

10 July 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The era of science and the healthcare scientist has arrived!

I am pleased to write to you about the publication of Lord Darzi's "*High Quality Care For All*", the final report from the Next Stage Review, and the associated publication "*A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Steps Review*".

Lord Darzi's vision of quality and safety at the heart of the NHS, of a "pioneering" NHS which challenges us all to improve care will enable us to do what we do best – assure standards, innovate and work within clinical teams to secure the best care for patients in their local environments.

"*A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Steps Review*" sets the direction for developing the opportunities to enable healthcare scientists to take up the challenges of Lord Darzi's vision. The Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) Programme will establish flexible and sustainable career opportunities for healthcare scientists.

This heralds new opportunities for healthcare scientists to become practitioners, partners and leaders in research, clinical services and innovation. The two reports highlight the critical role healthcare scientists play in providing timely, safe and quality assured diagnostic and therapeutic care for patients.

Scientists should grasp the opportunities the reports offer them in developing further their talents for research, innovation and clinical leadership, and should work with their employers to be at the forefront of leading local change to deliver high quality evidence based care.

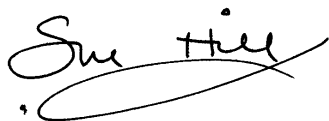
The two publications can be found on the Department of Health website on the links below.

High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085825

A High Quality Workforce

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085840

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Professor Sue Hill

Chief Scientific Officer