

Forthcoming renewals

Profession	Renewal cut-off / lapsing date
Operating department practitioners	Sunday 30 November 2008

The next profession to renew their registration will be operating department practitioners. Registrants will be sent renewal forms at the beginning of September 2008 and will have until **30 November 2008** to return their completed renewal form and pay their registration fee.

To ensure your name stays on the HPC Register:

- send your renewal form (and payment) to us well before the deadline;
- call the HPC Registration Department now if you have changed your home address; and
- sign up to this newsletter (which includes renewal reminders) by emailing newsletter@hpc-uk.org

You can help your colleagues too by reminding them when to renew. For free renewal posters to display in your workplace, email publications@hpc-uk.org

The average processing time for renewal applications is approximately ten working days, although this time may vary depending on the volume of forms we receive. Once we have processed your renewal form and payment, our online Register is immediately updated to show your new registration dates. The Register is in real-time and is the best way for you or your employer to verify your registration status. The Register can be viewed at www.hpc-uk.org, where employers can also check the status of up to 100 people at a time, using the 'multiple registrant search'.

The Registration Department can be contacted Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm, on our lo-call number 0845 3004 472 (if calling from within the UK) or on +44 (0)20 7840 9802.

CPD audits for ODPs

When renewal forms are sent to operating department practitioners (ODPs) at the beginning of September, a random selection of five per cent of ODPs will be asked to submit a profile of their continuing professional development (CPD) activities over the last two years, to allow the HPC to undertake a CPD audit. If you are selected for audit, see www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd for more on what to expect. See page three of this newsletter for an update on the CPD audit for chiropodists / podiatrists.

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Welcome to HPC In Focus. This issue features our usual mixture of news and diary dates to keep you informed of the work of the Health Professions Council (HPC).

In response to the government white paper, Trust, Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century, we are making a number of changes to our Council, including reducing the size of the Council and changing the way in which Council members are appointed. See page two to find out more.

We really value the opportunity to meet and hear from the HPC registrants and this autumn we will visit a number of professional exhibitions across the UK (see page seven). We welcomed Susan Carini to the HPC as Events Manager in June and Susan and the rest of the team look forward to meeting you. To suggest an event that you would like us to attend email events@hpc-uk.org

Finally, and on a more personal note, I can not sign off without saying a huge thank you to our outgoing editor, Philippa Richardson. Thanks too to our interim editor, Sarah Giles. I look forward to continuing the high standard set by my predecessors, and keeping you up-to-date with the work of the Health Professions Council.

Jonathan Jones, Editor

This newsletter and previous issues can be downloaded from the website at www.hpc-uk.org/publications/newsletter

To have it sent straight to your inbox, please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

New Council members

Following the recent elections, the HPC is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to the Council and the re-election of two members.

Stephen Wordsworth will be the registrant member for operating department practitioners (ODPs). Stephen was previously a Council member between December 2004 and July 2005, when ODPs first gained statutory regulation and joined the HPC Register in 2004. Stephen has over twenty years' experience in practice and education, and is currently the Head of Department for Academic and Clinical Governance within the Faculty of Health at Birmingham City University.

Jeff Seneviratne will be the registrant member for clinical scientists. Jeff currently works as a consultant clinical scientist in clinical biochemistry at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and will retire at the end of August. He will continue to work part-time as a Clinical Lead for the Greater Manchester Pathology Network, for which he also chairs the Biochemistry Network Advisory Group and the Information Management and Technology Group.

Both Stephen and Jeff became HPC Council members on 8 July 2008 and on 9 July they spent a day at the HPC's offices for an induction, during which they met the Chief Executive and employees and received a general introduction to our work.

Council member Morag MacKellar, and HPC President Anna van der Gaag, were re-elected to the Council unopposed as registrant members representing dietitians and speech and language therapists respectively. Both have been Council members since 2002.

Marc Seale, HPC Chief Executive and Registrar, commented, "Council members play a vital role in the strategic direction of the HPC and therefore fulfilling our primary function of protecting the public. It is a rewarding and fulfilling position to hold that has great impact."

Recruiting the restructured Council

In 2007 a government white paper, entitled Trust, Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century, made a number of proposals regarding the governance arrangements for the nine UK healthcare regulators. Among other things, the white paper proposed that the councils of regulators should be smaller and more 'board-like'.

