

Initial and Early Education
Prof Duncan Craig
Director UCL School of Pharmacy
UK



**Early stage education in the UK –
Framework, Challenges and
Opportunities**

- An overview of the UK system of education and career structure in the light of contemporary national pressures
- An optimistic view of how academia and the profession can work in alignment for the benefit of the patient and the profession



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Framework in which the UK operates

- At present we deliver an MPharm (4 years) with one year pre-registration (clinical training) which is not part of university degree
- We are discussing moving to an integrated 5 years degree
- Our degree is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council
- Our system is based on an **integration** of science, practice and clinical experience



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Challenges to the profession and academy

- Uncertainties in terms of career prospects/postgraduate training especially in community pharmacy
- Proliferation of Schools of Pharmacy
- Poor links between academic and professional experience in some areas (improving rapidly)
- Pre-registration year very variable
- Need to balance workplace training with university experience



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Opportunities within the UK framework

- New career opportunities e.g. new services, GP pharmacies
- Links between profession and universities better than ever before
- Arguments that professional, clinical and scientific considerations somehow in conflict now largely overcome
- Beginnings of thinking about the holistic training and value base of the student

