FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2012
CHARLES DARWIN HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

‘DRUGS IN SOCIETY’

Sponsored by

Exhibitors

PROGRAMME

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 14:00 The use of automated direct sample analysis, DSA-ToF, for the rapid screening of illicit street drugs
Sean Daugherty
Perkin Elmer

14:00 – 14:30 Prevalence of drugs in the UK workplace, 2007-2011.
Dr Simon Walker
Concateno

14:30 – 15:00 ‘The clinical pharmacology of harm?’
Professor Robin Ferner
City Hospital
University of Birmingham

15:00 – 15:30 TEA

15:30 – 16:00 Against the Legalisation of Drugs
Dr Anthony Daniels (aka Theodore Dalrymple)
Psychiatrist & Writer
Formerly City Hospital, Birmingham

16:00 – 16:30 Misuse of Drugs Act?
Dr Les King (retired)
Formerly Forensic Science Service

16:30 – 17:00 BUSINESS MEETING

Please could all Committee members arrive at 10:30 am for an Executive Committee meeting.
Dr Les King will cover:

1. The Misuse of Drugs Act is not an ideal vehicle for restricting new substances (e.g. inability to carry out a proper risk-assessment in many cases; law not being enforced; the Act being used as a preemptive measure rather than a reaction to specific harm to individuals or society; arguably too many substances now controlled; problems raised by generic control).

2. The ABC Classification bears no correlation with the harms of substances (e.g. evidence-based policy replaced by policy-based evidence; overuse of the precautionary principle).

3. Problems with Misuse of Drugs Regulations Schedule 1 substances (e.g. the difficulty of doing research and the almost impossible task of ever getting such substances such as psilocybin, MDMA or 2-bromo-LSD accepted into clinical practice; the illogicality of placing methoxetamine (currently a Temporary Class Drug) in Schedule 1.

4. The legal problems raised by the concepts of "product" and "preparation".