

## Press Release



*29 April 2003*

### **NEW APPOINTMENTS TO NPA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Hemant Patel has been appointed Chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) for the coming year. He has represented the East Anglian Region on the NPA Board of Management since 1995.

In his inaugural address, the new Chairman declared that no organisation was better prepared than the NPA for the challenge and change that lay ahead for community pharmacy. He paid tribute to his predecessors and in particular to retiring Chairman, Terry Hannawin "who has contributed excellently to the NPA with his zest, expertise and principled way of working. Under his stewardship the profession saw a well organised campaign against the OFT Report catch the imagination of the normally sceptical media and politicians."

Referring further to the campaign against the OFT Report Mr Patel said: "The weeks since mid-January in particular have been demanding both for the officers and staff of the Association. It has also been an extremely encouraging period because we have witnessed a vibrancy, commitment and dedication from NPA members, right around the country, that I have not seen before. It has created an unprecedented unity of purpose within the profession. The reason for this reawakening was the recognition by most members that what happened on 17th January (the publication of the OFT Report) went deeper than just regulations. It was a test of the resolve of the NPA and it was essential that we took a firm stand so as to demonstrate that if there were further surprises in the future, this Association is not for rolling over. We are now engaged in a complex process that has still a long way to run. For that reason the campaign must continue with the same vigour and purpose.

"I promise that I will do my best during my term to represent the NPA with zest, purpose and in a way that upholds the tradition and values of the organisation."

The new Vice-Chairman will be Ashok Soni. He has represented the East Sussex and Kent Region on the NPA Board of Management since 1998.

Wally Dove, who represents the South of England Region, has been on the NPA Board of Management since 1989 has been re-appointed Treasurer for the coming year.

**-ends**

**Notes to editors**

## **Biographical details of new Board members**

**Hemant Patel** studied pharmacy at Sunderland University, graduating in 1978. After spending his pre-registration year at Boots, he continued working for Boots and later R. Gordon Drummond, before becoming a proprietor pharmacist in 1981. He is Chairman of the Pharmacist Support Group, is a former President of the RPSGB (1998-9), and still sits on the Society's Council. He is also a member of PSNC, Secretary to North East and London LPC and a former Board member of the Barking and Havering Health Authority and Uppingham PCG. He became a member of the UK delegation to the PGEU in 2001.

Mr Patel, who lives in Brentwood, Essex, is married with two children. His interests include developing a pharmacy perspective on medicines management, public health and multi-disciplinary primary care, mental health and projects relating to asthma, diabetes and coronary heart disease.

**Ashok Soni** studied pharmacy at the Portsmouth School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1983. He began his pharmacy career working for Underwoods, in Oxford Street, London, and opened his own pharmacy in Streatham High Road in 1986.

In addition to running his own pharmacy, Mr Soni works on a sessional basis with a local GP practice. He is the Vice Chairman of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham LPC, Pharmacist PEC member of Lambeth PCT and Chair of Medicines Management Working Group for the PCT. He also sits on the All Party Pharmacy Group Steering Committee.

**Wally Dove** qualified in pharmacy from Chelsea College, London University, with an honours degree in 1966. He spent 12 years gaining a wide experience in the pharmaceutical industry in various research, development, production and marketing positions. He then acquired his first pharmacy - and now has community pharmacy interests in the Isle of Wight and Oxfordshire. He is a past Chairman of the NPA Board of Management, a former Chairman of PSNC, a member of the RPSGB's Council, and is a member of the UK delegation to PGEU.

Mr Dove, who lives in Hampshire, is married, with two children. When not involved in local, national and international pharmacy politics, his interests include fly-fishing.