

# insight



The magazine of the **Pharmacists' Defence Association**

## Best wishes for your pre-registration year!



We know that the pre-registration year is an important time in your career. During this year, many of you will be adjusting to working full-time as well as studying and further developing important skills and knowledge for your future. We hope that we can help you on this journey to becoming a pharmacist and in your future careers.

The Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) is a not-for-profit membership organisation with over 29,000 members. The primary role of the PDA and the PDA Union is to look after the interests

of the individual. We only look after pharmacists, pre-reg pharmacists and pharmacy trainees.

We articulate the concerns of the professional at national level and influence the pharmacy agenda in a way that benefits individuals. As the name suggests, we also defend pharmacists and pre-reg trainees when they find themselves in difficult situations, and we hope that you will join the PDA for free today, so that we can support you also. During your career, there may be times where you need support or advice and,

in these circumstances, you can contact us by phone or email. For example, if you experience any difficulties in your employment, our legal team can advise and defend you.

If you would like advice about a professional dilemma, you can also contact our team of pharmacists. We also have dedicated conferences for our pre-reg members - our first conference, in October, will help you to plan for the year ahead and begin practising pharmaceutical calculations. Our second conference, run in various locations across the UK between March and May every year, will help you to prepare for the registration assessment. Our pre-reg events cost just £10 per day, with lunch and refreshments provided, and you can take all materials home with you.

This magazine contains further information about us. We hope that you enjoy reading it and you can find out more on our website [www.the-pda.org](http://www.the-pda.org). Finally, we hope that you enjoy your year full of learning and wish you all the very best for your pre-registration training.

## Let's stay connected: Join the PDA for FREE today!

Over 29,000 pharmacists, pharmacy students and pre-reg trainees have already joined us, so what are you waiting for?



### Why join the PDA?

- Membership is FREE for pre-reg's and for every year you are a member, we will donate £1 to Pharmacists Support
- Get professional indemnity insurance whilst working in pharmacy
- Access to expert legal and professional advice
- PDA Plus benefits package of discounts and special offers
- Membership of the PDA Union - the only independent trade union in the UK exclusively for pharmacists.

Register now at: [www.the-pda.org/join](http://www.the-pda.org/join)

# Supporting you on your career journey...

The PDA is a not-for-profit membership organisation with over 29,000 members. We are run by experienced pharmacists, a legal team, and office support staff that are all working to look after the interests of individual pharmacists, pharmacy students and pre-reg trainees.

We know how important the pre-reg year is, which is why we are here to support you on your journey to become a qualified pharmacist. PDA membership is completely FREE for pre-regs. If this isn't reason enough to join us, below are some of the key reasons we recommend you take advantage of PDA membership today!

## Key PDA member benefits

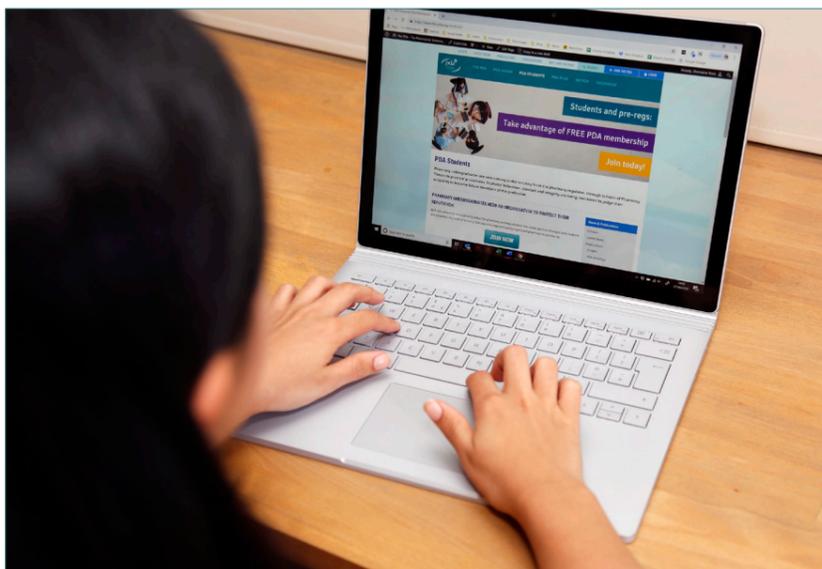
### 1. Professional indemnity insurance

PDA members are entitled to up to £10,000,000\* worth of indemnity protection in the event of medical malpractice (when someone is harmed through an error that results in bodily or mental injury, sickness, disease or death). This is designed to provide our members with:

- The cost of legal representation
- The payment of any compensation awards made against the member in respect of:
  - o Committing an act of negligence, error or omission
  - o Providing wrongful advice
  - o Breaching confidentiality
  - o Committing libel or slander.

