

University of Manchester Medal of Honour Presented to Jeanette Howe OBE on Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Citation:

Last Thursday Manchester saw another 200 pharmacy students graduate, for many of us it's our favourite time of the year.

Can you imagine a health system that then left things to chance for those graduates to keep themselves up to date as new medicines came on to the market, new therapeutic approaches were introduced, or new government policy changed the way patient services were offered?

Thankfully we don't have to, through the work of Jeannette Howe and our very own Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education.

In 1991, Jeannette commissioned The University of Manchester, in partnership with the North West Regional Health Authority, to establish the national Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education, or CPPE.

Over 30 years later, CPPE is now possibly the most trusted brand for the pharmacy professions across England – effectively making every pharmacy professional a Manchester alumnus; that's around 75 000 learners every year for over 30 years getting their ongoing learning, career development, service development and leadership development through Manchester.

Let's consider some examples of how this has driven change at a national level. New services have an easier route through government, because there is the assurance of high-quality learning to underpin their delivery. Services such as the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception, pharmacy quality services and wider access to patient group directions have been made possible through CPPE, here in Manchester. Jeannette's role in driving policy, supported through high quality education.

We have seen the development of a new role for pharmacy professionals in general practices across England through the creation of the primary care pharmacy education pathway by CPPE. So far over 10 500 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have accessed this 18-month learning programme and have taken on new roles to bring improved medicines management and patient care closer to home.

And we have seen pharmacy leaders access the Chief Pharmaceutical Officers Pharmacy Leaders development programme, building networks and gaining personal insight to drive change. That's multiple generations of future pharmacy leaders supported by CPPE, supported by Manchester.

Enabled by Jeannette, we can add into that the work that CPPE has done to promote and enable research. Firstly, to show the impact of our research, for example through close links with the Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies, CPPE enabled world class research into risk management for example to be translated back to learning for NHS pharmacy practitioners. And secondly it links education delivery to research, setting up a team within the Division of Pharmacy and Optometry specifically to research and evaluate its outputs.

Our colleagues in the Department for Health and Social Care create policies that are designed to improve patient care. Jeannette was responsible for clinical pharmacy services such as management of asthma, public health support and a range of cardiovascular conditions being delivered through

pharmacy systems and services and worked actively with the then Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Keith Ridge, to guide their safe implementation in practice.

The person centred, item of service approach that NHS pharmacists now offer, which recognises the skills and clinical expertise of the pharmacist, is a direct consequence of her shaping policy and legal frameworks. Even more recently the legislation implemented at the end of 2022 that decriminalises dispensing errors is founded on work that she has pursued for many years.

CPPE has been pivotal for many aspects of that translation of policy to practice, for people across the country receiving a better, safer and more up to date service. And the support and guidance of Jeannette throughout those years has made sure that our outputs were aligned with what the service needed.

The Pharmacy Workforce Academy which drove the development of the Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies and research into innovative and advanced pharmacy practice was another consequence of Jeannette's future vision which The University of Manchester has been able to capitalise on. It is through these centres that research has been produced, of global significance, which demonstrates the impact that pharmacists make across the country. The breadth of the consequential research which explores the roles of both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, how they are enabled, supported and gain learning in practice and how they transform patient care across the country is immense.

It is particularly telling that both the current and former Chief Pharmaceutical Officers for NHS England supported the nomination for Jeannette, a real testament to the esteem in which she is held at the highest levels. The broader impact of her work was shown through the support of Professor Chris Cutts, NHS director of workforce and organisational development across the North of England.

In summary Jeannette Howe demonstrated throughout her career that shaping policy effectively can transform how a profession is seen and used to improve person centred care. Her national work in influencing quality, driving research and enabling education has underpinned the development of the professions of pharmacy both in the UK and internationally. Her impact on enabling Manchester, which CPPE responded to so well, has made an enduring difference to the health of our nation.