

## **Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC)**

### A proposal to establish a Northern Ireland Working Group

#### Background

This UK-wide initiative focuses on the 55,000 workforce of scientists who are at the heart of safe and effective healthcare for patients. Although this group comprises only 5% of the publicly-funded healthcare workforce, it encompasses some 60 different professions. The MSC project takes a global view of these members of staff using the single designation 'Healthcare Scientist' (HCS) and expects to 'advance the opportunities and recognition of the healthcare science workforce in the UK.' With a range of radical and ambitious proposals, the project aims to realise benefits for patients, employers and individual members of staff.

The MSC project team is led by the Chief Scientific Officer for DoH, England, but liaises with policy, professional and educational leaders across all 4 UK administrations. The anticipated final outputs will be legislation and policy that will be tailored to each (devolved) Government. Subsequent implementation must be decided by each country within its own context.

#### The Current Position

A web-based Consultation Document '**The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce** Modernising Scientific Careers: The next steps', signed off by all 4 health departments, was launched in November 2008 at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/liveconsultations/DH\\_091137](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/liveconsultations/DH_091137)

The consultation response deadline is March 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

#### Proposal for Northern Ireland

That a Working Group representative of key stakeholders be established, chaired by the Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) to DHSSPSNI, to have the following Terms of Reference and membership:

#### Terms of Reference

1. To consider views on the consultation document within the local context
2. To advise DHSSPS on the implications, including financial implications, of the current proposals and of any amendments that may arise post-consultation
3. To consider the development of an Implementation Plan and to advise DHSSPS accordingly
4. To advise DHSSPS on implications for workforce planning

5. To advise DHSSPS on a communications strategy that would best serve all local stakeholders

#### Membership

Professor Bernie Hannigan (CSA)

Representatives of employing Trusts:  
TBA (x5)

Representatives of professional groups that would be affected :  
Dr Alistair Crockard, Consultant Clinical Scientist, BHSCT(CS)  
Dr Canice McGivern, Chief Executive, Medical Physics Agency (MP)  
Mr Gordon McNair, Head Biomedical Scientist, NHSCT (BMS)  
Mr Wilson McNair, Principal Cardiac Clinical Physiologist BHSCT (CP)

Representatives of education providers:  
Dr Jacqueline O'Connor (Biomedical Sciences, Ulster)  
Dr Ian Logan (Clinical Physiology, Ulster)  
Dr Tom Gardener (Biomedical Sciences, QUB)

DHSSPS Workforce Planning: Joyce Cairns (observer)