In February 2008 the HPC recommended to the Department of Health that the number of members on the HPC Council should be 20 (including the President), and that there should be parity of registrant and lay members.

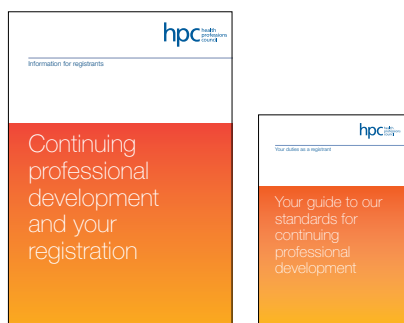
The white paper also proposed that all council members should be appointed rather than elected. Although precise timings are subject to the passage of legislation through parliament, it is likely that the HPC 2008 elections will be the last elections to the Council.

On 3 July 2008, the Council agreed the criteria which will be used to appoint the Chair and members of the restructured Council. The recruitment campaign for the Chair and members of the Council is expected to start later this year, with advertisements in the national press and in newspapers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Details will also be available on the website of the Appointments Commission at www.appointments.org.uk

Update on the CPD audit for chiropodists / podiatrists

The first profiles submitted as part of the HPC's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) audit have now been assessed.

In May 650 chiropodists / podiatrists were asked to submit a profile of their CPD activities over the past two years. Each profile should contain a summary of their current practice, a personal statement of up to 1,500 words explaining how their activities have helped them meet the standards for their profession, and supporting evidence showing the mixture of activities they have undertaken. These profiles are then assessed by HPC partners who have been specifically trained to assess CPD profiles in order to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to show that a registrant has met the standards or should be asked to provide further information.



Two assessment days have already taken place at which assessors reviewed 168 profiles, with over 80 per cent of the registrants being judged to have met the standards. The assessors' approach has been extremely professional. They worked in pairs to assess each profile and have exceeded our expectations in terms of the number of profiles they have been able to assess each day. Assessors have been impressed by the standard of the profiles and the range of activities that registrants have been undertaking in order to improve their practice and benefit their service-users.

In order to improve the service that we offer registrants, we are listening closely to the feedback from the CPD assessors. This feedback will allow us to review, and if necessary improve, the guidance that we offer and will mean that we are even better placed to support those selected for audit.

We plan to publish a review of the CPD audits of chiropodists / podiatrists, and operating department practitioners in spring 2009.

For more information on CPD, and details of what to expect from the audit process, see www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd

The HPC at Westminster

The HPC is one of the organisations in the 'Health Hotel' – a mini-conference that takes place at the three main annual political party conferences. On 2 July, the Health Hotel joined the sixtieth-anniversary celebrations of the National Health Service by holding an event at Portcullis House in Westminster.

The HPC's Chief Executive and Registrar, Marc Seale, and President Anna van der Gaag attended this awareness-raising event along with representatives from other members of the Health Hotel, including the General Medical Council, the Healthcare Commission and Unison. The HPC's exhibition stand was displayed alongside other member organisations. Marc and Anna talked with guests about our organisation and spoke to Members of Parliament about the future of professional regulation.

The event was hosted by the Rt Hon. Kevin Barron MP (pictured right), Chair of the Westminster Health Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Health. Attendees heard speeches from Dr Richard Taylor MP, Andrew Lansley MP, Sandra Gidley MP and Laura Moffatt MP.



For more information on the Health Hotel see www.healthhotel.org.uk

The HPC tests resilience

On 29 May the HPC ran an exercise to test its business continuity / disaster recovery plans, using a simulated scenario of an early morning fire in an adjacent building, with some damage to our offices and two employees being missing.

Much of the management team, the President and two Council members relocated to our recovery site to establish how rapidly services could be restored, and how we would respond to the particular scenario presented. A restored version of the HPC Register

was available within one and-a-half hours, and additional business systems were restored within two-and-a-half hours.

We have since looked at what we learnt from the exercise, with a view to further improving our response to unforeseen events that would affect our ability to deliver services to registrants and the public. We are also planning further exercises to test our response to other disaster scenarios we may have to face in real life.

