

SUMMARY OF CSP COUNCIL MEETING March 2006

Research Perspective

Introduction: Many issues were discussed at the Council meeting. The following provides a brief summary of key issues thought to be of relevance or interest to the research community in physiotherapy. Your views on any of these topics are very welcome. Please contact Gabrielle Rankin on ranking@csp.org.uk who will collate responses and send these on to Nadine Foster.

1. Graduate Employment

Council received an update on graduate employment and a series of meetings with the various countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). The employment of 2005 graduates has been improving but the 2006 situation looks poor with 350 more graduates than in 2005 completing their courses. In February 2006 a survey of unemployment about graduates shows that about 33% of those who responded were still not employed in a physiotherapy post, in October 2005 the figure was approx 51% of those who responded. This year will be a difficult year for graduates and all initiatives need to be kept up. There is a recommendation of a reduction of 10% in student intakes although there are variations across the countries. There are likely to be efforts to further reduce intakes across all Health Care Professional (HCP) courses, except doctors. Discussion also centred on the financial issues related to HEIs and student membership of the CSP.

2. Regulatory board:

The CSP is and will remain in the future a professional body which sets standards and rules of professional conduct for its members. Council discussed a proposal to end the CSPs separate prosecution role as soon as possible. Currently, physiotherapists are the only HCP that is faced with dual prosecution by both the professional body (COP) and the external regulator (HPC). It is felt that it is no longer appropriate for the CSP to have this additional separate prosecution of members. (The CSP prosecution role came into place when the old CPSM system existed in which physiotherapists in private practice were not covered by the CPSM system). There was concern about the timescales suggested and caution was felt desirable by some. Council voted for the proposals and agreed that the CSP should move forwards to end its separate prosecution role.

3. CSP Budgetary Pressures:

Council received a proposal for 10% reductions on budgets across all the functions of the CSP and much discussion followed. The CSP is facing a major fall in recruitment advertising which is much steeper than anything experienced before in our history (mainly because of the growing financial deficits and vacancy freezes in the NHS). CSP Management Group and Senior Management Team agreed estimates that this could result in £1million drop in Frontline advertising by the end of 2006 compared with the budget. The advertising profit from Frontline has been used for many years to subsidise CSP services and subscriptions, and although Frontline still makes money, the profit has reduced substantially. A detailed document about saving proposals was discussed. One of the many proposals was to agree a short-life working group to report to Council meeting in June 2006 on a review of all CSP future events (including Congress

and ARC) and the notion of Congress and ARC becoming biennial events rather than annual events. In addition, a communications plan about these decisions was tabled and agreed.

4. Income Generation Update:

A paper was tabled and discussed around the CSPs agreed income generation priorities. These are:

- a. CSP member recruitment campaign
- b. Tightening up on our procurement and commissioning of work
- c. The new CSP Physiotherapy jobs website development
- d. Corporate sponsorship
- e. Tightening up on the pricing of CSP publications
- f. Investigating the feasibility of developing *a training academy*

On the last bullet point f above – Council allocated £20k during 2006 to develop a short course training academy. A marketing consultant has been appointed to undertake some work to deliver the feasibility study in the near future. This includes the possibility of ‘kite-making’ training courses. All options are being explored. **If you are interested or can advise on this initiative, your views would be welcomed.**

5. ARC 2006

ARC 2006 has been cancelled in line with Council’s decision to help redress the financial problems of the CSP. ARC motions already developed, however, will be considered within the relevant standing committees at the CSP. Future discussions will include consideration of all the events run by CSP.

6. iCSP

iCSP is being rolled out nationally on 1st April 2006 and has online research and clinical effectiveness networks. If you have not yet had a look/registered, it is likely to be worth doing this, as communication with CSP and between CSP members will increasingly become electronic.

7. Improving media response on physiotherapy research matters - *reminder*

In order for the CSP to be proactive in preparing media responses and media coverage about physiotherapy research findings, it would be very useful if researchers could contact the CSP prior to publications. The person to contact is Jenny Edmondson, Acting Head of Public Relations on edmondsonj@csp.org.uk or on 02073066616.