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Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

## Society offers special access to pharmacy databases for UKMi

The Pharmaceutical Press, the publications imprint of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, has announced special terms for NHS information centres wishing to access to its MedicinesComplete package of online pharmaceutical databases. The deal applies to all medicines information centres within the UK Medicines Information network (UKMi), an NHS pharmacy-based service which aims to support the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines by providing evidence-based information and advice on their use in both primary and secondary care.

The MedicinesComplete package includes 'Martindale: the Complete Drug Reference', 'Stockley's drug interactions' and 'Herbal medicines'. The UKMi already includes these publications on its list of recommended resources for each centre. Now each of the 260 UKMi medicines information centres can buy an online licence to all three texts.

The benefits of subscribing via MedicinesComplete include secure online access to the full text of the three key references, regular online updates, and integrated search functionality across all three titles designed specifically for rapid reference.

The Pharmaceutical Press says that the deal is particularly timely because the UKMi strategy on electronic data management

systems has resulted in the creation of a database, MiDatabank, which allows medicines information centres to document all clinical enquiries and their answers electronically.

Charles Fry, director of publications at the Society, said: "The Pharmaceutical Press is committed to developing user-friendly online versions of its major reference works. Offering this kind of cost-effective access to key groups of users is an important part of our strategy to ensure that they remain the preferred choice of information resource for all healthcare professionals."

Christine Proudlove, chairman of the UKMi executive, said: "UKMi is at the forefront of the information revolution within the profession of pharmacy and, as such, I am pleased that this deal with the Pharmaceutical Press enables us to offer all MI centres rapid access to high quality information at an affordable price. All three sources are highly regarded within UKMi and valuable in assisting our teams around the country to advise health care professionals how to manage patients with complex medicines-related problems."

Further information on MedicinesComplete is available from its website ([www.medicinescomplete.com](http://www.medicinescomplete.com)), by e-mail ([sales@medicinescomplete.com](mailto:sales@medicinescomplete.com)) or by telephone (020 7572 2464).

This week

### ■ Society in deal with UKMi

The Pharmaceutical Press (the Society's publications imprint) has announced special terms for NHS information centres that wish to access its MedicinesComplete package of online pharmaceutical databases (p391).

### ■ New 'Dale and Appelbe'

A new eighth edition of 'Dale and Appelbe's pharmacy law and ethics' is now available (p391).

## Update for technician leaflet

A revised advice leaflet is now being sent out to pharmacy technicians who register with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

"Information for registered pharmacy technicians" highlights the role of the Society, including its work across England, Scotland and Wales, why registration is important and information for practice and continuing professional development.

Janet Flint, head of support staff regulation, said: "Since January we have welcomed over 1,800 pharmacy technician registrants to the Society. This leaflet is part of our welcome pack and provides important information including the latest information on the work and role of the Society."

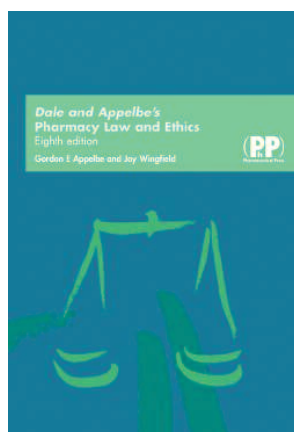
The revised leaflet is available on the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org/pharmacy-supportstaff](http://www.rpsgb.org/pharmacy-supportstaff)) or by contacting the Society's support staff section (tel 020 7572 2610).

## New edition of 'Dale and Appelbe's pharmacy law and ethics'

A new edition of 'Dale and Appelbe's pharmacy law and ethics', which was first published in 1976, is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing imprint.

The new edition, the eighth, has been completely revised and updated to reflect changes in legislation, practice and the regulation of pharmacy. An addition is an introductory chapter on how legislation is created and implemented at national and European levels. Other chapters have been reorganised with the aim of providing an improved discussion of legislation, practice and ethics. Recent changes to the Society are also described.

The book is written by Gordon Appelbe and Joy Wingfield. Dr Appelbe, an independent pharmaceutical and legal consultant, is a former head of the Society's Law Department and a former Society Council member. Professor Wingfield is Boots special professor of pharmacy law and



ethics at the University of Nottingham. Dr Appelbe wrote the early editions of the book in conjunction with his predecessor as head of the law department, Joe Dale.

The Pharmaceutical Press says that the book has become established as the definitive guide to the law relating to the practice of pharmacy and the use of medicines in Britain. It says: "Essential reading for pharmacy students, this comprehensive text will also be of interest to pharmacists, ethicists and lawyers in Britain and elsewhere."

