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Dear Ms Weaver,

### **Quality Assurance of the Foundation Programme - Consultation**

Thank you for inviting us to provide feedback to the joint GMC and PMETB consultation. The Prince's Foundation for Integrated health is committed to promoting the best of healthcare for the whole person and, although we are not a medical organisation, we welcome this opportunity to put forward our comments. These will be general and overarching rather than specific and detailed.

In November 2000, the House of Lords' Select Committee on Science and Technology published a report following an intensive review of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Under the section relating to Professional Education and Training they put forward the recommendation that 'Royal Colleges and other training authorities in the healthcare field should address the issue of familiarisation with CAM therapies among doctors...'. Recognising that most qualified medical practitioners will not have had access to such an initiative during their undergraduate training, it was also recommended that CAM familiarisation should be included in the Continuing Professional Development of doctors, this being especially relevant for GPs and those working in specialities where they are likely to meet patients accessing CAM disciplines.

We are encouraged by, and wholeheartedly support, the several mentions within the consultation documents that lend themselves readily towards including statements which support an integrated approach to healthcare;

- understanding treatment options and the limits of evidence supporting them"
- helping patients to make decisions on their immediate and longer-term care, taking into account the way the patient wants to make decisions ...
- demonstrate that they are sensitive and respond to the needs and expectations of patients ...
- listen to and take into account the views of other health professionals and agencies...
- value diversity
- encompass the experience and views of ... patients and other users

We fully support the promotion of a patient-centred approach and believe that doctors need to have an awareness of the variety of treatments people are using, particularly when these fall outside of the conventional training they have received. With the

growing use and increasing demand from the public for information about complementary therapies, it is to members of the medical profession that they are, rightly, turning to for advice.

In order to provide patients with the information and advice they require and need to make informed choices about all of their healthcare options, we believe that medical practitioners need to be fully informed about the integrated healthcare treatment options available to them and we strongly support the GMC guidelines as published in *The New Doctor*<sup>1</sup>.

Within the consultation papers references are made to a patient centred approach, patient choice (cultural and lifestyle), equality, diversity and inter-professional learning. To ensure that doctors are equipped to meet this challenge, complementary therapy familiarisation modules should be explicitly incorporated within the core curriculum, together with an understanding of how lifestyle choices, including diet and exercise, can play an important role in promoting health and preventing disease.

Yours sincerely

Sato Liu  
Special Projects Manager

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<sup>1</sup> *The New Doctor – Revised by GMC Education Committee - January 2005*

*Clause 17* - PRHOs must show that they consider a range of factors that influence the information and treatment options they discuss with patients. These must include:

- a] complementary and alternative therapies and supplements that the patient may be using, or would like to use; and
- b] the patient's health beliefs, attitudes and lifestyle...