



Press release 29/06/09

New chief executive for PMETB

PMETB is pleased to announce the appointment of Graham Smith as its new chief executive. Graham joins the organisation with a wealth of experience from a variety of senior Department of Health and National Health Service positions and more recently as chief executive and registrar of the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

PMETB Chair, Professor Stuart G Macpherson warmly welcomes the news of Graham's appointment: "We are delighted to have Graham join us to lead the organisation. He comes to PMETB at what is an exceptionally busy time as we gear up for our merger with the GMC next year. This preparation is in addition to the vast work PMETB undertakes as regulator, to develop and promote PMET and support trainees in their journey to the specialist and GP registers.

"I have every confidence that Graham's appointment will ensure as smooth a transition for the organisation as possible, thanks to his experience which includes organisational change, postgraduate medical education and regulation. The Board and staff here very much welcome his appointment and look forward to working closely with him."

Graham will lead the senior management team from 1 September 2009 to the point of PMETB's merger with the GMC in April 2010. He replaces departing chief executive, Paul Streets, who leaves after four years with the organisation in August to take up a new patient-focused role with the Department of Health.

For media enquiries, please call Jo Akbar on 020 7160 6132 or email: jo.akbar@pmetb.org.uk

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Notes to editors

- PMETB is a statutory body, responsible for overseeing and promoting the development of postgraduate medical education and training for all specialties, including general practice, across the UK. It assumed its statutory powers on 30 September 2005 taking over the responsibilities of the Specialist Training Authority of the Medical Royal Colleges (STA) and the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPTGP).

- The vision that PMETB has set itself is to achieve excellence in postgraduate medical education, training, assessment and accreditation throughout the UK to improve the knowledge, skills and experience of doctors and the health and healthcare of patients and the public.
- In response to the outcomes of Sir John Tooke's MMC Inquiry, the Department of Health has announced that PMETB and the GMC should be merged from 2010. This will provide a single seamless regulatory structure for medical education from medical school through to postgraduate education and training and continuous learning until retirement.
- Graham Smith has specialised for many years in taking on shorter-term appointments at Chief Executive or equivalent level and has recent experience in medical education. He was chief operating officer for Modernising Medical Careers at the Department of Health during 2008 – including involvement in operational issues such as recruitment as well as policy arising from Tooke. Later in 2008 and into early 2009 he was chief executive and registrar of the Nursing and Midwifery Council where he led the work responding to a critical report from the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and the introduction of a wholly appointed Council. In both of these roles he built up working relationships with the General Medical Council and the Department of Health's regulation branch.