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APRIL 2005 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

NPA ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIRMAN : 2005-2006

The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) is delighted to announce that Rajesh Patel has been appointed Chairman for the coming year, 2005-2006. He has represented the Greater Manchester Region on the NPA Board of Management since 1998 – and has a strong provenance as a pharmacy politician, advocate and negotiator.

In his inaugural address, the new Chairman declared that he was greatly honoured to take on the role and responsibilities as Chairman, at a time of great opportunity and challenges for the profession – and pledged that he would work steadfastly to ensure the NPA continued to show robust leadership and direction. He believed that the NPA was very well placed in helping community pharmacies implement the new contract. The Association's recent member resource, *New Directions*, was testament to its commitment and capability. He felt the NPA had a strong Board for the coming year; with a healthy mix of experience and skills, which he hoped, would be reflected in quality debate, good governance and informed decision making.

He paid tribute to retiring Chairman, Ashok Soni, commenting: "During his stewardship as Chairman, Ash has taken the NPA to new levels and has earned great

respect from all areas of the pharmacy world. He is, unquestionably, a leading edge practitioner – and, most recently, has been in the first cohort of pharmacists to qualify as supplementary prescribers.”

The new Vice-Chairman is Umesh Patel. He has represented the North East Region on the NPA Board of Management since 1998. Wally Dove, who represents the South of England Region and has been on the NPA Board of Management since 1989, has been re-appointed Treasurer for the coming year.

Ash Soni, outgoing NPA Chairman, thanked the Board and staff for their contributions during his term – and wished Rajesh and Umesh Patel every success during the coming year.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Rajesh Patel, BSc(Hons), MRPharmS studied pharmacy at Manchester University, qualifying in 1986. He spent his pre-reg. year with Boots, opened his first pharmacy in November 1989 and now owns four pharmacies in Crewe, Sale and Clayton in Staffordshire. He is on the PEC of North Trafford PCT and is a member of Salford and Trafford LPC. He has represented the Greater Manchester Region on the NPA Board since 1998, and is one of the Board's representatives on the PSNC. He is currently a member of PSNC's negotiating team.

Umesh Patel, BSc, MRPharmS studied pharmacy at Sunderland University, qualifying in 1978. He opened his first pharmacy in London in 1980 and moved to Sunderland in 1990. He was Chairman of the Sunderland branch of RSPGB between 1995-97 and is a member of the local LPC. He is Vice Chairman of the Border region branch of the RPSGB. He also organises joint evenings for students at Sunderland University and the local branch. He owns two retail pharmacies and one health centre pharmacy, and has represented the North East Region on the NPA Board since 1998.

Wally Dove qualified in pharmacy from Chelsea College, London University, with an honours degree in 1966. He spent 12 years gaining 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 former member of the

RPSGB's Council, and is Head of the UK Delegation to PGEU and Treasurer of EuroPharm Forum.

The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) is the trade association representing the professional and commercial interests of the owners of around 11,000 community pharmacies in the United Kingdom.

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