Chair’s welcome

Last year, as a newcomer to trade associations I was surprised to find just how fundamental the work of our association is in both talking to members and speaking on their behalf.

Little did we all know that, a year after I wrote those words, the role would take on such added meaning and importance in the wake of the vote to leave the EU.

Our key role is to keep members abreast of and in compliance with legislation and regulations, as well as be the credible voice of the industry when talking to the media, regulators and policy makers.

As we all contemplate the implications of Brexit for our businesses, your association is already having vital conversations with members and with the UK Government about what we would like to see coming out of future negotiations.

I am pleased to see that we have maintained an active external affairs program by expanding our home safety campaign with RoSPA and adding a new teaching resource for young people. We have also strengthened our collaborations on hygiene and occupational safety with outside bodies. At the same time UKCPI has continued to provide expert advice and guidance to our members on technical and regulatory matters, working closely with our European colleagues. These activities are all detailed in the following pages.

We are an association whose agenda is agreed and driven by its membership – and none of this would be possible without the support of those company experts involved in the external affairs committee, technical committee and your council. I continue to be indebted to them for their time and support.

The next two years, and perhaps beyond, will be challenging for UK business but we have in place in UKCPI a secretariat and dedicated company representatives to put the best case forward for your business. I am particularly keen to see how we can drive forward a mutual agenda for sustainable business.

I look forward to your continued involvement in this process.

Yours sincerely

Gemma Cleland, 
Executive Director Homecare, 
Unilever UK & Ireland
Under the chairmanship of Rowland Furse, the committee met eight times, focusing largely on the UK impacts of EU regulatory developments. This is primarily done by linking with AISE technical activities so we can contribute UK opinions into European discussions.

**Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP)**

The final transitional period for CLP regulation ends on 1 June 2017, after which all products throughout the supply chain must be classified and labelled according to CLP.

**Confusion about corrosive pictogram**

UKCPI fought against the use of the corrosive pictogram for eye damage when CLP was drafted. This was presented to (and welcomed by) the HSE at UKCPI’s April Regional Meeting. As expected, some consumers and retailers have been confused about the presence of the corrosive pictogram on products that carry the risk of serious eye damage. They are expecting the pack to also have a child resistant closure. Experience suggests the use of the corrosive pictogram for eye damage may be unjustified and confusing for our customers and consumers.

The regulations have been updated a number of times already, and the authorities are now discussing with UKCPI how to reduce the number of precautionary phrases by removing some of the repetition and possibly setting up a hierarchy.

**Biocidal products**

UKCPI is represented on the AISE Biocides Working Group and provides UKCPI with updates on progress with implementation of the BPR. During 2016 a number of active substances have been approved under product types relevant for our industry. This means some of us will now have started work in earnest on our product dossiers, because the two-year submission deadline is now defined.

**High fee structure**

Following the publication of a report on fee structures for biocidal product regulations, which had been requested by the Commission, AISE and CEFIC have challenged the high fee structure for Union Authorisations with the Commission.

The Commission has agreed to look at the Fees Regulation, but advised it is likely to be a lengthy process.
Concern over in-can preservatives
A great deal of concern remains around in-can preservatives (product type 6), especially the isothiazolinone group and potential skin sensitisation issues. UKCPI continues to work closely with the HSE as well as AISE and CEFIC on such issues to provide united industry input to the Commission.

Sodium hypochlorite environmental classification
The harmonised classification for sodium hypochlorite has now been published, and we are pleased with the outcome having submitted industry positions to both HSE and the Environment Agency through their Chemical Industry Liaison Group.

Subsequently the Committee for Risk Assessment agreed with the industry position that greater weight should be given to more reliable data, including the way in which sodium hypochlorite behaves in the environment. As a consequence, the classification is now Aquatic Acute 1 (H400), M=10 and Aquatic Chronic 1 (H410), M=1.

Poison control centres and unique formula identifier
There have been on-going discussions for a number of years regarding the harmonisation of the data that is submitted to the PCCs across Europe (e.g.: National Poison Information Service in the UK). This new regulation was finalised this September, notwithstanding the industry’s concerns about the level of data required.

