

PIAT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first PIAT Newsletter!

This initiative was planned to keep interested parties up to date with developments in the PIAT programmes. Those of you aware of the original modules available for over 18 years may have noticed from the brochure that we now have four new Programmes, Clinical Trials, Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Business and Licensing, and Pharmaceutical Microbiology, and these are being delivered in the same format.

These new programmes allow scientists with different industrial interests to pursue Diplomas, and MScs in the four specific areas, allowing candidates to attain specific new qualifications, Diploma/MSc in Clinical Trials, Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Business and Licensing, and Pharmaceutical microbiology.

The modules and programmes have been steadily written and taken up since October 2006, and to date

PIAT Clinical trials is the first programme completely written, and 24 modules have been taken by students. The delivery of these new modules also allows students to take a number of subjects from the now five programmes, and assemble their personal preferences of subject material.

To attain subject specific qualifications, candidates will be required to study a mini-

mum of five modules in the parent programme, or alternatively they may wish to study across the whole board, and qualify in Industrial Pharmaceutical Sciences. As with the original PIAT concept, these new programmes are designed to satisfy the needs of industry, after lengthy consultation with appropriate decision makers.



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New Tutors

We contacted the immensely able David Howlett from Pharma Delivery Solutions Ltd. to carry out a major re-write of PIAT module 15 (Inhalation Devices), and he produced a staggeringly detailed module describing all the most up to date devices available. He incidentally acts for the UN and many major Pharma.

Dr. Glen Clack from Astra Zeneca took on the task of tutor of Clinical Trials Module 1 (Introduction), and has improved the already popular module, adding his wide current knowledge from his role as Clinical Director, Early Phase Oncology at AZ.

Dr Julia Donnelly of the European Medical Writers Association has just completed a new module entitled

“Medical publications: writing abstracts, posters and manuscripts”, PIAT Module 17 will be available in January 2009.

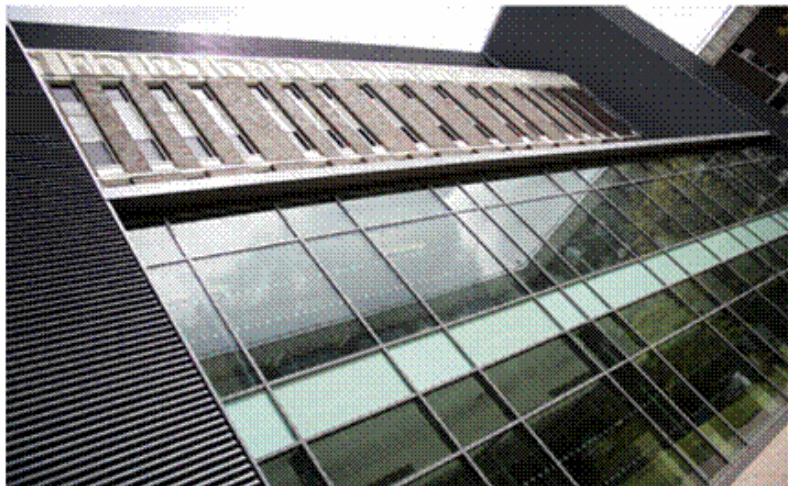
Julia will also tutor the module, which is assessed by assignment only. The module is based upon clinical trials data, and will be a most useful addition for students working in the area of clinical trials.

The PIAT Office

Those of you who have visited PIAT during the last 2 years will know that we have moved from the Science Park to the new School of Pharmacy in the Stopford building, which gives us greater access to academic staff and facilities.

The new School is a suite of laboratories, research and teaching, and offices, covering 7,000 m², and contains many state of the art features including improved security and modern labs containing a number of high tech facilities.

NEW BUILDING - 2007



New Developments

The new programmes have attracted students from different industrial sites worldwide, in addition to candidates from other sectors e.g. The NHS (Clinical trials).

Other firsts for PIAT include the first instances of students sitting exams in other parts of the world, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore, which requires careful timetabling due to the time differences. These examples all worked smoothly, using either the University of Manchester Business School branch office or the British Council.

