

PRESS RELEASE

Doctor Susannah Lawrence appointed Vice Chair of NICE Board.

Following its public Board meeting on September 17 NICE has announced that non-executive director Doctor Susannah Lawrence OBE has been appointed Vice Chair of the Institute's Board. The appointment follows the stepping down of Professor Tony Culyer, who is taking up the position of Chief Scientist with the Institute of Work and Health in Toronto, Canada.

Dr Lawrence said: "I am delighted to accept the position of Vice Chair of the Board of NICE. As a GP, I am particularly pleased that primary health care is well represented within the organisation, which is making such an important contribution to developing high quality health care for all NHS patients."

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of NICE, said: "I am delighted that Susannah Lawrence has agreed to become the Institute's vice chair. Susannah is a widely respected general practitioner in Leeds and has wide experience of NHS administration. She has been a non-executive member of the Board since NICE's inception and has made many invaluable contributions to the development of the Institute."

Ends.

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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 Susannah Lawrence

4. Susanna Lawrence, an inner city GP, has been a non-executive director on the Board of NICE since its inception in April 1999.
5. Susanna is Senior Partner at St Martins Practice in Chapeltown, Leeds, and is also co-Director of St Martins Drugs and Alcohol Service.
6. She has been involved in a wide range of national and local NHS policy initiatives, in the fields of health inequalities, drugs and alcohol misuse, workforce and primary care development. She chaired the Leeds Health Authority until 2002.
7. In April 2003 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and has just returned from Australia and New Zealand where she was researching the primary care contribution to the health of people with severe enduring mental illness.

Appointment of non executive member of the NICE Board to replace Professor Culyer

8. The 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>)