

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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New PSNC Chairman from 1st September

PSNC Chairman Barry Andrews, whose term of office expires at the end of August, announced at the LPC conference on 21 March that the Committee has appointed Dr Christopher Hodges to succeed him as Chairman from 1st September.

Barry Andrews said: "I am very pleased to welcome Christopher Hodges as my successor. He will bring to the role an impressive background and understanding of pharmacy, as well as extensive experience of chairing expert bodies and industry groups. I am sure he will be a great lead for the Committee and for community pharmacy".

Sue Sharpe said: "Christopher Hodges has a sound understanding of community pharmacy, as well as a grasp of the wider healthcare environment, derived both from his legal practice and his involvement with the ABHI and HITF. He has vision and excellent chairing experience, which will be of great value to the Committee and to community pharmacy, and I am greatly looking forward to working with him."

Wide experience

Dr Hodges has over 16 years' experience of the pharmacy sector, on a wide range of issues of commerce, regulation and ethics. He has extensive experience of the healthcare sector, being a Vice-Chairman of the Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI) and a member of its Executive Committee, and Co-chair of two Working Groups of the Health Industries Task Force, reporting to a Minister of Health. He is also Chair of the Technical Policy Group of ABHI, and Chair of the Legal Issues Committees of both ABHI and the European and UK trade associations of medical device manufacturers, EUCOMED and ABHI. He was Vice-Chair of an NHS Research Ethics Committee during the 1990s. In 2006 he was consultant to a team at Cambridge University advising the Human Genetics Commission on future regulation of genetic testing.

In his initial career he became known as one of the country's leading experts in pharmaceutical, devices and healthcare law, regulation and ethics, on which he has written widely. He was a partner in City law firm CMS Cameron McKenna for 15 years. Since 2004 he has been Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, leading a major research programme

in European civil justice systems. He is a member of the Comparative Committee of the Civil Justice Council, and of the Academic Advisory Panel of the Department of Trade & Industry on consumer law. He continues to advise the UK and foreign governments and the UK commission on policy issues.

Dr Hodges said "I am honoured to be appointed to this important post, and look forward to leading PSNC forward over the next 2 years. Community pharmacists have very high standards of service, and there are significant opportunities under the contract to deliver even better and more extensive care as the healthcare environment changes. I am particularly looking forward to working with the excellent PSNC team, led by Sue Sharpe."

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