

REPS IN-DEPTH



NAV BHOGAL

I've worked for Boots for many years in various roles, both field and store, and can honestly say it's a company I'm proud to work for. I've always been concerned, however, by the expectation that you just step into a new role and take on additional responsibilities without the appropriate training and support. I'm passionate about people and empowering them to reach their full potential so expressed my interest in becoming one of the new PDA Union representatives at Boots UK.

I had the same concerns for myself in this new role as PDA Union Regional Representative for the South East, would I have training, how would it fit with my day job and would it affect my work-life balance? I also wondered whether I could have any impact as a PDA union rep.

I met with my fellow reps for 5 days training and induction and now feel part of a great team of people which covers all of the UK. The training was amazing, well-structured and gave the opportunity for us all to discuss, challenge, learn and share experience whilst acquiring the knowledge and skills to deliver this new role. We also got to meet the team at the PDA offices and understand the skills and expertise of their different roles and how they will support us.

In the few months since becoming a PDA union rep I've gained confidence in presentation skills, conflict management and negotiation skills and built new relationships and networks. I've gained an in depth understanding of employment issues and policies that affect pharmacists and realise how important empathy and compassion are when I'm supporting a colleague through a difficult time. I've engaged with colleagues in Area and Regional meetings and attended the Joint Consultative Committee with my fellow reps and senior leaders in Nottingham to talk about issues important to pharmacists.

We are a new team, but I believe as a team we can influence positive change at Boots on behalf of fellow pharmacists and future pharmacists. I feel like I have found my home at the PDA. If you're not already a member come and join us, more members build a stronger union!