

The Academy for Healthcare Science

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Dear Colleague

We promised to update you regularly on progress of the development of the Academy for Healthcare Science, and to inform you of the work that has been completed and is planned for the future.

The Association of Clinical Scientists agreed to work with the Department of Health in December 2010 and since then much has happened. The Academy began in earnest at the beginning of this year with the interim appointments of Iain Chambers as Chair and Steve Barnett as CEO.

The first Shadow Board meeting in March brought together many of the healthcare science professional bodies, and saw the initial drafts of the terms of reference and the overarching aims of the organisation. The current composition of the Board is attached to this briefing note.

We are working on refining these goals over the next few months and designing a transitional business plan to deliver real value for healthcare scientists. Since then the Shadow Board has met on two further occasions, and we have continued to make excellent progress.

The financial position has been secured with the necessary pump prime funding that will allow us to operate for at least 12 months and we are busy with financial modeling and identifying future revenue streams to ensure the viability of the organisation.

We have made some additional interim appointments that will enable us formally create to an organisation that will deliver our objectives.

Many of you will have already met Georgina Vincent, Head of Governance and Communications, who started in April. She has developed a governance structure and a communications strategy which were considered at the Shadow Board meetings in June and July. These will enable us to be established as a legal entity and be operating in substantive form by the autumn, and we are considering a launch event to celebrate this key milestone.

Dr. Derek Pearson, who has extensive knowledge of training and development, will work with the Academy over the next few months to start work on the key areas of regulation and equivalence. Osama Ammar, who has experience working in the HPC, will act as Head of Education and Standards. He will be concentrating on certification and setting up our Specialist Advisory Groups.

The Academy has also appointed Paulette Watson-Shillingford to help with the administration of the organisation. Paulette is based at the Tooley Street offices and is an important point of contact for any of you wanting to get in touch with the Academy. This is the core team of the Academy; please call 0207 403 5304 to speak to any of our staff, or via email using the format ahcs[insert first name here]@gmail.com

We have been taking part in events across the four countries, meeting with healthcare scientists, professional bodies and associated groups and organisations, introducing the Academy, explaining our vision for the future, listening to your views, and feeding these back in to the development of our organisational strategy. We are very keen to raise the profile of the Academy and build relationships with the people that we will be working with in the future, so if you have any events coming up where you might like us to attend or speak, please do let us know.

We have made significant progress in a very short period of time and we now have to create the Academy as a legal entity and deliver its key objectives.

We would like to thank you for all your support through these early days - it really has been invaluable. This is a critical time for both the Academy and healthcare science.

Your support and guidance as professional bodies and the scientists you represent is fundamental to ensuring that the Academy is able to deliver something that ensures and enhances patient care.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours faithfully

Iain Chambers
Interim Chair

Steve Barnett
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Members of the Shadow Board

Member	Organisation
Bernie Hannigan	Director of HSC Research & Development, Northern Ireland
Chris Gibson	Lead Scientist for NHS South Central, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Derek Bishop	Scottish Pathology Network Manager, Ninewells Hospital
Gwyn McCreanor	Treasurer, ACS
Iain Chambers	Director of Medical Physics, The James Cook University Hospital
Joanna Sheldon	Honorary Senior Lecturer/Consultant Clinical Scientist, St George's University of London
Keith Ison	Head of Medical Physics, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Ken Rae	President, IBMS
Kerry Tinkler	RFH Clinical Lead, Physiological Measurements & Programme Lead, IQIPS, Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust.
Lise Llewellyn	Chief Executive of Berkshire East PCT
Michael Thomas	President, ACB
Owen Crawley	Chief Scientific Adviser, Welsh Assembly
Rob Farley	Programme Director for Healthcare Science, NHS Education for Scotland
Ruth Warden	Deputy Head of Employment Services, NHS Employers
Steve Barnett	Interim Chief Executive, AHCS
Sue Hill	Chief Scientific Officer, DH
Tim Wreghitt	Retired