



National Association of Hospital
Pharmacy Technicians of Ireland

newsletter

www.pharmtech.ie

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry. Saturday April 12th 2014

“KEEPING OUR FOCUS ON THE PATIENT”

Pharmacy Technicians are involved in varying roles such as aseptic compounding, dispensing, purchasing and ward based roles. As our roles evolve and expand, it is important that we keep our focus on the patient and put their needs at the centre of all we do. This year we will see things from a patient's perspective.

Our programme will consist of a combination of presentations and interactive workshops that will provide delegates with an excellent opportunity to learn about new

initiatives, improving patient care and changes that may lie ahead for pharmacy technicians.

Our conference will also provide delegates with the opportunity to network with other pharmacy technicians. Our poster competition will keep delegates up to date with improvements and developments in pharmacy services while our pharma exhibition will display new products and services.

We will also hold our AGM which will provide full members with the

opportunity to contribute their thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

This conference is open to pharmacy technicians from all sectors so we look forward to seeing you at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin on Saturday 12th April 2014

Early Bird Booking rate available on line at www.pharmtech.ie

Yvonne Sheehan

President N.A.H.P.T.

OUR SPEAKERS

Dawn Davin

Career to date:

Dawn graduated with a B.Sc. Pharm. From Trinity College, Dublin, in 2002, completed her pre-registration training in Tallaght Hospital and registered as a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in 2003.

Over the past decade, Dawn has experience working as a clinical pharmacist in various specialities



in Tallaght Hospital, including medical and surgical wards, cardiology, and oncology clinical trials. She is also involved with the HPAI's cardiology special interest group and has an interest in education

& training.

Following completion of her Masters in Hospital Pharmacy, she moved in to the area of nephrology where she has worked for the past number of years.

Overview of Presentation:

The presentation will consist of an introductory overview of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The second half of the session will consist of an interactive workshop in which individual groups will work through a case study of a patient with CKD and their pharmaceutical care needs.



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Aisling Collins

Work title and qualification:

Aisling Collins MSc BSc MPSI

Chief II Pharmacist – Aseptic Services. St. James's Hospital, Dublin

Career to date:

I qualified as a pharmacist in 1995 and completed the TCD Hospital Pharmacy masters in 1999.

In my initial years, I worked in St. James's Hospital and in Beaumont Hospital before returning to St. James's Hospital in 2003. Since then, I have managed the aseptic compounding unit in St. James's Hospital. I am member of the HPAI and the affiliated aseptic services special interest group (ASSIG). In this capacity I co-chaired with Evelyn Garvey (Tullamore Midland Regional Hospital) the project to develop guidelines for aseptic compounding in Irish Hospital Pharmacy Practice. The guidelines were published in November 2014.

A short overview of your presentation:

Many technicians work in aseptic compounding in Irish hospitals. Competent and knowledgeable technical staff is core to the success of an aseptic compounding unit. It is important therefore, that technicians are informed and trained on the national guidelines for aseptic compounding. The objective of the presentation is to provide an overview of the development and content of the guidelines and to discuss the implementation of the guidelines in your hospital compounding unit.

Ellen Williams

Work title and qualification:

Ellen Williams MAPharmT

Regional Education & Training Specialist Pharmacy Technician, South West Medicines Information & Training



Joint Editor - Pharmacy Technician Journal, Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK

Career to date:

Ellen qualified in 1999 and spent the first part of her career as a pharmacy technician at Weston General Hospital, primarily in a medicines management ward based role. In 2007 Ellen then went on to lead the management service and medicines management pharmacy technician team at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. This was a split post with her current role in the South West Education & Training team until 2011 when Ellen took on the training role full time.

Ellen is now the South West regional training lead responsible for the provision and development of post registration pharmacy technician training programmes, including Medicines Management and Final Accuracy Checking, along with Pre and In-Process Checking and Product Approval for Aseptic Services staff.

Ellen is currently a National Officer for the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK and joint editor of the Pharmacy Technician Journal.

A short overview of your presentation:

Pharmacy technician professional registration - the story so far

A focus on the hopes, fears, realities and benefits of becoming a new registered profession in the UK.

Mr Dispenser

Qualifications:

Community Pharmacist

Career to date:

Qualified in 2008 and works in Yorkshire. Blogger and author of two funny books about pharmacy called 'Pills, Thrills and Methadone Spills'

Overview of presentation:

The presentation is a light-hearted look at the wonderful world of pharmacy.

You can now register to attend our conference via **PAYPAL on our website **www.pharmtech.ie** or by contacting**

Yvonne.sheehan@amnch.ie

**Annual membership is included in the conference fee for hospital pharmacy technicians.*

Nicola Cantwell

Work title & Qualification:

Nicola Cantwell BSc. Pharm. MPSI
Pharmacist & Assistant lecturer in
IT Carlow

Career to date:

Over the last number of years I have been working 3 different part-time jobs all adding up to one full-time. I lecture in Regulations and Dispensing, OTC and Pharmacy Administration on the Pharmacy Technician Course in IT Carlow as well as running the work-placement programme. I run the pharmacy department in St Colman's Residential Care Centre, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow and I also work as a locum pharmacist in community pharmacies around the South-East. I was elected to the Council of the PSI last April.

