



**DR KAMAL K MIDHA, Acceptance Speech  
Honourary Membership, RPSGB  
May, 2008**

Mr President, respected councilors, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am deeply with this award of honorary membership in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

It is indeed an honour, for me, to be in the company of such distinguished Honorary Members and Fellows such as Louis Pasteur and Lister.

Many years ago I came to London, UK as a Medical Research Council Fellow from Canada for a year of post-doctoral research with the eminent pharmaceutical scientist, Professor Arnold Beckett.

Being a pharmacist and a pharmaceutical scientist I had known of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and during my year in London, Prof Beckett would often talk about Royal Pharm Soc. The more I heard, the more I got interested in the activities of Society and how the distinguished Society was influencing pharmacy practitioners and scientists alike.

Since that time, I chose a life that has made me a citizen of the world as I have lived in the UK, Canada, the US, & Bermuda and worked as a research professor and scientist all over the world perusing pharmaceutical research over the past 40 years.

In September 2006 I was elected to lead the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), an organisation that has over 120 member organizations from nearly 90 countries and thus represents nearly 2 million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. FIP is the only international federation which connects pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences globally.

As we are moving into the new era of pharmaceutical practice and research, I look forward to continuously receiving the support of the Royal Pharm Soc and its influence in FIP.

FIP has had 9 vice presidents since 1912 who have influenced the direction of FIP and two of them are at present in the Bureau. FIP also has had a distinguished president from your society, Sir Hugh Linstead who served FIP from 1953 to 1966 as president.

At this juncture I am reminded that I am also joining a list of highly distinguished FIP Presidents who have similarly been honoured by the Society. Those who come to my mind are Dr Horst Madsen, Dr J H M Winters, Dr Joseph Oddis and the late Nils Olaf Strandqvist. These Past Presidents forged a strong link with your Society and it is my intention to continue this with greater momentum.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has, in the past, contributed much to influence the practice of pharmacy globally through education, innovation and pharmaceutical research.

As the oldest established Society in the English-speaking world, you have led and continue to lead the way in influencing other distinguished professional pharmaceutical societies and associations.

As pharmacy practice changes from product focus to patient focus in pursuit of what has become known as pharmaceutical care, the guidance of your Society will be much needed in developing many other cognitive services.

Your society's initiatives in clinical services to support primary health care including medicine reviews, pharmacist prescribing, providing immunization and monitoring the public for lifestyle diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular and diabetes sets a road map which can provide professional satisfaction to the new generation of graduates.

The recently published White Paper 'Pharmacy in England', Building on Strengths – Delivering the Future'. This review and its conclusions provide a unique launching pad to promote the practice of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences into a new era of teamwork towards the provision of primary healthcare.

The WHO has been promoting a role for pharmacists to be involved in public health and the White Paper's suggestion that community pharmacies should be 'Healthy Living Centres' surely epitomizes this.

As the Royal Pharmaceutical Society moves into its changed structure as a professional association, this policy paper provides a noteworthy opportunity for the new body to seize clinical leadership for the profession.

From a personal point of view, I was delighted to see that the Report also stresses the need for research and innovation.

Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on your leadership of the Society during this difficult period of change and innovation.

You have had a vision for the future that you fearlessly pursued and are now poised to see it come to reality.

I am delighted that you have also expressed your interest in international pharmacy by being elected to the Executive of the Community Practice Section of FIP and I hope you will continue to expand your influence and contribute your expertise to the future development of FIP as a global body.

Finally, Mr President, Fellows and Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, let me repeat my gratitude in receiving the great honour you have so graciously bestowed upon me. As I launched my career in London, this particularly among the many awards I have received, represents something very special to me and to my family.

Mr President, Fellows and Members of the Society, please accept my deep appreciation for receiving this honorary membership in your distinguished society.