

A New Era for Critical Care Pharmacy



Mr Greg Barton

FICMPSC Chair

It goes without saying that this has been a busy year full of new challenges but, in the thick of it, a new chapter for Critical Care Pharmacists started. In the brief lull between the first and second waves of COVID-19, a new group within the FICM was launched, the Pharmacy Sub-Committee (FICMPSC).

The six members that make up the sub-committee are from different hospital backgrounds (DGH to large university hospital), have a range of experience in critical care (from just a couple of years through to decades), and are from diverse geographical locations. The members were selected for their individual experience in relation to the various planned workstreams.

Our members

Richard Bourne, Consultant Pharmacist in Sheffield, and myself have long been involved with the United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA) Critical Care Group and partnering with FICM felt like the next natural step in the journey towards building a recognisable and sustainable critical care pharmacy workforce.

Emma Boxall, another longstanding member of the UKCPA team, has for many years supported and delivered the

foundation level education to an ever growing and engaged pharmacy workforce. The other members of the sub-committee, Emma Taylor, Lorraine Moore and Dereck Gondongwe, all have strong backgrounds in education and training and/or workforce development at either a Trust or national level.

Our work

Together our long term goal is to see every UK critical care unit have a suitably trained and experienced critical care pharmacist. To achieve this we have embarked on a number of workstreams:

- **Workforce:** work with pharmacy colleagues is already underway to define the current workforce position. The group will then work on ways to support the transition from where we are now to the gold standard of an appropriately trained seven day service being the norm across the UK.

- **Education and training:** partnering with other organisations, such as the UKCPA, we aim to develop advanced practice training aimed at pharmacists but ideally also open to the wider multi-professional team.
- **Credentialing:** this process will be a route to recognition for pharmacists wanting to show they are working at a given level of practice.
- **Mentoring:** we aim to develop a support network of suitable mentors from across professions and disciplines to support credentialed pharmacists in developing areas of identified weakness.
- **Membership engagement:** to build a sound and representative FICM pharmacy membership. For more, visit: www.ficm.ac.uk/membership/pharmacist-membership.

These are exciting times for UK critical care pharmacy!