



**IRISH  
PHARMACY  
UNION**

The voice of  
community pharmacy

# Our Members, Our Number One Priority



# The IPU provides expert professional advice and support to members to support and assist you in delivering a vital healthcare service to your patients.

As part of your membership package, we support your professional development through education and training courses to enhance your knowledge as a pharmacist and by advocating for extended professional roles for community pharmacy.

In addition, we will support you in dealing with PSI inspections, Fitness to Practise and any other issues that arise. We make ongoing representations to the Department of Health, HPRA, HSE/PCRS, PSI and other bodies, seeking to minimise the legislative and administrative burden on pharmacists and presenting constructive proposals on an efficient, cost-effective and patient-friendly approach to pharmacy regulation.

## **Membership of the IPU provides you with the information and resources you need for an efficient, patient-centred pharmacy.**

As a membership organisation, the IPU has you, our members, as our number one priority. Our aim is to assist you in delivering the best possible service to your patients. The IPU is governed by the Executive Committee which, along with three other national IPU committees, is made up of members just like you and voted by you to set IPU policy and represent your interests. The Employee Pharmacists' Committee (EPC) actively promotes the professional and economic interests of employee pharmacists.

The IPU exists to:

- **Advocate, advance and protect the role of the pharmacist at the centre of primary healthcare;**
- **Value and demonstrate the contribution pharmacy makes to our patients and communities;**
- **Promote, challenge and support our profession to embrace opportunity;**
- **Cherish our heritage and traditions; and**
- **Mentor the next generation of pharmacists.**



## Top 10 Membership Benefits

1. **A voice in influencing policies and strategies** that affect your profession;
2. Free **membership to IPU Academy**, which is a cost-effective way of keeping your skills and education up-to-date;
3. **Reduced rates on IPU training courses and events**, including the Diploma in Leadership and Management;
4. **Support with Fitness to Practise (FTP)** proceedings;
5. HR advice, including a **mediation and dispute resolution service**;
6. **Career opportunities** through the monthly Situations Vacant List;
7. **Networking opportunities** to meet your peers, exchange ideas and renew contacts face-to-face at IPU events;
8. Business **advice on opening a pharmacy** and other issues;
9. **Confidential counselling**, provided by Vhi Corporate Solutions; and
10. **Real savings** on a range of services, e.g. energy bills, insurance etc.



## Developing the Role of the Pharmacist

Developing the role of the pharmacist is important to everyone in community pharmacy and is a high priority for the IPU. We are your partners in delivering the best healthcare services to patients, by supporting you with the services you provide and additional services that will be introduced in the future. The IPU continuously promotes the professional role of the pharmacist amongst consumers, patients, policymakers and other key audiences, with real professional and financial benefits for members.

These include:

- Advocating on behalf of community pharmacy to government and opposition politicians, patient and consumer groups, HSE, HIQA, FIP, PGEU, and other relevant bodies;
- Working with relevant organisations to further develop community pharmacy, including the delivery of additional services to patients;
- Promoting and enhancing the role of the pharmacist through the media;
- Making submissions to Government and other relevant institutions on behalf of members;
- Challenging the implementation of excessive regulation and the imposition of disproportionate or burdensome administrative requirements on pharmacies; and
- Promoting the “*Ask your pharmacist first*” message to patients and members of the public via national marketing and advertising campaigns on TV, radio, in-store and through social media.



## Ongoing Support

The IPU provides a wide range of services and supports to all its members. Communication with members is a key priority and we keep members up-to-date with vital information through regular communications.

### Internal communication channels include:

- IPU News – weekly newsletter sent to your IPUMail account;
- GM – monthly mailing and email;
- IPU Review – monthly magazine;
- IPU Yearbook & Diary;
- SMS service – texts are sent for important updates and deadlines;
- [www.ipu.ie](http://www.ipu.ie) – a great source of information for members; and
- Social media – regular updates on the IPU Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

**The IPU exists to serve your interests and needs. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know. IPU staff are available to assist you with any queries you may have.**



## IPU Staff

### **Darragh O'Loughlin**

Secretary General  
darragh.oloughlin@ipu.ie

### **Pamela Logan**

Director of Pharmacy Services  
pamela.logan@ipu.ie

### **Jim Curran**

Director of Communications  
& Strategy  
jim.curran@ipu.ie

### **Roisin Molloy**

Membership & Secretary  
General's Office Manager  
roisin.molloy@ipu.ie

### **Derek Reilly**

Contract Manager  
derek.reilly@ipu.ie

### **Aoife Garrigan**

Contract Administrator  
aoife.garrigan@ipu.ie

### **Aoibheann Ní Shúilleabháin**

Communications Manager  
aoibheann.nishuilleabhain@ipu.ie

### **Ciara Browne**

Communications Assistant  
ciara.browne@ipu.ie

### **Liz Hoctor**

Professional Development  
& Learning Manager  
liz.hoctor@ipu.ie

### **Alma Barr**

Education & Event Coordinator  
alma.barr@ipu.ie

### **Darren Kelly**

Business Development Manager  
darren.kelly@ipu.ie

### **Susan McManus**

Training & HR Manager  
susan.mcmanus@ipu.ie

### **Janice Burke**

Training Administrator  
janice.burke@ipu.ie

### **Fiona Hannigan**

IPU Product File Manager  
fiona.hannigan@ipu.ie

### **Gerardine Gahan**

IPU Product File Pharmacist  
ger.gahan@ipu.ie

### **Tara Kelly**

IPU Product File Pharmacist  
tara.kelly@ipu.ie

### **Eilish Barrett**

IPU Product File Administrator  
eilish.barrett@ipu.ie

### **Alan Collins**

IPU Product File Administrator  
alan.collins@ipu.ie

### **Ciara Enright**

Accountant  
ciara.enright@ipu.ie

### **Patrice O'Connor**

Member Support/Admin  
patrice.oconnor@ipu.ie

### **Alan Reilly**

ICT Programme Manager  
alan.reilly@ipu.ie

### **Toni Urena**

IT Manager  
toni.urena@ipu.ie



**Butterfield House, Butterfield Avenue,  
Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, Ireland**

T: +353 (0)1 493 6401 | F: +353 (0)1 493 6407

info@ipu.ie | [www.ipu.ie](http://www.ipu.ie)

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