The 640-page paperback book costs £34.95. Orders can be placed with Pharmaceutical Press Customer Services (tel 0800 731 6843 [UK], +44[0]20 7572 2613 [overseas]; fax 0800 731 8258 [UK], +44[0]20 7572 2614 [overseas]; e-mail [customerservice@pharmpress.com](mailto:customerservice@pharmpress.com)) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website ([www.pharmpress.com](http://www.pharmpress.com)).

# Striking-off for assault, deception and drug theft

The Statutory Committee has ordered the striking-off of a pharmacist who has been convicted of assault, deception and the theft and unlawful possession of methadone.

On 21 July, the committee inquired into the case of Sharrif Obadi (registration number 9030), of Sparkbrook, Birmingham. Information had been received that:

- On 12 April 1999, at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, he was convicted of assault by beating, for which he was placed on probation for 12 months and ordered to pay Crown Prosecution costs of £100
- On 16 March 2000, at Birmingham Crown Court, he was convicted of three counts of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception, one count of theft and three counts of possessing a Class A Controlled Drug, namely methadone, for which he was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, concurrent, on all counts
- On 9 March 2001, at Sutton Coldfield Magistrates' Court, he received a conditional discharge for 12 months and was ordered to pay £100 compensation for the offence of assault by beating

The committee noted that Mr Obadi had appeared before it in June 1998 after stealing 300mg of diamorphine from his then employer (*PJ*, 28 November 1998, p853). The committee determined then that his name, which had been removed from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in the previous month for failure to pay the retention fee, should not be restored to the Register without its leave. Restoration would depend on three conditions: (1) that a consultant or someone of similar status should be brought as a witness to show that he was free of all drug addiction; (2) that he should keep abreast of pharmacy matters; and

(3) that he should provide references of good character.

Despite that decision, in November 2003, Mr Obadi wrote direct to the Society's registration section seeking restoration, rather than applying to the committee, and failed to mention the 1998 disciplinary hearing. The staff member who handled his request failed to make the necessary connection from the Society's records. His name was restored to the Register on 5 December 2003 after he had paid the restoration fee and retention fee.

The committee was told that the assaults were both on the mother of Mr Obadi's two oldest children. The three counts of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception related to his working as a locum pharmacist after his striking-off in 1998 — on days either side of his appearance before the committee that year. The theft and drug offences had come to light on 15 August 1998 when Mr Obadi was arrested for the deception.

Mr Obadi told the committee that at the time of the offences he was "messed up" by an addiction to diamorphine, but he was now clean and sober.

On the two charges of assault, Mr Obadi said that on both occasions he had argued with his former partner but had not assaulted her. The committee was shown a letter from her in support of his account of the incidents.

The committee also received a number of character reference from pharmacists for whom Mr Obadi has worked since his restoration.

Giving the committee's determination, the chairman, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, said that the case was a rather curious one because of Mr Obadi's restoration to the Register without the committee's leave.

Commenting on a claim by Mr Obadi that an addiction to diamorphine had been behind his offences, the chairman noted that at the committee's 1998 hearing he had in-

structed his lawyer that he was not addicted. "Also," said the chairman, "not very attractively, he repeatedly stated that his mother had died and that this had caused great pain and stress to him. In fact, she is not yet dead."

Referring to the assault cases, the chairman said: "There was some effort both on his part and in her statement to go back from these convictions for assault but we cannot retry these criminal cases and cannot look behind the convictions nor the penalties imposed. . . .

"We find the first two convictions to be such as to render him unfit to be on the Register and, particularly, along with the conditional discharge we regard this as such misconduct to render him unfit to be on the Register. We then have to pass to whether we will give a direction to remove his name from the Register. We have weighed up carefully what has been said on his behalf, that he does have a set of good references, but he at the same time has a set of convictions leading to a custodial sentence of eight months. We would regard these convictions as being incompatible with the high standards the profession properly sets itself and the reputation of the profession has been imperilled by his actions. We will accordingly direct the removal of his name from the Register."

The chairman said that the direction could not be implemented until the elapse of 90 days allowed for appeal. The committee could not compel a written undertaking by Mr Obadi not to practise in the meantime but it invited him to give such an undertaking. The committee also reimposed the three conditions it had required back in 1998.

Concluding, the chairman said that the case was now back on the rails and he trusted that Mr Obadi appreciated that only the committee or its successor body, after due consideration of the case, would be able to order his restoration to the Register.

