National Institute for
Health and Clinical Excellence

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PRESS RELEASE

NICE seeks outstanding NHS professionals for its new Fellows and Scholars programme

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is launching the new Fellows and Scholars programme, aimed at providing more chances for NHS public health and clinical professionals in England to work with NICE.

The new programme will create opportunities for NHS staff to undertake projects and work with the Institute to improve the quality of care within their local health communities. A wide range of staff, including public health and allied health professionals, doctors, nurses, and health service managers, are encouraged to apply.

Professor Peter Littlejohns, Clinical and Public Health Director at NICE said: "Frontline staff make a huge contribution to developing NICE guidance, and the report 'High Quality Care for All' recognised the value staff place on opportunities to work with NICE. We have therefore expanded those chances by establishing the new Fellows and Scholars programme. Aimed at staff who are both leaders in their field and at the start of their careers, we hope to further use their invaluable expertise, experience and skills and present them with more chances to work with us.

"This new programme will not only be a mark of professional distinction, but it will also foster a growing network of dedicated and influential individuals across the NHS that will support the implementation of clinically and cost effective practice. We therefore welcome applications from all health professionals who are committed to driving up the quality of care in the NHS."

NICE will award ten fellowships this year to senior health professionals who will act as ambassadors for the Institute within their local health and professional communities. They will also have the opportunity to become involved in a range of other activities such as clinical audit, education and policy development. Fellowships will run for fixed term periods of three years.

NICE will also award ten scholarships to promising health professionals in their final or penultimate years of training. NICE Scholars will be required to undertake research-orientated projects, as agreed by their local postgraduate deaneries or training supervisors. Scholarships will last for fixed term periods of twelve months.

Health professionals have until 31 December 2009 to submit their applications. NICE will then appoint its Fellows and Scholars in spring 2010.

Ends

For more information call the NICE press office on 0845 003 7782.

Notes to Editors

About the NICE Fellows and Scholars programme

1. NICE hopes to appoint ten NICE Fellows every year from 2009-2010, for fixed-term periods of three years. This means that by the programme's third year in operation there will be thirty NICE Fellows at any one time. NICE will also appoint ten NICE Scholars every year from 2009-2010, each serving for twelve months. This means that at any one time there will be ten NICE Scholars in post. NICE encourages applications from health professionals across all specialties and disciplines in the NHS. For more information visit: www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/
2. The NICE Fellows and Scholars programmes were developed following recommendations made in Lord Darzi's "High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review" (June 2008), in which the then health minister acknowledged the opportunities that NICE currently provides health professionals to become involved in its work. For more information visit: www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_085828.pdf.
3. Interested health professionals will have the opportunity to learn more about the new Fellows and Scholars programme at this year's NICE Annual Conference at a fringe meeting hosted by Professor Peter Littlejohns, Clinical and Public Health Director. The Conference will be taking place on 2nd December at the Manchester Central Convention Centre. For more information and to book your place visit: www.nice2009.co.uk.

About NICE

4. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.

5. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
    - **public health –** guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector
    - **health technologies –** guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS
    - **clinical practice –** guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.