



Chair's report – 2022

As you know, we have been unable to hold an AGM or seminar since 2019. In 2020 and 2021, I posted annual reports on our website and emailed them to members. However, since this is my first opportunity to give an AGM report in person for three years, I feel I should repeat one or two things that I had included in the 2020 and 2021 reports.

Firstly, I must mention the loss of our founder, Joy Wingfield about a year ago. When I had last been in contact with Joy, we were discussing dates for our 2020 seminar and her wish to attend. I posted a tribute to Joy on our home page and we are in discussions with Nottingham University and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society about a memorial event to acknowledge Joy's work in the fields of pharmacy law and ethics.

PLEA continues to fulfil an important role in bringing together people from different spheres who share an interest in pharmacy law and ethics.

Following our decision in 2019 to offer free membership to pharmacy students, our membership has increased significantly and we hope to retain former students as members after they have graduated.

The pandemic has not stopped us running our annual student essay competition. The number of entries was down this year, and we intend to give it a big push when we start the competition again in the new academic year. Thanks are due to Ricarda Micallef for running the competition. The essay subject was "Should online pharmacy services be prohibited in the UK?". The number of entries was down on the previous year, and the PLEA Executive will ask Schools of Pharmacy to encourage entries in the next competition.

As in previous years, I have made a positive effort to post news of changes in the law and developments in law and ethics which I hope are of interest and help members keep up to date, especially with items of interest that they might not already have seen. At the time of writing, we had posted some 30 news items since this time last year.

I have used Twitter regularly, especially to draw attention to our website and the News items we have posted. At the time of writing this report, we had 561 followers on Twitter (up from two years ago).

As some of you may know, I write regular blogs in the pharmacy press. To raise the profile of PLEA, I now usually add to my by-line that I am Chair of PLEA.

In 2020, PLEA responded to the GPhC's consultation on its Fitness to Practise strategy. In 2021, we responded to a consultation by the Department of Health and Social Care on professional regulation and we responded to a consultation on the GPhC's strategy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. In 2022, we have so far responded to the DHSC's further consultation on professional regulation and to the GPhC's consultation on remote fitness to practise hearings. We expect to submit a response to the DHSC consultation on hub and spoke dispensing which is current at the time of writing. Other consultations are also expected at the time of writing, for example on pharmacist supervision.

We have been invited by the Professional Standards Authority, which oversees all healthcare regulators, to provide feedback on the General Pharmaceutical Council, and we have done so.

I have been very grateful for the support of an enthusiastic Executive comprising. Matthew Boyd, Edward Mallinson, Cathal Gallagher, Andrea James, Peter Jones, Nigel Morley and, in the last year, we have been fortunate to be joined on the Executive by Samantha Quaye, Mimi Lau and Rachael Clarke.

After many years on the PLEA Executive, Peter Jones has decided it is time to retire from the Executive. I want to thank Peter for his contribution to PLEA and for his support and wisdom in my time as Chair.

David Reissner, 4 May 2022