



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 26TH NOVEMBER 2008

Clinical Biochemistry is the clinical science of examining blood and other fluids to diagnose and monitor disease and inform therapy.

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB), founded in 1953, is a professional body dedicated to the practise and promotion of clinical science and laboratory medicine and has medical and non-medical members in all major UK healthcare laboratories, many university departments and several commercial companies. It has a relationship with the clinical diagnostics industry through links with its Corporate Members. The Association liaises with, and is consulted by, many national and international organisations on issues relating to Clinical Biochemistry. It was instrumental in establishing accreditation for clinical scientists in all disciplines and administers accreditation in all disciplines through the Association of Clinical Scientists. It also plays a significant role in the training of Clinical Scientists in the Biochemistry discipline and its training framework is used by other disciplines.

Association for Clinical Biochemistry Welcomes “Modernising scientific careers, the next steps: a consultation”

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB) welcomes the release of this important document. In its own words it represents a “bold and ambitious” plan to ensure the UK healthcare science workforce is ready and able to meet the challenges to the NHS that are expected from Lord Darzi’s “High Quality Care For All” and “A High Quality Workforce” next stage review reports.

Never before has there been such a coherent career framework and future training model for healthcare science staff, at all levels, representing an opening up of career development opportunities for all those with the ability and aptitude to progress to the highest professional levels.

In particular we welcome the statement of core principles underpinning the proposals:

- protection of the public utilising services being foremost,
- clear professional standards assured through explicit assessment,
- robust workforce planning to avoid wastage of highly skilled professionals exiting training programmes to find no jobs,

Joe O’Meara, ACB Government Affairs Officer, 07730 681795, government.officer@acb.org.uk

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- equitable opportunities for career advancement, and
- secured funding for training.

The proposals are clearly “work in progress” and highlight some key elements still to be resolved:

- curricula for generic training elements,
- development of appropriate courses at higher education institutions,
- modification of professional regulation,
- involvement of NHS trusts and employing authorities in delivery of training,
- entry to NHS healthcare science by highly experienced scientists from academia or industry, especially to very specialised areas of practice
- assimilation of current staff into the new structures.

There is a determination to build on the best successes of the past to meet the new challenging NHS agenda.

The ACB looks forward to working with the Department of Health, NHS Employers, our fellow professional bodies – the IBMS, the Royal College of Pathologists – and other stakeholders to progress this bold initiative.

Meanwhile our membership and officers will be giving the proposals the detailed attention they deserve during the consultation period.

For further information contact *Dr. I Watson, ACB President, Dept. Clinical Biochemistry, University Hospital, Aintree, L9 7AL, tel 0151 529 3575, mobile 07889 324549, or Mr. G H Lester, ACB Director of Regulatory Affairs, Dept. Clinical Biochemistry, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, RG1 5AN, tel 0118 322 7712*

Note for Editors:

The full consultation document can be downloaded from the Department of Health web site at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_091137

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