UKCPI had been directly involved in discussions within the industry and the UK authorities, to help steer this issue correctly for all involved. UKCPI will continue with its advocacy work in this area, in particular participating in the development of guidance for the new regulation.

16-digit unique formula identifier
The draft regulation gives a phased implementation, starting in 2019, and for a unique formula identifier to be shown on the product label. This will be a 16-digit (23-character) number produced by the manufacturer using software available from the Commission.

It is intended for this reference number to be used in emergency situations by the PCCs to specifically and quickly identify the products’ formulation when contacted by a member of the public or the medical profession. This should enable faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment for the situation presented.
Transport regulations
Work has continued internationally on a number of topics from previous years. In particular, the development of a working document on assigning Packaging Groups for corrosives. The latest proposal drafted by Canada, AISE and Cefic will be discussed at the UNSCoETDG and we look forward to its formal acceptance and subsequent publication in the transport regulations.

To keep up to date on issues relevant to our industry, UKCPI regularly attends the DfT transport briefings and HSE GHS Stakeholders Group meetings held throughout the year. In March this year some shipments of household bleach were refused shipment by sea for a number of member companies. UKCPI investigated with the authorities and shippers to discover the issue was with calcium hypochlorite and not sodium hypochlorite. Armed with this information member companies were able to avoid further shipment difficulties.

Other legislative areas / horizon monitoring
The UKCPI Technical Committee actively monitors other legislative areas, such as cosmetics, aerosols and perfumes, for issues that could influence our product categories.

UKCPI Technical Manager Steven Stewart is in regular contact with technical managers in other industry trade associations. Furthermore our Director General, Philip Malpass, sits on the Alliance of Chemical Associations (ACA), which represents the majority of the UK chemicals industries.

Technical Committee attendees 2016
Rowland Furse, Jeyes (Chair)
Dr John Bailey (Vice Chair), Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland
Barrie Anderson, Nice-Pak International
Amy Barker, SC Johnson
Colin Butler, RB (UK)
Nick Buxton, Diversey Sealed Air
Mick Cooper, PZ Cussons (UK)
Ian Croft, Robert McBride
Rhian Eckley, Unilever UK & Ireland
Martin Henderson, Rockline Industries
Deborah Hotchkiss, SC Johnson
Alex Jacoby, StarBrands
Tony James, Consultant, ACDOPRO
Philip Malpass, UKCPI
Stephen McKay, Greyland
Tina Patel, Rockline Industries
Danius Plepys, SC Johnson
Steve Stewart, UKCPI
Pete Woodhead, Selden Research
The focus was on the value and standing of the ‘hygiene hypothesis’, which suggests that a lack of early childhood exposure to infectious agents, symbiotic microorganisms and parasites through cleaning may increase susceptibility to allergic diseases by suppressing the natural development of the immune system.

The conference explored the issue in great detail, leading to a special edition of Perspectives in Public Health, the official peer-reviewed publication of the RCPH (below). This included a paper titled *Time to abandon the hygiene hypothesis*, which set out a reframed hypothesis, abandoning the unjustified term ‘hygiene’ and recommended more balanced lifestyles.

Indoor air quality has been a recurrent theme in the media, and we have been working with partner organisations and journalists to improve the general understanding of this complex issue.

**Every Breath We Take**

In February, the publication of *Every Breath We Take* led to considerable, uninformed attention on the role of cleaning products in increasing indoor pollution. The report itself provided a balanced view of the causes of – and potential methods of reducing – both indoor and outdoor pollution. It mentioned the role of cleaning products in producing volatile organic compounds (VOCs), but concluded the impact of VOCs was minor compared with the effect of tobacco smoke in particular.

Shortly afterwards, UKCPI engaged with the Royal College of Physicians, which had released the report under embargo. The RCP had been caught unawares by the skewed coverage, which was led by one newspaper breaking the embargo with a story focusing on the cleaning products angle. As a result, UKCPI and RCP have agreed to work more closely on future similar publications and publicity.

**Time to abandon the Hygiene Hypothesis?**

UKCPI worked directly with the International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene (IFH) and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) on an international conference held in London in February. The event featured a raft of eminent speakers from a range of specialties.

