits of a high-user / fast-movers section.



## Safety Alert – Tramadol Oral drops

Recently, Council became aware of a serious error involving tramadol oral drops for a child which resulted in serious adverse effects and hospitalisation.

When dispensing any prescription, it is vital that a clinical check is conducted. An important element of this check is to confirm that the dose is within the therapeutic dosing range for the age of the patient and is within the maximum daily dose.

Please be vigilant around Tramadol oral drops – the proprietary strength is 100mg/ml and is not funded, however a 10mg/ml preparation can be extemporaneously compounded using the Standardised Formula available on the [Society website](#) .



# CULTURAL COMPETENCE

## It is time to focus on recertification requirements for 2019

Good news! We've taken a peek and Council is delighted to see that around 50% of pharmacists whose learning periods end in March 2019 have already met the new cultural competence CPD recertification requirements.

In introducing this mandatory recertification requirement, Council wished to be more assured that the profession is growing its skills and knowledge for safe and effective inter-cultural conversations and consultations. Council is encouraged by the early and widespread uptake of professional learning opportunities that are focused on competencies M1.4 *Practise pharmacy within New Zealand's culturally diverse environment* and M1.5 *Understand Hauora Māori*.

We strongly encourage the remaining 50% of pharmacists completing their three year learning period next March to ensure that they have recorded a minimum of 12 points from one or both of M1.4 and M1.5. Five of these points must be from a Group 2 activity and at least one point must have a Hauora Māori focus.

The requirement was introduced in 2016 and the 2019 requirements are a transition towards the full requirement which will be in place for March 2020. If you complete your learning period in 2020, professional learning related to cultural competence must make up 18 points of the required 70 over three years, with 8 from Group 2 and at some point focused on M1.5.



# APC ONLINE 2018

The majority of pharmacists completed their online registration renewal by 31 March 2018. Based on feedback received last year the system was further improved, making the online process smooth for applicants and Council staff.

The benefit of automatically verifying recertification compliance has ensured pharmacist competence is maintained at the highest level.

Key highlights from APC online 2018 include:

- 3,632 practising pharmacists (98%) applied and were issued with an APC by 31 March (up 1.5% from 2017)
- 3,709 pharmacists have applied for an APC, as at 22 May 2018.
- 955 pharmacists completed a non-practising renewal. 13% have changed their status from practising.
- 84% of the applications went through a fully automated process, saving time and resource. Only 16% of applications required follow-up from Council staff.
- Ensuring CPD records were up-to-date, and having all necessary information on hand at the time of application, pharmacists were generally well prepared for the online process.
- Council's internal reconciliation went very well with minimal payment issues.