

UPDATE

HISTORY

The NHS Trusts Association (NHSTA) (formerly the Association of Primary Care Groups & Trusts, APCGT) held its inaugural meeting in Westminster on 27th April 2000, attended by the press and addressed by senior members of the Department of Health.

The meeting unanimously approved the Constitution and appointed Dr David Tod OBE FRCGP Chief Executive and Mr David Selwyn, MRSM, Honorary Secretary. It is an "insight" member of the NHS Confederation, a member of the Federation of Primary Care Societies and the International Hospital Federation based in Geneva. Its status is that of an NHS "stakeholding" organisation. Its policy of free membership for NHS Trusts is a claim no other organisation can make. We estimate our policy saves the National Health Service over £3,000,000 per annum.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS

In January 2006 the NHSTA hosted a Reception at the House of Lords, those attending included the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, members of Parliament and the House of Lords. The reception was sponsored by The Earl Howe.

This well attended event heralded the launch of the NHSTA's "Saving Lives" Campaign in support of the Department of Health's major initiative of the same name dedicated to eradicating Health Care Acquired Infections (HCAIs). Guest Speaker, actress Leslie Ash, spoke poignantly about her personal experience of suffering the results of an HCAI. Dr David Tod OBE the Chief Executive of the NHSTA also addressed the reception setting out in detail the initiatives being taken by the Association in support of the fight against HCAIs.

ACTIVITIES

The NHSTA consults with the Department of Health on a number of issues and helps provide information to advance the cause of primary care.

It publishes a range of publications, which are distributed throughout the NHS free of charge. Such publications include "*Coronary Care in the UK*", the official support publication of the National Service framework for coronary heart disease, produced in collaboration with Dr Roger Boyle's heart team at the Department of Health, "*NHS Healthcare*", "*The NHS Directory of Complementary and Alternative Practitioners*" and "*The NHS Guide to Healthy Living*".

The NHSTA is a member of the Department of Health's Clinical Reference Group for the "capacity, plurality and choice" initiative establishing the protocol for using

European healthcare providers. The Association participated in drawing up, with the Department of Health, the Code of Practice for PCTs contracting with European healthcare providers and has commissioned a model contract for use by NHS PCTs for that purpose.

The Association meets with the Chief Medical Officer for England and consults with the Head of Primary Care.

The Association also discusses NHS issues with members of the Shadow Cabinet and the Liberal Democrats, and is the founding sponsor of The London Youth Orchestra (LYO).

The Association is in regular contact with the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal Society of Medicine and members of the other Royal Societies including the RCN, and consults with several of the leading Complementary and Alternative Medicine organisations.

THE NHS DIRECTORY OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE PRACTITIONERS

The NHS Directory of Complementary and Alternative Practitioners has some 5,000 members, covering a broad range of complementary and alternative therapies including herbal medicine, chiropractic, homeopathy, osteopathy, aromatherapy, Chinese medicine, reflexology and acupuncture.

The Directory is recognised by the Royal Society of Medicine in their publication *Health Information on the Internet* as a leading medical website and is fast becoming a major resource for NHS healthcare professionals.

The NHSTA took part in the consultation exercise with the Joint Department of Health and Prince of Wales Foundation for Integrated Medicine Working Party on the statutory regulation of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture.

EDITORIAL BOARD AND PERSONNEL

The NHSTA has a distinguished editorial board, including Dr David Colin-Thome, Head of Primary Care for the National Health Service.

The Chief Executive is Dr David Tod, OBE, FRCGP. Dr Tod was a practising NHS GP in South West London for over 30 years, and has been an advisor to several Health Ministers and Secretaries of State. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Following the Shipman enquiry, he is currently advising the Department of Health Working Group looking into mental illness in medical practitioners.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr David Selwyn. Mr Selwyn is a Board Member of Wandsworth Primary Care Trust's Clinical Governance Committee, a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, the British Psychological Society and the Medical Journalist Association. He sits on the "Capacity, Plurality and Choice" Working Party at the Department of Health and is a published medical researcher, having worked in medical publishing and research for over twenty years.

All officers of the NHSTA are unpaid, giving their time on a voluntary basis.

The Association carries out regular membership surveys and has campaigned on a broad range of issues from the use of specialists GPs in the field of coronary care and cancer care to the provision of free travel on London transport for NHS employees.

Further information about the NHS Directory can be found at www.nhsdirectory.org.

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Press enquiries should be marked "For the Attention of the Press Officer"

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