Revised Standards of conduct, performance and ethics

In July the Health Professions Council launched revised Standards of conduct, performance and ethics (SCPE) which were mailed to all registrants.

The HPC consulted on the revised standards between July and September 2007 and the consultation document was sent to over 300 organisations. The review was led by the HPC's Conduct and Competence Committee. The standards were reviewed to make sure they were fit for purpose, and that they continued to meet the expectations of the public, registrants and other stakeholders.

To request a hard copy of the standards, or to request a copy in an alternative format, email publications@hpc-uk.org or call 020 7582 0806.



Fitness to practise hearings

Our Fitness to Practise Department is responsible for handling complaints, known as 'allegations', about the fitness to practise of professionals we register. When we say that a health professional is 'fit to practise' we mean that he or she has the health and character, as well as the necessary skills and knowledge, to do his or her job safely and effectively.

Our main responsibility is to protect the public, maintaining public confidence in the professions and professionals we regulate. We will consider every complaint we receive about a health professional on a case-by-case basis and take action in light of the individual circumstances.

The table over the page provides basic details of hearings since the June edition of HPC In Focus. For further information on these, and all other fitness to practise hearings, see www.hpc-uk.org/complaints/hearings

Fitness to practise hearings

Date of hearing	Name	Registration number	Profession	Details	Outcome
15 May	Dorne Barber	PA19240	Paramedic	Misconduct hearing	Caution
27 May	Aurelijus Pranskunas	OT45212	Occupational therapist	Misconduct and competence hearing	Suspended
27 May	Richard G Adams	PH23565	Physiotherapist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
28 May	Russell N Headridge	PO00437	Prosthetist / orthotist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
28 May	Jennifer North	OT30606	Occupational therapist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
28 May	Gaynor McAlister	OT26458	Occupational therapist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
28 May	Douglas I Sinclair	PH41025	Physiotherapist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
29 May	Amna Abdalla	RA30882	Radiographer	Misconduct and competence hearing	Suspended
29 May	Kenneth Wanless	PA10404	Paramedic	Conditions of practice hearing	Conditions of practice
5 June	Philip James Arkwright	PA14626	Paramedic	Suspension review hearing	No further action
5 June	Alan Gazeley	PA04418	Paramedic	Suspension review hearing	No further action
6 June	Paul A Johnston	BS39492	Biomedical scientist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
10 June	Cristina Reyburn	SL07520	Speech and language therapist	Suspension review hearing	Conditions of practice
11 June	Karen Nixon	PA09198	Paramedic	Misconduct and competence hearing	Struck off
11 June	Boniface Peters	RA48418	Radiographer	Suspension review hearing	Struck off
13 June	Justin Corden-Bowen	ODP15079	Operating department practitioner	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
13 June	George J Baldwin	CH17476	Chiropodist / podiatrist	Conditions of practice review hearing	Restored
13 June	Shirley D Fogarty	OT20222	Occupational therapist	Suspension review hearing	Struck off
16 June	Pandurenga Rao	PH19538	Physiotherapist	Misconduct and competence hearing	Struck off
17 June	Andrew Pearce	PH28618	Physiotherapist	Misconduct and competence hearing	Caution
23 June	Ian Johnson	RA24444	Radiographer	Misconduct hearing	Caution
26 June	David Tregellas	PH26448	Physiotherapist	Misconduct hearing	Struck off
26 June	Christopher J Caulkin	CH06900	Chiropodist / podiatrist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended

Fitness to practise hearings (continued)

Date of hearing	Name	Registration number	Profession	Details	Outcome
26 June	Raymond Rushton	CH15084	Chiropodist / podiatrist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
26 June	Niall G Salmon	OT20928	Occupational therapist	Suspension review hearing	No further action
30 June	Anne Muirhead	DT01590	Dietitian	Misconduct and competence hearing	Suspended
1 July	Fadayomi E Alade	PH42997	Physiotherapist	Suspension review hearing	Suspended
1 July	Rene Revillas	PH68058	Physiotherapist	Suspension review hearing	Conditions of practice
3 July	Yves Dereix	PH37058	Physiotherapist	Misconduct hearing	Struck off
9 July	Pamela Jameson	PA05579	Paramedic	Misconduct and competence hearing	Struck off

All hearings begin at 10am and are open to the press and public, unless otherwise stated. See the HPC's website for details of forthcoming hearings. To attend a hearing, please contact Ebony Gayle on 020 7840 9784 or email ebony.gayle@hpc-uk.org

FTP case study: dishonest chropodist struck off Register

A chiropodist has been struck off the HPC Register for numerous acts of dishonesty including:

- obtaining property by deception;
- theft; and
- deception through identity fraud.