### 2. Professional advice

Our experienced pharmacists and legal team offer members professional advice on matters of pharmacy law, ethics and professional dilemmas. It is an exciting time for the profession and as the landscape of pharmacy practice changes, our experienced



advisors are on hand to help and provide professional guidance and support.

This may be about providing support in the following situations:

- Handling the practicalities in the event of a dispensing error, including how to respond to the investigation of the error
- Providing advice about pharmacists' responsibilities related to patient confidentiality
- What to do in the event that an issue emerges related to safeguarding
- Responding to an employer's potentially unacceptable demands being placed upon a healthcare professional
- Maintaining professional autonomy and upholding legal and ethical considerations
- Providing guidance in the event of an episode which could call into question your fitness to practice.



### 3. Membership of the PDA Union

A trade union is an organisation which employees (or self-employed workers) join to gain greater security at work. Union membership can provide a greater influence collectively with employers, and more widely within the profession, than workers have as separate individuals.

PDA Union membership includes automatic rights of representation in disputes with employers and certain collective bargaining rights. This means that in serious job-threatening situations, PDA Union officials are able to accompany you to disciplinary meetings with your employer.

### 4. Pre-reg events

Every year, we run a number of training events to support members throughout their pre-reg journey.

'Aiming High' is our first pre-reg

conference of the academic year and is full of useful information designed to help you get your year off to a great start. You will have the opportunity to hear from expert speakers, ask them questions and meet other pre-reg trainees.

'Finishing First', our second pre-reg conference of the year, is designed to help you prepare for the registration assessment. The popular, high-quality conference covers a range of clinical topics, calculations and handy hints and tips. You can also take all teaching materials home with you.



### 5. PDA donates £1 per member to Pharmacist Support

Each year, the PDA donates £1 from the membership fee of every single member to the profession's charity Pharmacist Support. This charity donation is also made for each student or pre-reg that takes advantage of FREE PDA membership.

The PDA is committed to making this contribution to support the work of the charity in assisting pharmacists and their families, former pharmacists, pre-regs and pharmacy students through any challenging times they may face. The charity provides confidential advice and support with issues relating to stress, welfare, addiction and finance.

### 6. Pro-actively lobbying on your behalf

Defending the reputation and supporting the interests of individual pharmacists involves much more than providing a defence if something goes wrong.

A core aim of the PDA is to proactively seek to influence the professional, ethical and employment agenda to



support the interests of individual pharmacists. We are actively involved in lobbying the relevant bodies both within and outside pharmacy to put forward the interests of pharmacists.

- Tesco
- EE
- Odeon

\*T&Cs apply. More information can be found on the PDA Plus platform.



### 7. PDA Plus

Being a PDA member gives you unlimited access to the many PDA Plus discounts on offer when and wherever you need them. Significant savings can be made by accessing a range of deals on items such as days out, nights out, city breaks, car break down cover and a wide array of shopping discounts too. So, whether you are looking to purchase weekly groceries or fancy the latest bit of tech, it is worth checking out the offers available through our PDA Plus platform.

Brands include names such as:

- Vision Express Opticians
- Apple
- Virgin Active
- Argos
- Totum Pro (powered by NUS Extra)

## Would you like to become a PDA rep?

Are you interested in getting more involved in helping to give more pharmacists a voice at work? Join the PDA for FREE today and find out how you can become a PDA Union rep, by emailing us at: [recruitment@the-pda.org](mailto:recruitment@the-pda.org)

PDA membership is FREE to pharmacy students and pre-reg trainees. Join the PDA today at: [www.the-pda.org/join](http://www.the-pda.org/join)

# UPCOMING PRE-REG EVENTS



## AIMING HIGH

19 OCTOBER, BIRMINGHAM

HELPING YOU GET YOUR PRE-REG  
YEAR OFF TO A GREAT START

We know how important the pre-reg year is, which is why we developed 'Aiming High' to help you get your year off to a great start. This popular annual conference, put together with BPSA, is full of information designed to help you on your journey to becoming a qualified pharmacist.

### What to expect:

- Hear from specialist trainers and experienced pharmacists
- Take part in bespoke sessions tailored to your pre-reg year
- Discover hints and tips that will help you to get the most out of your year.

## FINISHING FIRST 2020 27 - 28 MARCH, BIRMINGHAM

HELPING YOU TO PREPARE FOR YOUR  
REGISTRATION ASSESSMENT

In spring, the PDA will once again bring you 'Finishing First', our second pre-reg event of the academic year. This series of high-quality conferences will be taking place in various locations across the country.

### What to expect:

- Help and advice from expert speakers
- Review a range of clinical topics and calculations
- Handy hints to help you prepare for the exam
- Mock papers in exam conditions, which you can then take home.



For more information and to book onto these conferences, visit:

[www.the-pda.org/events](http://www.the-pda.org/events)