

### **RCCP's political campaign for the statutory regulation of Clinical Physiologists**

Following the ongoing lack of statutory regulation for clinical physiologists, the RCCP has embarked on a coordinated policy campaign to put pressure on the Department of Health to publish a clear implementation timetable for the inclusion of clinical physiology into the regulatory regime. The RCCP feels strongly that patient safety must be protected as the new regulatory system develops and regulation must be allowed to develop before a redesign of educational pathways through the *Modernising Scientific Careers* programme is considered.

From its inception in September 2008, the campaign to bring clinical physiology into statutory regulation is going from strength to strength with a number of significant achievements including:

- **Commitment to publish a timetable for a Section 60 Order** – Following a meeting with the Professional Regulation Team, the Department of Health have now confirmed they will provide a timeline for the Section 60 Order to include clinical physiologists into the regulatory framework.
- **Modernising Scientific Careers** – Following pressure from the RCCP through our supporters in Parliament, the Department of Health finally published its next steps consultation document for Modernising Scientific Careers in November 2008. **The RCCP has developed a full submission with a strong focus on the regulation issue and educational pathways, ahead of the 6<sup>th</sup> March deadline. Feedback to the consultation is crucial so please take the time to respond if you haven't already done so.**
- **Campaign Support** – As a result of many meetings in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the RCCP now has a core group of Parliamentary supporters which have committed to add pressure on the Department by raising this issue in Parliament. Meetings were also set up with a view to brief other stakeholders such as the Royal College of Physicians, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE), Skills for Health, the BMA and the Patients Association.
- **Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales** – A similar exercise is taking place in the devolved institutions, given that the MSC proposals will affect clinical physiologists across the UK and given that statutory regulation is a non-devolved matter.

**Your involvement is needed! – We urgently need RCCP members to write to their local MP asking them to support the RCCP's campaign. The more local MPs write to the Department about the dangers to patient safety as a result of the lack of statutory regulation, the more likely the Minister will be to act, given that ultimately he is accountable to Parliament.**

RCCP has produced a helpful local lobbying toolkit which will give you advice on how to find out who your local MP is and how to contact him/her. The toolkit can be on the newsletter page of the RCCP website, [www.rccp.co.uk](http://www.rccp.co.uk). Worth bearing in mind also that if at first your MP does not respond, do keep chasing, as he or she will no doubt receive a lot of correspondence. Quite a number of registered practitioners have already met with their MP as a result of their approach and all have reported back that their local representative was strongly in support and had offered to help in the campaign.

**Next week, a number of supportive MPs are planning to table an Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons putting on record their concerns about the lack of regulation for clinical physiologists and urging the Government to publish a clear timetable which will take forward regulation as soon as possible. Please encourage your local MP to sign this motion as soon as it is tabled because the more signatures a motion can accrue, the more likely an issue is to be taken serious by the Government. Once the motion is tabled you will be able to find out further information on it (including its designated number) on the RCCP website, [www.rccp.co.uk](http://www.rccp.co.uk).**