A conduct and competence panel heard how the former registrant obtained property by deception on various occasions between 2003 and 2006. The panel also heard other allegations, which included:

- obtaining credit cards in his ex-partner's name;
- receiving £1,540 to purchase aeroplane tickets, then severing contact and not providing the tickets;
- falsifying his step-father's signature on a credit agreement;
- providing false debit-card details; and
- taking loans and disappearing.

Panel chair, Elspeth Metcalf, commented:

“In determining whether the Registrant's fitness to practise is impaired, the Panel had regard to the number of allegations, the length of time during which similar acts of dishonesty occurred and the fact that four complainants were patients. The Panel was particularly concerned that the Registrant had abused the trust of patients.

“The Panel considered that the Registrant's dishonest conduct over a three-year period was very serious. A Registrant must always keep high standards of personal conduct, behave with integrity and honesty and ensure his or her behaviour does not damage his or her profession's reputation. This Registrant's dishonest conduct, as evidenced by the Panel's findings on the facts, calls into question the Registrant's fitness to practise as a chiropodist.”

Come and meet us

We are attending events throughout September, October and November. Representatives from the HPC will be available to answer your questions, and provide free copies of HPC publications.

Primary Care Live 2008

Primary Care Live is the most significant conference and exhibition in the primary healthcare calendar.

30 September – 1 October 2008

ExCeL, London

www.primarycarelive.com

A Practical Guide to Handling, Resolving and Learning from Complaints

This conference provides an opportunity to learn how organisations are implementing measures to improve local complaints responsiveness, from removing barriers to complaining to learning from complaints.

9 October 2008

4 Hamilton Place, London

www.healthcare-events.co.uk

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Congress

This high-profile two-day event showcases the latest best practice and research, and educational and professional developments in physiotherapy.

17–18 October 2008

Manchester Central Convention Complex

www.cspcongress.co.uk

The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists Annual Conference and Exhibition

This annual professional event is the largest event in the UK focusing on podiatry.

23–25 October 2008

Bournemouth International Centre

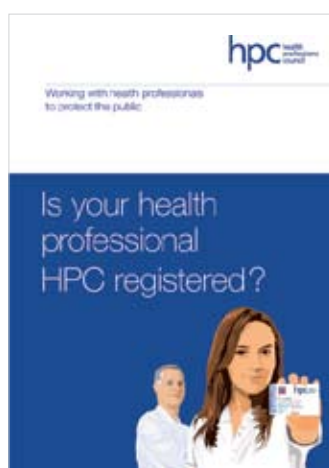
www.feetforlife.org

Listening Events

Listening Events are an important opportunity for us to meet with registrants, discuss current relevant issues and future developments, and to hear feedback. Events in Lincoln and Stoke-on-Trent are planned for November. Further details will be available on our website and letters of invitation will be sent to local registrants once precise locations and dates have been confirmed.

Free public information material

If you would like any public information leaflets, window stickers or posters, please email us at campaigns@hpc-uk.org



Dates for your diary

HPC Council and committee meetings are held in public; more information, including minutes and agendas can be found on our website at www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council

Dates for your diary: August – October 2008

Monday 18 August	Education and Training Committee
Thursday 4 September	Professional Liaison Group – Continuing Fitness to Practise
Thursday 11 September	Council meeting
Wednesday 17 September	Joint Fitness to Practise Forum
Wednesday 17 September	Health Committee
Wednesday 17 September	Conduct and Competence Committee
Wednesday 17 September	Investigating Committee
Thursday 18 September	Finance and Resources Committee
Thursday 25 September	Education and Training Committee
Friday 26 September	Audit Committee
Wednesday 1 October	Council meeting

Contact us

What do you think of this newsletter? Is there anything you would like to see in future issues? We would like to hear your views, so please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

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Alternative formats

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