The External Affairs Committee (EAC) of UKCPI has had a busy 12 months, with continued work on raising public awareness about safety, as well as important collaborations with researchers across a number of fields. There has also been a focus on improving our public profile via the UKCPI website.
Safety first – working with ROSPA

Work continued on the ongoing Take Action Today campaign, which is run in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to reduce the number of children harmed by accidental exposure to cleaning products.

The latest regional edition of the campaign, for Hampshire, was launched in the historic city of Winchester (right). Materials were also re-distributed to the six areas where the campaign has already been launched: West Midlands, Norfolk, Newcastle, Bradford, Nottingham and Liverpool.

The campaign’s success has been recognised as an example of best practice, and is the subject of a poster presentation at the 2016 World Injury Prevention Conference in Finland.

Statistics show a considerable reduction in the number of incidents with liquid laundry detergent capsules in relation to the number of units sold, although the absolute number of incidents remains similar: A separate study has shown that the number of accidents with automatic dishwasher (ADW) tablets is well below the levels of liquid laundry capsules, suggesting usage patterns rather than product design may be the key to accidents.

Improving our understanding

Collaboration continues to be a key part of UKCPI’s external affairs strategy, particularly in developing and expanding relevant research.

We are working with the Health and Safety Laboratory, based in Buxton. HSL is one of the world’s leading research institutions providing health and safety information to industry, government and professional bodies. HSL is investigating asthma-related symptoms suffered by professional cleaners; UKCPI is keen to ensure the subject is explored fully so manufacturers and cleaners can benefit from developments.

We continued the ongoing Take Action Today campaign
Online push
The UKCPI website has undergone considerable work behind the scenes, resulting in a steady increase in visitor numbers. Most of this work has involved adding or changing information which is crucial to Google when providing users with search results.

This work also includes efforts to get valuable links from UKCPI members, as well as respected websites from a range of sectors. These links provide direct traffic to the site, but also act as trust signals for Google, which maps the links and promotes or relegates our site in the search results partly based on the strength of its link profile.
In addition to a specific external affairs programme to meet and brief a number of key groups and opinion formers throughout 2016, UKCPI worked closely with other trade associations, government departments, external stakeholders and the media on matters of common interest. These have included:

- Allergy UK
- Alliance of Chemical Associations (ACA)
- Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (AISE)
- Asthma UK
- British Aerosols Manufacturers Association (BAMA)
- British Association for Chemical Specialties (BACS)
- British Brands Group
- British Business Bureau (BBB)
- British Cleaning Council (BCC)
- British Retail Consortium (BRC)
- British Standards Institute (BSI)
- UK Chemicals Regulatory Forum (CRF)
- UK Chemicals Stakeholders Forum (CSF)
- Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT)
- Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
- Cosmetics, Toiletry and Perfumery Association (CTPA)
- Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Department for Transport
- Environment Agency Chemicals Liaison Group
- Health and Safety Executive Committees (HSE)
- Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL)
- Home Office
- Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (Incpen)
- International Fragrance Association (IFRA UK)
- International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene (IFH)
- National Poisons Information Service, Birmingham (NPIS)
- National Union of Students (NUS)
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)
- Sense about Science (SaS)
- Sustainable Clothing Action Programme (SCAP)
- Science Media Centre (SMC)
- Trade Association Forum (TAF)
- UNSCoEGHS
- Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

All these organisations contributed to the influence and effectiveness of UKCPI during 2016.

All Party Manufacturing Group (APMG)
In 2016, UKCPI joined the All-Party Parliamentary Manufacturing Group (APMG), which exists to encourage the exchange of knowledge and understanding between Parliament and the UK’s diverse manufacturing industries. The APMG helps to raise the profile of manufacturing both inside and outside of Parliament. Made up of more than 30 parliamentarians from all parties and both Houses, the APMG is co-chaired by Chris White MP (Con) and Barry Sheerman MP (Lab).
Member benefits

UKCPI members benefit from a range of services including free meetings and seminars, individual support and guidance, newsletters and a private extranet updated every month.