## Benevolent Fund

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Benevolent Fund is a registered charity set up to provide help to distressed members or former members of the Society, their widows, orphans or other dependents, and students registered with the Society.

The fund is urgently in need of donations to support its work. Donations may be sent direct to the Benevolent Fund, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. At the beginning of the year, an easy way for pharmacists to make a donation is to include an additional sum when paying the membership retention fee. Gift Aid donations are especially welcome. For further information about Gift Aid, contact the finance department at the Society.

Some of the areas of support offered by or through the Benevolent Fund are outlined below. Unless otherwise stated, further information is available from the Benevolent Fund co-ordinator, Beverly Nicol (tel: 01323 890135).

**Convalescence, rest and recovery** Despite the closure of Birdsgrove House, the Benevolent Fund continues to support those in need of convalescence or rest and recovery. Referral can be made to services suited to the individual's own needs and geographical location.

**Stress counselling** The Benevolent Fund finances the Listening Friends Scheme, which provides an opportunity to talk about personal problems in complete

confidence with a fellow pharmacist trained in listening skills. The service can be accessed by telephoning its help-line on 020 7572 2442.

**Addiction treatment** The Benevolent Fund provides support for the Pharmacists' Health Support Programme, an independent service which helps pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol or other drugs of addiction, or who have other problems that impair their fitness to practise. Help can be obtained or through the Benevolent Fund co-ordinator (see above), who will provide the telephone number of either the scheme's independent national co-ordinator or one of its regional referees, or by telephoning the national co-ordinator's direct helpline (tel 01926 315138).

**Financial assistance** Financial assistance can be provided for those in genuine need. It may take the form of quarterly or monthly grants or one-off payments. Interest-free loans may also be made to help with major items of expenditure such as external redecoration and repairs where no other source of funding can be found.

**Welfare advice** The Benevolent Fund can offer advice on a wide range of welfare issues.

## Treasures of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Collections

### The mystery of the Sun King's mortar

Among the many historical exhibits on show at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters sits an item that connects the Society to Louis XIV of France (the "Sun King"), the persecution of the Protestant Huguenots in 17th-century France and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.

The item in question is an ornate and unique mortar given by Louis XIV to his personal master apothecary, Charles Angibaud. Monsieur Angibaud fled France to escape religious persecution and came to England where, in 1728, he rose to become the Master of the Society of Apothecaries.

Many mysteries still surround the origins of the mortar, including how it made its epic journey across the Channel from France. The Society's museum staff are keen to solve the final pieces of this historical jigsaw and are asking for information from pharmacists, collectors, antiquarians and historians alike.

The mortar is made of bell metal, an alloy of copper and tin that is easily melted and cast into shape. It is the largest mortar on display at the Society, and its size alone makes it a unique item. It stands 360mm (14in) high and has a rim diameter of 480mm (19in). It is said to weigh a colossal 129kg (284lb or 20 stone).

Boasting two rams' head handles jutting out from its sides, the mortar's decoration consists of three coats of arms and an inscription which runs around the outer rim reading, "CHARLES ANGIBAUD ME APPRE ET ORDINAIRE DV ROY A PARIS 1678". One of the decorative coats of arms depicts an angel reaching towards a sunlit sky. This has been interpreted as the arms of Charles Angibaud as it could be a play on his name; "ange" is the French for angel and "beau", in this context, means fair weather. Angibaud used this mark on all of his products as a sign of their authenticity. This coat of arms is flanked by two royal standards of Louis XIV.

Research undertaken over 40 years ago by the Society's former librarian, Agnes

Lothian Short, shows that the mortar has led an extremely varied and exciting life.

The mortar was commissioned by Louis XIV from the Royal foundry and presented to Angibaud in 1678.

Charles Angibaud was born into an established apothecary family in the town of Saintes, near Bordeaux. His grandfather, Jean, had an apothecary shop on the Grande Rue of the town as early as 1636. Charles's father, Daniel, followed Jean into the business, as did Charles. Shortly after the mortar was presented to Charles he left Paris and the royal court for London, to escape religious persecution as a Protestant. At that time France was undergoing an extended period of religious tension when the Protestant Huguenots' freedom to worship was being publicly questioned.

Establishing himself in London, Charles became a naturalised English subject and on 6 October 1685 he was sworn in as a freeman of the Society of Apothecaries. This allowed him to practise his family trade in the city of London, or within seven miles of the city limit.

He established a business in St Martin's Lane near Charing Cross, selling such notable products as his famous "Pectoral Lozenges of Blois" and the family recipe of "Juyce of Liquorice" and liquorice paste.

