

## Wishing Professor Mike Scott, MBE, a Happy and Well-deserved Retirement

Staff across the Trust are marking the retirement of Professor Mike Scott, MBE, after more than forty years of service to pharmacy and medicines optimisation in Northern Ireland.

Professor Scott qualified as a pharmacist in 1982, completing his PhD in Pharmacology the same year. He went on to build a career focused on improving how medicines are used to support safer patient care. From 2007, he served as Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management at the Northern Trust before becoming Director of the Regional Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC), where he helped establish Northern Ireland as a leader in medicines safety and innovation.

Alongside his clinical work, Professor Scott made a significant contribution to education and research. He set up Northern Ireland's first academic practice unit with Queen's University Belfast in 1994 and was appointed Honorary Professor of Pharmacy Practice in 2009. His research in pharmacy practice and medicines optimisation has been widely published and continues to influence practice.

His achievements have been recognised through numerous awards, including Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists Gold Medal, and the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association Lifetime Achievement Award. He also contributed to the WHO Global Challenge on medication-related harm and was appointed Visiting Professor at Ulster University in 2021. In 2022, he received an MBE for services to pharmacy. Most recently, Professor Scott received a Special Recognition Award at the Northern Ireland Health Awards for his impact on healthcare locally and internationally. Colleagues describe him as a dedicated leader, a supportive mentor, and someone who has consistently championed better, safer use of medicines. **Everyone across the Trust wishes Professor Scott a long, happy, and well-earned retirement.**



## MOIC Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Ulster University

MOIC is pleased to announce a new Memorandum of Understanding with Ulster University, strengthening a partnership built on a shared commitment to better medicines use and patient care. The agreement was signed by our Director, Prof Michael Scott MBE, and Ulster University's Peter Devine, joined by senior colleagues from both organisations, reflecting its importance for Northern Ireland.

The MOU recognises Ulster University as a key academic partner with strong applied research and policy links, aligning closely with our Department of Health-commissioned mission. Supported by the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Centre for International Health Innovation and Partnerships, this collaboration will help turn evidence into real-world improvements for patients and services.



## Professor Michael Scott MBE Speaks at Future Rx Specialist Pharmacist Event



Professor Michael Scott MBE recently took part in the Future Rx - Advanced Specialist Pharmacist Networking Day, hosted by the HSE Spark Innovation Programme. The event brought together pharmacy and healthcare leaders from across Ireland to talk about collaboration, innovation, and how the role of specialist pharmacists continues to evolve.

Professor Scott joined Dr Darren Walsh, Anna Keating and Abbie McKenna to share insights on advanced specialist practice and the future direction of pharmacy. He expressed his thanks to the organisers, fellow speakers and all who attended for an engaging and productive day.

## MOIC Leads Key Workshops and Strengthens Global Partnerships at EAHP 2026

Professor Michael Scott MBE and Anita Hogg recently attended the 30th EAHP Congress in Barcelona, where they delivered two MOIC workshops on "Exploring Clinical Pharmacy Services in Hospitals: Innovations and Challenges." Both sessions drew strong interest from colleagues across Europe.

It was also a great opportunity to reconnect with partners involved in our international work. Kamila Urbanczyk from Poland presented her project, "Scaling up a clinical pharmacist's service to improve medication adherence in Poland: from Pilot to National Strategy." This builds directly on the IMM work MOIC has been supporting in Poland and is a clear sign of how the model continues to grow and spread internationally.

Across the three days, the team met with a wide range of European colleagues, including Dr Anna Oleárová (President, ESCP) and Dr Silvia Ravera (Scientific Programme Manager, EDQM).

The programme also featured thought-provoking sessions from Professor Mahendra G Patel OBE on inclusive research and health inequalities, and from Professor Jessica Mesman on exnovation.

MOIC was proud to share its work on this international stage and to see the positive impact of the IMM model recognised across Europe. The congress offered a valuable chance to learn, connect and continue building momentum for medicines optimisation.