Overview of Workshop:

There are many factors affecting medication compliance when a patient is discharged from hospital with a prescription. During the workshop we will examine some of those factors, in particular the difficulties which occur when a hospital prescription is presented to a community pharmacy. How could a review of discharge prescriptions by pharmacy staff improve patient compliance?

Letters/Articles to the Editor:

Email: llyons@mater.ie

Post: Laura Lyons
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MMUH,
Eccles Street,
Dublin 7

Stephen Mc Mahon

Work Title and Qualifications:

Stephen is CEO and co-founder of the Irish Patients Association (IPA). He is a member of the Governing Board of the International Alliance of Patients Organisations (I.A.P.O). He is also a member of the Irish Council for Bioethics, and has served as the Delegate on a council of Europe expert group on Media and Health. Stephen also has a wide business experience having worked for 30 years for a multinational oil company.



Irish Patients Association:

The IPA listens and learns from the many experiences of patients, their families and carers and helps resolve issues and bring problems to the fore. The ultimate goal of the Association is world class, patient centred healthcare system that is built on patients rights, responsibilities and trust. The Association is involved in education, research, and works in partnership at many levels within the Irish Healthcare system.

The IPA is working alongside many healthcare organisations and educational centres in Ireland, ensuring that the patient remains at the very centre of healthcare. Key to that goal is the Patient Safety. The IPA recently carried out research which examined the worldwide trend toward the sale and purchase of prescription and non-prescription drugs over the Internet.

WE NEED YOU

In order for the NAHPT to be successful as an organisation we need members and a committee to represent those members. We are always looking for members to join our committee. We need to keep in contact with pharmacy technicians around the country and we always need fresh ideas and inputs. The committee meet approximately four times a year and we have our annual conference in spring. If you are interested in joining our committee please email Yvonne.Sheehan@amnch.ie or llyons@mater.ie. You can also talk to any of the committee members at our conference.



AGM

The AGM agenda will be emailed to current members in advance of the conference. We are proposing that qualified pharmacy technicians working in commercial aseptic compounding may become associate members. The proposal is for consideration by all current full members and we would like you to vote on this issue at the AGM.

Tips for poster presentations

How much poster space are you allowed?

The purpose of poster presentations is not to have boards upon boards of information. Better to hand out a report in that case. If you are presenting your poster at a conference or convention, you would have limited space. The space you are allowed will determine the content of the poster. Find out how much space you are allowed!

Is there a standard format?

Yes, there is! As with an oral presentation, there is normally:

- **A title page**, telling others the title of the project, the people involved in the work and their affiliation.
- **A summary** of the project stating what you have set out to do, how you have done it, the key findings and the main results.
- **An introduction** that you are trying to solve, the characteristics that you are trying to solve, the objectives of the project and the aims and objectives. These should then lead to declarations of project aims and objectives.
- **A Theory or Methodology** section that explains the basis of the technique that you are using or the procedure that you have adopted in your study. You should also state and justify any assumptions, so that your results could be viewed in the proper context.
- **A Results** section that you use to show illustrative examples of the main results of the work.
- **A Conclusion** section, listing the main findings of your investigation, thoughts about how the work could be progressed, other tests that could be applied, etc.

You therefore have to present certain pieces of information but have limited space. So, before you rush away to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, spend a few moments or even hours to plan your presentation. This is very important! If you do not plan your presentation, you will find it very difficult to be able to divert attention from a poorly planned presentation, with posters, poor planning is there for all to see.

Planning

Planning is crucial if you do not want to be afflicted by the 'headless chicken' syndrome. There are several stages in planning a presentation.

Gathering the information

- Think about all the following questions.
- What is the objective of the investigation?
- Has someone done the work before?
- How have I gone about with the study?
- Why did I follow this particular route of investigation?
- What are the principles governing the technique that I am using?
- What problems did I encounter?
- How did I solve the problem?
- What have I found out?
- Are the analyses sound?

Although the above list is by no means exhaustive, you should get the gist. You have to stand back and think again about the What's, the How's and the Why's of the work that you have done. You have to examine critically, the approach that you have taken and the results that you have got. Be ruthless! If you have done the work, you have the results. If you have not, then ideally, you should have done this throughout your project anyway! In doing so, you will have a clearer idea of the objectives and the contributions that you have or have not been able to make. This means that you will know better, the information you have at your disposal for presentation.

Such brainstorming often yields loads of responses, for your answers on a BIG

piece of paper, not necessarily in an ordered fashion. The intention is to note as many points as possible, so that you do not miss any important aspects. The ordering and planning of the information come later from your list, after you have noted all the points that you want to include in your poster. Use colour or number coding or circles and lines to help you identify and categorise the information. This activity should help you focus further on the content you can use with confidence.

