

Vision statement

by Ryan Donnelly, running for the position of CRS Secretary

As a candidate for the position of Secretary of the Controlled Release Society (CRS), I envision a future where our Society continues to flourish as the premier international scientific organization dedicated to delivery science and technology.

I first attended the CRS Annual Meeting in 2004 and have been committed to supporting the Society and its development since then. I am now Director-at-Large of the Controlled Release Society and am an active member of its regional chapter, the UK & Ireland Controlled Release Society. As part of my Director role, I am working closely with the Focus Groups to support their development and enhance their activities and contribution to the Society. I have encouraged my students and post-doctoral staff to attend meetings organised by the Society and provided funding for their attendance at the Annual Meeting each year since I took up my academic position in 2004. My Group members are active participants in the Society's Focus Groups. I personally attend the Annual Meeting each year and was delighted to win the Young Investigator Award in 2016 and the Kydonieus Foundation Transdermal Award in 2024.

I have contributed 31 papers to the *Journal of Controlled Release* in the period 2005-2024, with my work featuring on the front cover in 2008. I have reviewed more than 110 manuscripts for the journal and, in 2015, was awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing by Elsevier. I have published 6 review articles in *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews*. Moreover, I have contributed 21 papers to the society's other flagship journal, *Drug Delivery & Translational Research*. In 2015, I guest-edited a Special Issue of this journal focussed on microneedle technologies and, in 2023, joined with Mark Prausnitz to provide an Inspirational Note, with accompanying video. I am Editor for Europe/Africa of this journal. I am also on the Editorial Board of *Journal of Controlled Release*.

As Chair (President) of the UK's Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APS), I have extensive experience of shaping the direction of a learned society. My achievements with APS have included growing our membership by 25% over a 12 month period, working with the Focus Groups to enhance value for members in industry and academia beyond the annual meeting and creating new opportunities for young scientists to network with more experienced peers and build their skills and experience. I have also fostered collaboration with sister organisations across Europe, with FIP and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, identifying areas of mutual interest and developing joint meetings for our respective members.

The mantra of my Group in Belfast has always been "one for all and all for one". In real terms, this means that everyone is respected and supported and everyone's work has equal value. My Group members have hailed from 26 different countries and we have hosted numerous Visiting Researchers from low and middle-income countries, providing them with access to equipment and resources that would otherwise not be possible. More than 60% of my PhD students have been female, with more than 50% of post-docs also female. We have had numerous members of the LGBTQ community and researchers with disabilities in the Group and I have supported Group members through bereavement, serious illness, pregnancy, miscarriage and caring responsibilities. We celebrate diversity in our Group, with our members organising an annual International Food Day, where everyone prepares dishes from their own country for us all to share. We learn on a daily basis about one another's cultures, with Group members frequently taking vacations in each other's family homes across the globe and Indonesian people learning Irish, Irish people learning Italian and Italians learning Arabic. Northern Ireland is not as diverse a society as other European countries. As a result, the family

atmosphere created in our Group continues to provide a vital support structure to people who are often thousands of miles from home. Our Group members contribute strongly to the University's Post-doc Society, which aims to provide training and support for post-docs, enabling them to take the next steps in their careers. They are also members of the School of Pharmacy Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group, which has actively contributed to the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast being awarded a prestigious Gold Athena Swan Award, conferred in January 2025 by Advance Higher Education. Queen's is the first Pharmacy School in the UK and Ireland to achieve a Gold Award for its work improving gender equality. The principles of equality and inclusiveness are in-built in my teaching and work as a Personal Tutor in the School of Pharmacy, where >70% of students are female and there are sizeable minorities of people from groups under-represented in STEM subjects. I aim to make science accessible to all and so have always been very active on social media and regularly contribute to television and radio discussions about research. My Pharmacists in Schools outreach programme has made a considerable number of visits to schools in areas of socioeconomic deprivation and I teach every year on the School's Access Programme, designed to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in gaining entry to our MPharm degree programme. My former Group members have all gone on to successful careers in their own rights in industry and academia.

I would like to bring my experience and passion for the Society to the position of Secretary. I plan to continue working with the Focus Groups to enhance their activities, bringing value to our members throughout the year. I would also like to work with our local Chapters, particularly those in developing countries to increase the diversity of engagement with the work of the Society. I would also like to see the Society provide thought leadership across the breadth of Delivery Science, helping to educate and inform the public and collaborating with other learned societies to drive scientific debate and combat misinformation.

I look forward to working with you to advance every aspect of the life of the Controlled Release Society.

Thank you for your support

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and the last name "Donnelly" clearly legible.

Professor Ryan F. Donnelly