## Welcoming Global Partners to Belfast

We were pleased to welcome Gisela Garcia Alvarez, Global Health Connector, and Lian Aik Toh from LEX GLOBALMINDS during their recent visit to Belfast. Representing teams in Singapore and Spain, they spent time with us discussing shared areas of interest and where our work overlaps.

Their visit gave us a great chance to share ideas, learn from their international experience, and explore where we might work together in the future.



## Enhancing Frailty Care: MOIC delivers 7-STEPS Medicine Review Training to Southern AIPB Teams

MOIC's Anita Hogg and Joanne Brown were delighted to deliver a training session on 7-STEPS Medicine Review to the healthcare professionals delivering the medicine reviews in the Southern Area Integrated Partnership Board (AIPB) Frailty Project.

The session focused on the practical application of the tool through case discussion and shared learning. The aim of the Frailty Project is to improve the health and wellbeing of older people identified as moderately frail. A key component is to undertake medicine reviews using the 7-STEPS Person Centred approach evidenced in the iSIMPATY project.



[iSIMPATY Evaluation report](#)

## Pharmacy in Schools: Supporting Health Literacy from Primary to Post-Primary

The Pharmacy in Schools programme continues to make a positive impact by helping children build confidence in health literacy, self-care and medication safety. Developed with Belfast Healthy Cities, the programme has already been delivered in primary schools, giving pupils practical, age-appropriate knowledge about using medicines safely.

MOIC supported the evaluation of the Primary School programme in 2025, and this work has helped shape the next stage of development. A new cross-sectoral steering group has now been formed to guide the expansion of the programme into secondary schools.

The Post Primary Pharmacy in Schools Programme steering group met in January to look at curriculum mapping, resource development and plans for evaluation. This collaborative approach will ensure the programme continues to grow in a meaningful and evidence-based way as it moves into post-primary education. MOIC is delighted to be part of this next phase and to continue supporting health literacy for young people across Northern Ireland.

## MOIC Supports Evaluation of Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service

MOIC has been engaged by the Department of Health to support an evaluation of the community pharmacy-based Stop Smoking Service across Northern Ireland. This important piece of work is now underway, with feedback being gathered from both pharmacy staff and service users.

The evaluation will help us understand how the current service is working in practice and identify opportunities to strengthen and redesign the service for the future. By hearing directly from those delivering and using the service, we aim to build a clearer picture of what is working well and where improvements could make the biggest difference.

MOIC is pleased to support this work and contribute to the ongoing development of community pharmacy services across NI.

## Heart Failure Transformation Project Update

MOIC has completed and submitted the full summary report for the NI Heart Failure Transformation Project, which set out to redesign how heart failure services are delivered across Northern Ireland. The work highlights the importance of timely diagnosis, consistent pathways and rapid access to evidence-based treatment for people living with heart failure.

This project was delivered in partnership with the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) and forms part of the wider Health and Social Care Industry Partnership (HSCIP) – a collaboration between the ABPI and MOIC, acting on behalf of Health and Social Care NI. Through this partnership, we continue to work towards a shared “triple win”: better outcomes for patients, smarter use of resources and stronger research and innovation across the system.

We appreciate everyone who contributed to this work and helped shape the recommendations for a future regional pathway. If you'd like to share ideas or discuss future opportunities, you can contact us at [moic@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:moic@northerntrust.hscni.net).

## MOIC Publications

We're pleased to share our latest publications which have both been published in the European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy:

**Systematic review of independent pharmacist prescribing for the treatment of cardiometabolic factors in chronic non-communicable diseases.** To access this paper please visit:

<https://ejhp.bmj.com/content/early/2026/03/19/ejhpharm-2025-004554>

**Evaluation of a pharmacist-led medication review and optimisation service in the management of cardiometabolic disease.** To access this paper please visit:

<https://ejhp.bmj.com/content/early/2026/03/11/ejhpharm-2025-004897>