As you may be aware, we have a few international tutors and we recently held our first video conferencing workshop, linked to Japan – the tutor works for AZ in Osaka.

On the office front, we have appointed a second administrator, Nick Clarke, who rel-

ishes every challenge, many of you will already have spoken with him.

Due to a combination of the high academic record of the School and apparent approachability of British universities, we have recently started collaboration with organisations over use of our state of the art clean room demonstration suite – the first is the Paul Ehrlich Institute in Heidelberg.

Collaboration with Pharmig (the Pharmaceutical Microbiology industrial interest group)

We have recently signed an agreement with David

Begg, the Chairman of Pharmig, to collaborate on all issues of mutual interest, specifically promotion of the PMAT programme, and the possibility of hosting joint

conferences (Pharmig currently run biannual conferences). David Begg is well known in Pharma as the founder of David Begg Associates, which has been the leader in providing training courses to the industry for over 20 years.

Biography of David Begg in the next issue.

Visitors to PIAT

We recently hosted a visit from the current President of the RPSGB, Steve Churton, who was a graduate of this School of Pharmacy, and we also gave a presentation to Professor Arthur Sackeyfio, Head of the new School of Pharmacy, University of Ghana, and Professor Seena Al-Aghil from the University of Saudi Arabia.

We also had a visit from an international panel of experts deliberating on the future organisational form of our School, and after deliberation they agreed that the current form of an independent School was best for all activities carried out.



"Addressing the Audience"

From left to right: Professor David Clarke, Dr Brian Lockwood, Sharon Finch of PLG

Promotion of PIAT

Janet and I exhibited PIAT with a stand at the Institute of Clinical Research (ICR) annual conference in Birmingham in April 2008, and I gave a presentation at another ICR conference at their headquarters in May. Janet and Nick later visited ICR in Bourne End to present the new Clinical trials programme.

Janet and I took a stand at BPC 2008 in September, and had numerous offers of interest from a wide range of visitors.

I visited the new University of Nicosia in May to discuss undergraduate collaboration, and gave two lectures, one on PIAT

and one on research. This visit even allowed time to visit two local pharmaceutical companies, Potamitis and Aegis, to spread the news of PIAT, and to discuss progress with a PIAT student from the Cyprus equivalent of the MHRA.

At the end of September Janet, David Clarke (Acting Head of School), and myself attended the official launch of the Business and Licensing Programme at the Olswang law firm in London.

RAE 2008

Results of the latest RAE exercise were delivered on December 18th.

Manchester School of Pharmacy was placed second out of 15 Schools entered in the Pharmacy category, which was a great reward after 5 years of hard work.

This maintains our reputation for the best quality of research in Pharmacy, and allows us to focus our attentions on further improvements.

TOXICOLOGY PROGRAMME

The first student has just registered for the introductory module on this new programme.

ABPI Report

In early November the ABPI published a report "Skills Needs for Biomedical Research: creating the pools of talent to win the innovation race", (<http://www.abpi.org.uk/recent.asp>) in which they lamented the standard of primary, secondary and tertiary education and its effects on quality of staff available for recruitment into the pharmaceutical industry. I wrote a vigorous response outlining the history, scale of activity, and quality of modules supplied to Pharma, with evident satisfaction of employer and employees.

Obituary

Professor Peter Gilbert died on August 18th following a long illness.

He was the instigator of the new PMAT programme, and personally planned all the modules and authored three, two of which he completed before his death. His wealth of microbiological knowledge and acerbic wit will be remembered by all who met him.

He was at the top of the tree in microbiological research in a number of areas, and the oft quoted adage, "he didn't suffer fools gladly" aptly applied. He was an inspiration to over 70 PhD students and collaborated with competent staff in virtually all areas in the School of Pharmacy.



Professor Peter Gilbert
1951—2008

FUTURE ISSUES...

- Book Reviews
- Biographies
- Websites
- Resources

Brian Lockwood
Director of PIAT
January 2009