

## Summary

UK Voluntary Register for Public Health Specialists  
Meeting of the Joint Board held on 15 January 2008 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

PRESENT: Jim McEwen (Chair)  
George Morris  
Paul Robinson  
Sara Gibbs  
Jonathan Sexton  
Steve George  
David Williams  
Hilde Rapp  
Ewen MacLeod  
Chris Tudor-Smith (Observer)  
Mala Rao (Observer)  
Sarah North (Secretary)  
Philip Baldwin (Observer)

Jim McEwen welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sara Gibbs, the new representative for the specialist trainees, replacing Jessica Sheringham. No new declarations of interest were declared.

Apologies were received from Paul Scourfield, Phil Mackie, Naresh Chada, David Puce, Neil Roberts, Bernadine O'Sullivan, Jeremy Hawker, Graham Rushbrook, Fiona Sim, Marianne Cowpe and Fiona Harris.

Jim McEwen, and Sara Gibbs, together with Jessica Sheringham will prepare a paper on specialist trainee registration, for a workshop at the FPH Annual Scientific conference in Cardiff in June 2008.

Consultation has taken place since the last Board meeting with other regulatory bodies and the four Departments of Health regarding the title of the register. The UKVRPHS will, on 1 February 2008 change its title to UK Public Health Register. At that time, a complete redesign and update will be undertaken of the register website.

The first meeting took place of the Practitioner Working Group on 11 January. This group's membership is taken from the Practitioner Sub Committee. This group will take the work forward on practitioner regulation. There are two main components for the first stage of this work; the first which is led by Lindsay Mitchell is to draft a package for practitioner regulation and to draft a suitable method of assessment for registration. A number of issues were discussed and a draft regulation framework will be produced by the end of March 2008. There will then be period of piloting.

The second component, to be led by Jean Brown is to engage other regulators in consultation regarding their differing methods of assessment for registration and this will be done through the establishment of a regulator forum. The first meeting of this group will be organised for the end of March.

The Board were asked to review the fees that will be charged for the 'recognition of specialist status route'. This is the route similar to the article 14 route, administered by PMETB. Article 14 is for those medically qualified for whom it is not suitable, for reasons such as seniority and experience, to undertake a training programme to enable admission to the specialist register of the GMC. It is a similar method to the register's

portfolio assessment route. Portfolios that are submitted to PMETB are sent to an external assessment body, a Royal College, for example and PMETB after an acceptable assessment of experience recommend to the GMC that the doctor be admitted to the GMC specialist register. PMETB currently charge £1250 for an assessment (of which a proportion is passed to the assessing body), and have issued a consultation suggesting that its fees increase to £1850.

The register currently charges £130 for an assessment. An exercise had been undertaken as to a conservative 'real' cost of the assessment. After looking at the figure the Board agreed that the assessment fee for this route should be increased to £300, with regular reviews on a 'cost recovery' basis.

In January the register trained eleven new assessors and they will commence assessment with mentoring shortly. In those eleven are nine registrants who completed the generalist portfolio assessment route to registration, one registrant who came through the FPH standard training route. Notification was received from the trainers that they all completed their training successfully and the Board approved these new assessors.

Lynn Crooks, Chair of the Registration Panel has retired from this role. Currently Professor George Morris is 'acting Chair' and at the next Board meeting a successor to Lynn Crooks will be decided. Applications for the Chair position have been sought.

In the Registration Panel report it was confirmed that there are currently 286 individuals on the register: 251 through the portfolio assessment route, 29 via the standard route and 6 dual registrants.

Jenny Griffiths who is leading the 'Shaping the Future of Health' gave a short introduction for the Board on this work as some members will be unaware of this important collaborative work. The collaboration is between the Faculty of Public Health, the Royal Society for Health, the UKVRPHS and the Institute of Health Promotion and Education. It is supported by the four UK Departments of Health and was established in 2005 (?), to take forward the consultation document 'Shaping the Future'. This will encourage health promotion within the ph workforce and provide a career framework for those in health promotion. The first conference was held in October 2006, and another was held in December in Stafford in December 2007. It was UK wide and also had representation from the Republic of Ireland and was attended by 150 delegates. Lillian Somerville spoke about the UKVRPHS. Further information on the collaborative work and objectives can be found at [www.specialisedhealthpromotion.org.uk](http://www.specialisedhealthpromotion.org.uk).

The Board thanked Jenny Griffiths for her presentation and also gave thanks to her for all the work she has contributed to the register since before its inception, as she is now stepping down from her role as an assessor for the register. She contributed to the setting up of the register and was involved in establishing the initial processes and policy. Her work and contribution has been invaluable to the establishment of the UKVRPHS, and it is hoped that she will retain some involvement.

There is no change to the risk management.

The dates of the next two Board meetings for 2008 are and 11 March and 13 May.

Before the Board meeting on 11 March, in the morning, will be a meeting of the Advisory Group with the Practitioner Sub Committee. Board members are also invited to attend.