Technical and regulatory support and guidance
All members have direct access to the Technical Manager on a one-to-one basis and this service continues to be well used.

Key issues such as labelling and biocide regulations are a frequent topic and this reflects the number of ongoing changes in the legislation that members have to keep up with.

Feedback from companies showed that the work of the association on these issues was a major factor for membership satisfaction.

European link
UKCPI staff are directly linked to European association AISE at key points from board level through to many of the working groups. This means that UKCPI is in a position to both contribute to and influence AISE policy, as well as keep UK member companies up to date on issues affecting their businesses. This strong relationship with AISE will only gain in importance during the Brexit negotiations and beyond.

Regional meetings
UKCPI runs two regional meetings each year, aimed at updating member companies that are not directly involved in the committees of the association. They are well attended by a broad range of members and we are always pleased to see new faces. This year’s first event included a presentation by the HSE on European regulation, as well as a talk by Simon Burt of Jeyes on CLP implementation. The second event of 2016 was held in Knutsford and featured presentations on cyber security by Neil Powell of BSI Group and on REACH tools by Francesca Angiulli from AISE.

Newsletter and monthly email update
A monthly email newsletter includes updates on UKCPI and AISE activity, reminders of forthcoming meetings, and a summary of relevant news stories that have appeared in the media each month.

Members’ extranet
The extranet continues to allow UKCPI members to search for the latest updates on issues covered by UKCPI, AISE and the various committees. Tracking of UKCPI meetings, issues and position papers is also available for members here. A monthly email summarises the latest documents uploaded to the extranet and allows members to click through and log in.

UKCPI’s strong relationship with AISE will only gain importance during the Brexit negotiations and beyond
UKCPI Council
Gemma Cleland, Unilever UK & Ireland (Chair)
Tony Appleton, Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland
Dr John Bailey, Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland
Colin Butler, RB (UK)
Liz Colson, Robert McBride
Neill Craigie, PZ Cussons (UK)
Rhian Eckley, Unilever UK & Ireland
Rowland Furse, Jeyes
Pete Gilbert, Sealed Air
Ian Lamb, Ecolab
Ania McClafferty, Unilever UK & Ireland
Philip Malpass, UKCPI (Secretary)
Bruce Maxwell, Dri-Pak
Brandon Pilling, ACDOPRO
Alan Rogers, Kay’s Soaps
Susanna Speirs, Unilever UK & Ireland
Demelza Turner-Wilkes, Selden Research
Mark Worden, SC Johnson

UKCPI Legal panel
The UKCPI legal panel in 2016, consisting of Tony Appleton, Ania McClafferty and Susanna Speirs, continued to advise UKCPI on any legal matters concerning the industry.
The UKCPI team is supported by teams of experts drawn from our membership in the fields of technical, regulatory and external affairs. The overall leadership of the UKCPI is provided by the Council made up of industry leaders.

**UKCPI Team**

*Graduated in marine sciences with a Masters and post graduate research in marine environmental chemistry. Philip has experience of working in communications and external affairs for multinational chemicals and pharma companies, as well as managing issues and external relations for international alcohol brands.*

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**Philip Malpass, Director General**

*Steve is responsible for technical and regulatory affairs at UKCPI. He graduated with honours in chemistry and has over 20 years experience in the cleaning products sector.*

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**Steven Stewart, Technical Manager**

*Charlotte covers digital media, press office, external and internal communications for UKCPI. She speaks French, Spanish and Italian and previously worked as a magazine editor managing a range of international B2B publications and websites.*

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**Charlotte Salter, Communications Officer**

*Kathryn is responsible for the smooth running of the UKCPI office as well as UKCPI committees and events. She previously worked for the NHS for over eight years in various roles, including management of NHS pharmaceutical contracts and GP contracts. Kathryn graduated this year with a 2:1 in English Literature.*

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**Kathryn Dodgson, Personal Assistant / Office Manager**

*Gareth is covering digital media, press office, external and internal communications for UKCPI while Charlotte Salter has been on maternity leave. He graduated in journalism and has worked as a journalist and editor in New Zealand and the UK. He also has five years’ experience in corporate communications with the NHS.*

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**Gareth Duggan, Communications Officer**