Deciding on the content

If you follow the standard format and planning guidelines, then the content is more or less determined for you. However, given that you have limited space, you need to decide on the content that you want to include in your poster. Your decision should be based on at least 2 factors, namely:

- **What are you trying to achieve by presenting the poster?** Is it to sell a product? Is it to tell people what you have done? Is it to tell people of a new discovery? Is it to convince people that one product or technique is better than another?
 - **Who will be attending the presentation?** Are they technical people? What is the level of their knowledge of your subject area?
- The answers to these questions will help you to decide on the type of content to include, and set the tone of the presentation.

Design

An advertising billboard is a poster. If well designed, it will be attractive and engender a lasting impression; or should shout out to you - 'Buy now!' or 'Vote for me!' or 'Join our team!' In using posters to convey technical information, they should be designed such that readers think 'Year' or 'I feel' and leave with the impression that they have learnt something new.

Ultimately, poster design is a personal matter and different individuals will have different views on how best to present certain information. Nevertheless, here are some 'rules-of-thumb' to guide you:

1. **Plan, plan and plan!**
2. **Keep the material simple**
 - make full use of the space, but do not cram a page full of information as the result can often appear messy
 - be concise and do not waffle. Use only pertinent information to convey your message
 - Be ruthless in showing results. Present only those that illustrate the main findings of the project. However, do keep other results handy so that you may refer to them when asked
3. **Use colours sparingly and with taste**
 - colours should be used only to emphasise, differentiate and to add interest. Do not use colours just to impress!
 - try to avoid using large swathes of bright colours like bright green, pink, orange or lilac, etc!

You know there is a poster competition at conference and you wouldn't mind having a shot at entering. What do you do? Panic? What the hell are posters? Surely you have posters of Brad Pitt or Lara Croft (depending on your inclination of course). No, those are not the kind of posters we are referring to although the purpose is similar. We are concerned with the use of posters to present technical or clinical information, not images.

A poster is simply a static, visual medium (usually of the paper and board variety) that you use to communicate ideas and messages. The difference between poster and oral presentations is that you should let your poster do most of the 'talking', that is, the material presented should convey the essence of your message. However, that does not mean that you can disappear to the pub or where ever you fancy. You have to 'stand-by-your-poster!' Your task as the presenter is to answer questions and provide further details; to back in praises or suffer difficult questions; and to convince others that what you have done is excellent and worthwhile.

Easy or what? But wait... first, stop and think!

- 9. A picture is worth a thousand words ... (but only if it is drawn properly and used appropriately)
 - choose graphics types that are appropriate to the information that you want to display
 - thick enough so that they may be viewed from a distance (see point 5)
 - do not attempt to have more than six line-graphs on a single plot
 - instead of using lines of different thickness, use contrasting, coloured lines or different line styles to distinguish between different lines in multi-line graphs.
 - multi-line plots or plots with more than one variable should have a legend relating the plotted variable to the colour or style of the line.
 - drawings and labels should be large and clear enough so that they are still legible from a distance
 - do not try to cram labelling to fit into components of a drawing or diagram. Use 'arrows' and 'callouts'
 - clipart
 - should only be used if they add interest to the display and complement the subject matter. Otherwise, all they do is to distract the viewer from the main message
 - can also be 'fanciful' as you may spend more time fiddling about with images and choosing appropriate cartoons than concentrating on the content.
- 10. Check your spelling
 - there is nothing more amusing or annoying than spelling mistakes on public display, especially if they are on the title page.
 - spelling mistakes give the impression that you have not put in the effort; careless, not bothered, not worthy of high assessment scores.
- 11. Maintain a consistent style
 - inconsistent styles give the impression of disharmony and can interrupt the fluency and flow of your messages.
 - headings on the different pages of the poster should appear in the same position on all pages.
 - graphs should be of the same size and scale especially if they are to be compared.
 - if bolding is used for emphasis on one page, then do not use italics on others.
 - captions for graphs, drawings and tables should either be positioned at the top or at the bottom of the figure.
- 12. Arrangement of poster components should appear smooth
 - you would probably be preparing sections of the poster on A4 sized paper before sticking them onto mounting boards or display stands
 - remember that you are using posters to tell a story about what you have done. The sections should follow the 'storyline', the way you arrange the sections should follow the 'storyline'.
 - sometimes it is helpful, if you provide cutouts of arrows to direct attention to the sequence of the presentation
 - use a new page to start off a new section (see format)
- 13. Review, review and review
 - make draft versions of your poster sections and check them for
 - legibility
 - consistency in style
 - try different layout arrangements
 - ask your partner, friends, colleagues or supervisor for their 'honest' opinions
 - be critical

Ref: <http://orlen.nd.ac.uk/ning/bep7/tips/present/posters.htm>
You can find more info about poster presentations at www.pjonline.com and typing poster into the search engine.