

Chair
Professor David Gordon
MA FRCP FMedSci

Executive Secretary
Dr Katie Petty-Saphon



Press Release

New leadership for UK Medical Schools

Professor David Gordon, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy at the University of Manchester, will take up the chairmanship of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools of the UK (CHMS) on 1 August 2003. He was elected by the members of CHMS earlier this year to succeed Professor Robert Boyd, Principal of St George's Hospital Medical School, to serve as leader of the Council for a two-year period.

Professor Gordon has identified a number of key issues facing UK medical schools. These include a 60% increase in student intake in England; the establishment of new medical schools; the delivery of priorities in the NHS Plan; the reshaping of the university system and student finance in response to the Higher Education White Paper, embracing the imperative to widen access to medical education; and the development of new contracts for the employment of clinical academic staff to reflect the new NHS consultant contract.

Commenting on current issues, Professor Gordon said: "UK medical schools make a vital contribution to the health of the nation and leadership in the NHS. They also have a high reputation internationally for the quality of their education and the excellence of their research activity. This is acknowledged by the funders of medical research, including the British Pharmaceutical industry which owes its strength substantially to the output of our medical schools.

"I am looking forward to leading CHMS at a time of almost unprecedented change for academic medicine in the UK. CHMS will play a key role in representing the interests of UK medical schools, developing its role in partnership with other national bodies representing higher education and healthcare interests, so that we are better placed to influence Government policy."

END