



# Responding to the opinion piece published by the Pharmaceutical Journal written by David Norris

We are aware that many of our members will have read and been affected by the opinion piece written by David Norris recently published by the Pharmaceutical Journal on the 23/10/2020. The BPSA are disappointed that in a time where the world is coming together to combat racism, a member of our profession, honoured with the title of RPS fellow, feels it is appropriate to have such views and to publish them with little regard for how his words might affect those who have suffered discrimination.

The original article that this opinion piece responds to, written by Elsy Gomez Campos, recounts an experience that resonates not only with our members but across the profession. We want to belong to a profession where people can have the courage to speak out about their experiences without fear of their voice being dismissed.

This article not only highlights the racism that exists within our profession but how far we still have to go to arrive at a place where everyone, regardless of any characteristic, is considered equal and treated fairly.

It has been encouraging to see so many members of our profession speaking out about this piece, highlighting the many hurtful remarks made by the author. We would urge the RPS to reach out to offer guidance, in line with their Education Diversity and Inclusivity initiative, to ensure their fellows are positively representing the profession.

**Yours Sincerely,  
On behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association**

Regan McCahill  
President 2019 - 2020