

PRESS RELEASE

Professor Tony Culyer to step down from NICE Board.

NICE has announced that non-executive director and Deputy Chair, Professor Tony Culyer, is to step down from the Institute's Board in order to take up the position of Chief Scientist with the Institute of Work and Health in Toronto, Canada.

Professor Culyer said: "Leaving the NICE Board has been the hardest decision I have recently had to make. NICE has proved to be an extraordinarily happy and interesting organisation as well as a hugely effective and beneficial one in the NHS family. It has taken on decisions that were in the past fudged and exposed issues in the light of reason and evidence. Fortunately, I know it will easily survive my departure and I am sure will go from strength to strength. I shall deeply miss the company of its committed and enormously talented staff."

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of NICE, said: "Tony Culyer has made massive contributions to the development of the Institute. We will miss his energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the work of NICE. I will, personally, also miss his wisdom as well as the quiet advice he gave on so many occasions. We wish him well in his new post and are delighted that he has agreed to continue to share his academic expertise with the Institute in the future."

The Institute will appoint a new Vice Chair at its public meeting on 17 September 2003. Appointment of an additional non executive director will be made by the NHS Appointments Commission.

Ends.

For bids or photograph contact Owen Hanson on 020 7067 5914 owen.hanson@nice.nhs.uk

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.

About Professor Culyer

4. Professor Tony Culyer is one of the UK's leading health economists and has been a professor of Economics at the University of York since 1979 where he was head of the Department of Economics and Related Studies from 1986 to 2001. He has served as a Non-Executive Director and Vice Chair to the Institute's Board since NICE's foundation.
5. Professor Culyer is joining the Institute for Work and Health in Toronto, Canada, (<http://www.iwh.on.ca/>) for a period of three years from October 2003. He will be on leave from the University of York for this period.
6. Professor Culyer holds an honorary chair at the University of Toronto and was previously deputy chair of the North Yorkshire Health Authority.
7. Professor Culyer was the author of the 1994 Report Supporting Research and Development in the NHS and was a founding member of the Central Research and Development Committee of the NHS, commonly known as the Culyer Report.
8. Professor Culyer is currently Chair of the Office of Health Economics; edits the Journal of Health Economics and is on the board of several other journals.
9. He is organist and choir director of a parish church in Yorkshire where he is also lay chair of his Parochial Church Council and chair of the North East Yorkshire area of the Royal School of Church Music.

New VICE chair and appointment of non executive member of the NICE Board

10. The Institute will appoint a new Vice Chair at its public meeting on September 17 2003.
11. Appointment of an additional non executive director will be made by the Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government via the NHS Appointments Commission (<http://www.nhsconfed.org/nexus/welcomepack/appointments.htm>)