

Chair
Professor David Gordon
MA FRCP FMedSci

Executive Secretary
Dr Katie Petty-Saphon



Press Release

ACADEMIC YEAR POSES CHALLENGES FOR NEW TEAM AT CHMS

With the start of the academic year comes a new team at the Council of Heads of Medical Schools. CHMS is comprised of the Deans of every Medical School or Medical Faculty in the United Kingdom.

It is the authoritative voice of Medical Schools, not only in their dealings with the funding agencies and the Government (in particular the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health), but also in their collective interaction with other national bodies and the media. CHMS works to promote its quadripartite agenda of undergraduate medical education, postgraduate medical education, research, and academic and clinical leadership. At a time of expansion in the number of medical students and of rapid change in the NHS, the Heads of Medical Schools are keen to ensure that tomorrow's doctors are educated as team workers, aware of the breadth of the careers upon which they are embarking. They intend to ensure that the university environment in which this year's undergraduates are starting their studies continues to expose them to the complexity of their chosen profession. Medicine subsumes a multiplicity of collaborative disciplines: law, ethics, communication. CHMS is working actively to nurture relationships between these fields, to facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas and ultimately to educate students capable of dealing effectively with the healthcare environment of the future.

The Chairmanship of CHMS rotates every two years. Pictured, standing in the centre is Professor David Gordon, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy in the University of Manchester, who succeeded Professor Robert Boyd (standing right) of St. George's at the beginning of August.

CHMS has also recently appointed Dr. Katie Petty-Saphon as Executive Secretary (seated, centre). She takes over from Mr. Michael Powell (back row, left), who has retired after more than 30 years' service to the academic community. The other members of the CHMS team shown in the photograph are: Aideen Silke, Policy Officer (front left) and Barbara Anderson (front right)

Dr. Petty-Saphon commented: "I very much hope that my experience in biomedical science, and in the private sector, will help build on Michael's great achievements at CHMS. We are working to develop an environment where teaching, research and clinical care will flourish, to the benefit of patients and to the economy. I look forward to the challenge of working at this complex interface".

Ends
Image attached