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PRESS RELEASE

Research & Development programme established: Professor Sir Michael Marmot to chair R&D Committee Two R&D Associate Directors appointed

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has established a Research & Development programme to identify and stimulate work in those aspects of health services and clinical research that support the development of national guidance on treatments and care for people using the NHS in England and Wales.

The work of the Institute's Research & Development programme will fall into three broad categories: refining research questions and promoting interest in clinical research topics identified by the Institute's independent advisory committees and groups; carrying out methodological research into the analysis and interpretation of evidence; and commissioning research into the impact of the guidance issued by NICE. The Research & Development programme will form partnerships with research funding organisations in order to undertake this work, and will work closely with the NHS R&D programme in particular.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London and Director of the International Centre for Health and Society, has been appointed to chair the Institute's Research & Development Committee. Speaking of his appointment, Professor Marmot said: "Research and development has a key role to play in ensuring that NICE and the independent

committees that advise it have the quality and range of information they need to develop evidence-based guidance. I am delighted by this opportunity to use my experience of working within the research and development community to support the Institute's work in developing national standards for the NHS."

Recruitment to the Committee will begin following approval of the Committee's structure at the Institute's public Board meeting on Wednesday 17 July 2003. The Committee's membership will include a representative from the NHS R&D Directorate, representatives of research commissioning and funding organisations and additional members appointed through an open recruitment process – including two lay members. The Committee will be appointed by the end of October 2003.

Professor Peter Littlejohns, Clinical Director at NICE, has taken on the role of Director of Research & Development with executive responsibility for the work of this programme. Professor Jeremy Wyatt and Professor Louise Parker have been appointed as Associate Directors at NICE to manage the work of the Research & Development programme on a day-to-day basis.

Professor Wyatt will be responsible for helping external bodies to respond to research questions identified by NICE and for co-ordinating a programme of methodological research to support NICE. Professor Parker will be responsible for working closely with the three confidential enquiries managed by NICE that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care. The confidential enquiries cover suicide and homicide by people with mental illness, maternal and child deaths, and deaths relating to surgery and medicine.

Work has already begun to develop a draft Research & Development strategy that will be presented to the Institute's Board in 2004.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About NICE

1. 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 you can visit www.nice.org.uk.

2. 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).

3. 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.

Biographical details

4. **Professor Sir Michael Marmot** graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney, Australia in 1968. Professor Marmot gained an MPH in 1972 and PhD in 1975 from the University of California, Berkeley. He became a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine in 1989, was appointed Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London (UCL) in 1985, and took a joint Chair – held at UCL and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in 1990. He became Director of the International Centre for Health and Society established at UCL in 1994, was appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and awarded an MRC Professorship in 1995. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1996. He served on the Scientific Advisory Group of the Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health chaired by Sir Donald Acheson that reported in November 1998. In 2000, he was knighted for services to epidemiology and health inequalities.
5. **Professor Jeremy Wyatt** was formerly Director of the University College London Knowledge Management Centre and visiting professor in Medical Informatics, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam. As Associate Director of R&D he is responsible for helping external bodies to respond to research questions identified by NICE and for co-ordinating a programme of methodological research to support NICE. After training he worked for five years in general and chest medicine and for five years at Imperial Cancer Research Fund and has experience in guideline development and implementation, primary and secondary research, especially for predictive models and information systems. His research interests include the implications of the internet for health systems and managing health knowledge, from evidence assembly and publishing to helping clinicians innovate by using evidence to inform their practice.
6. **Professor Louise Parker** Louise Parker was appointed in 2003 to work closely with the three confidential enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care (CEMACH, NCEPOD and CISH). In addition her position at NICE, Louise is Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology at the University of Newcastle where she directs the Paediatric and Lifecourse Epidemiology Research Group. Her current research interests include epidemiological investigations of regional, national and European registers of childhood diseases assembled in Newcastle (cancer, chronic granulomatous disorder, Langerhans' cell histiocytosis, autism, cryptorchidism) and, in her role as director of the northern Region maternity surveys office, investigations of perinatal and infant death, congenital anomaly, cerebral palsy and twin and diabetic pregnancy. Louise is a member of the Department of Health Advisory Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE).

About confidential enquiries

7. NICE oversees three confidential enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care. The confidential enquiries cover suicide and homicide by people with mental illness, maternal and child deaths, and deaths relating to surgery and medicine.
8. You can access further information about the confidential enquiries by logging on to the following websites:
 - Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) – <http://www.cemach.org.uk/> (formed by merger of Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) and Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (CESDI))
 - National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPOD) – <http://www.ncepod.org.uk/>
 - Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (CISH) – <http://www.man.ac.uk/psych/inquiry.html>