At the close of the 17th century Charles was summoned to the livery at the society and "fined" £15 and clothed to become a liveryman. He advanced further in his career by being elected to the positions of renter warden in 1721, upper warden in 1726 and finally master of the Society of Apothecaries on 22 August 1728.



Angibaud's mysterious mortar

So how did his mortar end up in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's museum? The truth is that the full story is still not known. Whether it came from France with Angibaud or somehow made its way across the Channel at a later date is unclear. We do know that it was presented to the Society in 1902 by Percy Robbins, son of John Robbins, who was treasurer of the Society from 1880 to 1890. In the 1860s John Robbins had trained as an apprentice to Alexander Garden, a founder of the Society, at his premises at 372 Oxford Street — not a million miles from where Angibaud had established his shop at St Martin's Lane.

Therefore the mystery remains as to how this wonderful piece of pharmaceutical history travelled across from France, who with and why, and how it ended up in the possession of Percy Robbins, who eventually presented it to the Society.

If anybody can shed any further light on the history of Louis XIV's mortar, the Society's museum staff, and no doubt many others, would be fascinated to know more.

Anyone with information should contact Briony Hudson (tel 020 7572 2211; e-mail [briony.hudson@rpsgb.org](mailto:briony.hudson@rpsgb.org)).

### Replica jars

Replicas of three ceramic jars from the collections of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are available for purchase from the Society:

- Leech jars — copies of a fine example of a 19th century glazed earthenware show jar for leeches, 15cm high with a circumference of 15.5cm, £50
- Drug storage jars — replicas of a pot used for storing candied orange peel, bearing the inscription "C: CORT: AUR", which is an abbreviation of the Latin "Conditus Cortex Aurantiorum", £56
- Syrup jars — copies of a jar bearing the inscription "S ROSAR. CU AG", an abbreviation of the Latin "Syrupus Rosaceus Solutivus cum Agarico" (solute syrup of rose with agaric), £86

The jars are available by mail order direct from the museum. Full details and an order form can be downloaded from the museum section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org/museum](http://www.rpsgb.org/museum)), which also has photographs of the jars. Alternatively, orders can be placed by contacting the museum (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail [museum@rpsgb.org](mailto:museum@rpsgb.org)).

The mail order postal charge within the United Kingdom is £22, which covers up to five leech or drug jars or two syrup jars. Postage charges for Europe and the rest of the world are given on the order form or are available by contacting the museum.

The jars and other merchandise, including cards and books, can also be bought in person from the Library at the Society's headquarters during normal working hours.

## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The following are among recent additions to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's library in London. Books available for loan can be borrowed by members and by preregistration trainees and pharmacy students who have registered with the library. The loan period is 28 days. A loan may be renewed if the item is not required by another user. Details of all titles added to the library since 1991 can be found in the library's searchable online catalogue of publications ([olib.rpsgb.org.uk](http://olib.rpsgb.org.uk))

**Cardiovascular disease**

- Avoiding heart attacks and strokes. World Health Organization; 2005.
- Cardiac drug eruptions and interactions. Litt JZ. Abingdon: Taylor Francis; 2005.
- Updating local policies for reducing the impact of cardiovascular disease: where does OTC simvastatin fit in? National Prescribing Centre. Liverpool: National Prescribing Centre; 2004.

**Mental health**

- Handbook of psychiatric drugs. Albers LJ. Gazelle Drake Academic; 2005.
- St John's wort and its active principles in depression and anxiety. Muller WE. Basel: Birkhauser, 2005.

**Malignant disease**

- Anticancer agents from natural products. Cragg G, Kingston DGI, Newman DJ. Boca Raton, FL: Taylor Francis; 2005. ■
- Handbook of cancer risk assessment and prevention. Colditz GA, Stein Cynthia. Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett, 2005.
- Oncogenomics handbook. LaRochelle WJ, Shimkets RA. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press; 2005. (Cancer Drug Discovery and Development).
- Pocket guide to breast cancer drugs. Wilkes G. Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett; 2005.
- Pocket guide to colorectal cancer drugs and treatment. Wilkes G. Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett; 2005.
- Prostate cancer. Lucas JN. Gazelle Drake Academic; 2004.
- Pancreatic cancer. Von Hoff DD, Evans DB, Hruban RH. Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett, 2005.

**Nutrition**

- Diet and human immune function. Hughes DA, Darlington LG, Bendich A. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press; 2004. (Nutrition and Health).
- Encyclopedia of dietary supplements. Coates P, Blackman MR, Cragg G, Levine M, Moss J, White JD. New York: Marcel Dekker; 2005. (Dekker Encyclopedias).

## DIARY

**Local meetings**

Events listed below are meetings of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branches. Details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal* appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* ([www.pjonline.com/diary](http://www.pjonline.com/diary))

**Monday 26 September**

Stockport "Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and superbugs" by Sarah Maxwell (consultant microbiologist, Stepping Hill Hospital). Lecture Theatre B, Postgraduate Centre, Pinewood House, Stepping Hill Hospital. Refreshments 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

**Tuesday 27 September**

Bristol "Public health" by Viv Harrison (consultant in public health). BAWA Leisure Centre, Southmead Road, Filton. Coffee 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Wednesday 28 September**

Sunderland "Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics for older people" by Andrew Husband (senior lecturer, University of Sunderland). Sunderland Marriott Hotel, Seaburn. Food and refreshments 7pm, meeting 7.30pm. Teesside "Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" by Richard Harrison (consultant respiratory

## New name?

Getting married and changing your name? Make sure that your registration is up to date. Return your certificate of registration with a copy of your marriage certificate to the registration section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

physician, University Hospital, North Tees). Parkmore Hotel, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees. Buffet. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Thursday 29 September**

Nottingham "Primary care trust monitoring from 1 October: are you ready?" by Steve Lutener (head of regulation, Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Sunday 2 October**

Crawley, Horsham and Reigate Guided walk in Loder Valley, followed by optional visit to Wakehurst Place (National Trust) and Kew Gardens millennium seedbank. Families welcome. Numbers limited. Details from Janet Wright (tel 01342 716096).

## Society membership groups

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has established special interest groups for community pharmacists, for veterinary pharmacists, for industrial, regulatory and technical pharmacists, for hospital pharmacists and for pharmacy academic staff.

The groups hold meetings to consider topics of interest within their own fields of practice and they provide a source of advice to the Society's Council on specialist matters.

A pharmacist whose employment does not automatically entitle him or her to join a particular group but who has a demonstrable interest in that field of practice may be admitted at the discretion of the group committee.

Details of the groups can be obtained from the Society. Contact details are given below.

**Community Pharmacists Group** Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail [angela.canning@rpsgb.org](mailto:angela.canning@rpsgb.org)).

**Veterinary Pharmacists Group** Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail [lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org](mailto:lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org)).

**Industrial Pharmacists Group** Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail [angela.canning@rpsgb.org](mailto:angela.canning@rpsgb.org)).

**Hospital Pharmacists Group** Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail [lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org](mailto:lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org)).

**Academic Pharmacy Group** The Contact: Damian Day, education and registration directorate (tel 020 7572 2215; e-mail [damian.day@rpsgb.org](mailto:damian.day@rpsgb.org)).



## Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

**London headquarters**

Switchboard 020 7735 9141; direct dialling, see 'Medicines, ethics and practice'; fax 020 7735 7629; e-mail [enquiries@rpsgb.org](mailto:enquiries@rpsgb.org); website [www.rpsgb.org](http://www.rpsgb.org)

**Scottish Department**

Headquarters of the Society in Scotland (including library and information service) 0131 556 4386 (see also 'MEP' guide); fax 0131 558 8850; e-mail [info@rpsis.com](mailto:info@rpsis.com)

**Welsh Executive**

Headquarters of the Society's Welsh Executive 029 2041 2800; fax 029 2041 2810; e-mail [wales@rpsgb.org](mailto:wales@rpsgb.org)

**Information centre**

Book loans and information Library (loans, photocopies) 020 7572 2300; e-mail [library@rpsgb.org](mailto:library@rpsgb.org) Technical information, 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail [techinfo@rpsgb.org](mailto:techinfo@rpsgb.org)

**Pharmacists' advisory service**

Information on legal and ethical matters relating to pharmacy practice, 020 7572 2308; fax 020 7572 2510, e-mail [ftp@rpsgb.org](mailto:ftp@rpsgb.org)

**Pharmaceutics information**

Information, advice and problem-solving 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail [pharm.div.rpsgb@dial.pipex.com](mailto:pharm.div.rpsgb@dial.pipex.com)

**Benevolent fund**

Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 01926 315994 or 01323 890135

**Pharmacists' health support programme**

Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction 01926 315138

**Listening friends scheme**

Free confidential helpline for pharmacists under stress 020 7572 2442

**Pharmaceutical Press**

Purchase of books and subscriptions to journals 01491 829272; fax 01491 829292; e-mail [rpsgb@cabi.org](mailto:rpsgb@cabi.org); website [www.pharmpress.com](http://www.pharmpress.com)