

National Institute for Clinical Excellence

Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6NA

Tel: 020 7067 5800
Fax: 020 7067 5801
nice@nice.nhs.uk

www.nice.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

Groundbreaking work of NICE's Citizens Council continues as new members are welcomed

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) today announced a planned refreshment of its Citizens Council membership and published the names of ten new members. The new members are involved in the Council's current meeting, which is taking place in Brighton from 20-22 May 2004, focussing on the use of patient information and medical records. NICE also publicly thanked ten of the original members of the Council who are retiring and commended the contribution they have made to the work of the Institute.

NICE established its Citizens Council in 2002 as an innovation to reflect public opinion in the guidance that NICE publishes about the clinical and cost effectiveness of treatments and care in the NHS. The Council is made up of 15 men and 15 women drawn from all walks of life that reflect the make up of the population in England and Wales. Ten randomly selected members of the Council are stepping down and they are to be replaced by ten new members to refresh the membership of the group.

The ten new members are:

- **Geraldine Fost** – a retired careers guidance manager, who lives in Hungerford, Berkshire.
- **Lorna Girling** – a part time literature student, housewife and mother of two who lives in Norfolk.
- **Terry Hamer** – lives in Southampton and works on the cruise ships at the terminal.
- **Robert Jones** – works as a warehouse operative and is a football referee in his spare time. He lives in Cwmbran, Wales.

- **Arun Jotangia** – lives in Bolton and currently works in a post office, but used to be a hairdresser.
- **Linda Moss** – currently unemployed, trained as a 'Teaching English as a Foreign Language' (TEFL) teacher and now lives in Todmorden, West Yorkshire.
- **Lisa Pompeo** – a communications operator for the police who lives in Bradford.
- **Heena Sabir** – works in human resources, has recently moved to Huddersfield.
- **Paddy Storrie** – a secondary school deputy head teacher who lives in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

NICE Chairman, Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, said: 'The Citizens Council has provided a very important insight into the views of the general public. We are very grateful to all the members for their dedication and hard work in tackling issues that were very challenging. I would particularly like to thank the ten members that are stepping down for the tremendous contribution they have made, which has been invaluable to the work of the Council and to NICE. The groundbreaking work of the Citizens Council will continue in 2004 and I would also like to take this opportunity to formally welcome the new members who have an exciting task before them.'

The Citizens Council are currently discussing the use of patient information and medical records by the National Confidential Enquiries. The Enquiries undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care. To help them consider the question, the Citizens Council is hearing evidence from a number of witnesses including representatives from the Confidential Enquiries and Arnold Simanowitz (Non-Executive Director of the National Patient Safety Agency), Liz Sayce (Director, Policy and Communications, Disability Rights Commission), Madeleine Sinclair (Assistant Director Clinical Governance, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust), and Sean Kirwan (Patient Information Advisory Group).

Following their meeting the Council will submit a report to NICE which will be considered by the Institute's Board. The Board will issue a formal response setting out their reaction to the recommendations contained in the report.

Ends

The new and outgoing members of the Citizens Council are available for interviews. Please direct all enquiries and interview requests to Victoria Carrahar on 020 7067 5906 and 07879 880571.

Notes for editors

1. The Citizens Council and its work

- The Citizens Council is an innovation to reflect public opinion in the guidance that NICE publishes about the clinical and cost effectiveness of treatments and care for the NHS.
- The Citizens Council is facilitated by an independent company, Vision 21. Most decisions are reached by consensus, with votes being taken where necessary. The Open University has been appointed to independently evaluate the work of the Citizens Council for the first two years following its inauguration.
- The ten members stepping down from the Council are:
 - **Scott Chapman** – a prison officer who lives in Corby, Northamptonshire.
 - **Tracey Christmas** – an accountant who lives in Hull, East Yorkshire.
 - **Rashad Khan** – an administrator who lives in Keighley, West Yorkshire.
 - **Deborah Lee** – a part-time advertisement make-up artist and housewife who lives in Bournemouth, Dorset.
 - **Ray Longstaffe** – a former builder who lives in Brecon, Powys.
 - **John MacGlashan** – a retired security officer, from Liverpool, Merseyside.
 - **Sunita Nanda** – a local government officer, who lives in Middlesex.
 - **Audrey Pestell** – a retired head teacher, who lives in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.
 - **Marie Raynor** – a housewife, who lives in Sale, Greater Manchester.
 - **Colin Stewart** – a self-employed IT systems advisor who lives in London.

2. About the National Confidential Enquiries

- The Confidential Enquiries undertake research in three specific areas
 - **Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH)** – researches the care of babies, children and mothers: www.cemach.org.uk.
 - **National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide (NCISH)** – examines suicides and homicides by people using mental health services: www.national-confidential-inquiry.ac.uk/nci/index/cfm.
 - **National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD)** – examines the outcomes of patients who have received a surgical or medical intervention: www.ncepod.org.uk.

3. About NICE

- NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE visit www.nice.org.uk.
- NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 - the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales – technology appraisals
 - the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS in England and Wales – clinical guidelines.
 - whether interventional procedures used for diagnosis or treatment are safe enough and work well enough for routine use – interventional procedures.NICE also funds three enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care (the investigations are known as confidential enquiries).
- NICE guidance and recommendations are prepared by independent groups that include professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers.