



**Sue Ladds**

The PDA has offered candidates of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) National Board Elections 2024 in England and Wales the opportunity to tell PDA members their views on key issues. Below is Sue Ladds' response:

### **1. What would you hope to achieve over the course of your office if elected?**

If elected to the English Pharmacy Board I would support the RPS mission of putting pharmacy at the forefront of healthcare. This would be across the breadth of pharmacy practice from our contribution through scientific, clinical and academic roles. Our strength as a profession comes from this breadth and depth of expertise across our focussed subject matter of medicines.

We are the experts in medicines across the whole pathway from development and formulation through to the effects they have on patients, wider society and the environment. To be at the forefront of healthcare into the future our profession must continue to develop and evolve, anticipating and preparing for the future opportunities and challenges that continuous scientific progress and growing healthcare demand bring.

I have a passion for progress and will advocate for effectively moving forward, providing professional leadership to support pharmacy professionals to do so confidently within their day-to-day practice.

### **2. What is your view on transparency and in particular the declaration of RPS membership numbers in the future?**

I strongly believe that individuals and organisations should be as transparent as possible in the interests of honesty, openness and accountability.

The RPS has published its membership numbers within its Annual Reports available publicly on its website and should continue to do so.

### **3. Should the RPS membership base remain exclusively for pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy students/pre-registration trainees? Why?**

The current membership base of the RPS enables focussed advocacy for pharmacy nationally, e.g. with government and the media, and allows for tailored professional support and educational and development work for these groups of professionals.

Any proposed expansion of the membership base beyond these groups would need to be considered and assessed in terms of the benefits and/or drawbacks for each professional group impacted and the RPS as an organisation.

#### **4. What views do you have on pharmacy technicians having the rights to operate under PGDs and do you believe pharmacy technicians have the appropriate levels of training to independently deliver PGDs?**

Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in pharmacy and the delivery of healthcare and this should include operating under PGDs in appropriate circumstances.

Like other healthcare professionals that already operate under PGDs, pharmacy technicians are a regulated profession and therefore required to register with and meet the standards of their professional regulator, the GPhC. This includes working within the limits of their knowledge and skills.

PGDs should be used only for situations where they provide an advantage for patient care, without compromising patient safety, and where there are clear governance and accountability arrangements. These include ensuring that, for each individual PGD, relevant knowledge, training and competency assessment is in place, so that only competent, qualified and trained health professionals use them.

Once the required legislative changes are in place, competent pharmacy technicians working under PGDs will make a valuable additional contribution to healthcare services and free pharmacists for other roles.

#### **5. Do you support the PDA Safer Pharmacies Charter?**

I agree with all the principles set out in the PDA's Safer Pharmacies Charter and its ambition to support the safety and well-being of patients, the public and pharmacists.

If elected to the EPB, I would take every opportunity to advocate for and support improving safety and well-being for all involved within pharmacy practice, for example by employing technology, skill mix and effective, efficient processes in a way that enables all members of the team to feel valued, energised and motivated. Also, through promoting greater equity and inclusion across our diverse workforce, encouraging development opportunities for all.

People who are able to use their knowledge and skills appropriately, see the impact of their contribution on others and able to develop to meet their potential, feel and perform better. Pharmacy teams that feel and perform well will provide the best services for patients.

#### **6. What are your views on the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board installed by the four country Chief Pharmaceutical Officers?**

The reasons for establishing the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board are laudable, i.e. to support greater collaboration between pharmacy professional leadership bodies and specialist groups to enhance the ability of pharmacy to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead through unity.

Greater unity of vision and voice for pharmacy will bring strength, standing and achievement so that we can all feel pride in what we do, inspire confidence and respect in ourselves and others, and find the courage and motivation for greater ambition.

It is too early to tell how successful the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board will be in achieving this, but I am optimistic that it can do so and will support this ambition.