



## *Press release*

### **Health scientific community brought into accredited registers programme**

The scope of the registers covered by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care's accredited registers programme has broadened significantly today following the accreditation of the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS).

The accredited registers programme was established by the Government in 2012 and since that time registers covering a wide range of health and social care practitioners have been accredited. To date, the scheme has accredited 17 registers covering over 24 occupations, including counselling and psychotherapy, sports rehabilitation and public health.

The AHCS brings together the UK's diverse and specialised scientific community who work across the health and care system including within NHS Trusts, NHS Blood and Transplant, Public Health England, independent healthcare organisations, and the academic sector across the UK. Its register covers practitioners, who work to assist diagnosis of disease, or towards monitoring and delivering patient care.

The AHCS's accreditation means that, for the first time, it is possible to find practitioners in the fields of life sciences, physiological sciences, bioinformatics and physical sciences and clinical engineering on a register which meets the Professional Standards Authority's high standards in governance, standard-setting, education and training, management of the register, complaints handling and information.

Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of the Professional Standards Authority said:

“We are very pleased to accredit the AHCS's register. Bringing practitioners into a broad framework of assurance is good for patients, service users and the public and is the best way to promote quality. The programme offers enhanced public protection and gives practitioners the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to good practice.”

Janet Monkman, Chief Executive of the AHCS said:

“Registration for healthcare science practitioners can only be a good thing, the accreditation of this NHS supported register is an important step in providing added assurance around quality and safety to the people who matter most - patients. I invite all of those who are eligible, to join this register.”

The accreditation of the AHCS was welcomed by Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter MP, who said:

“I welcome the decision to accredit the voluntary register held by the Academy for Healthcare Science. It’s an important tool in ensuring quality and helping employers and commissioners make informed choices about practitioners.”

**ENDS**

For queries about the Accredited Registers programme please contact Luther Pendragon on 020 7618 9100 or email [psa@luther.co.uk](mailto:psa@luther.co.uk).

The Professional Standards Authority’s accredited registers programme has accredited 17 registers covering over 24 occupations and over 63,000 practitioners.

Accredited registers encompass a growing range of occupations and organisations and the Professional Standards Authority may accredit more than one register in any particular occupation. Further information about Accredited Registers is available at [www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers](http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers)

The Academy for Healthcare Science is the overarching body for the whole of the healthcare science profession, working alongside the professional societies. We work to ensure that healthcare science is recognised and respected as one of the key professions in the health and care system, including working towards statutory regulation of all our staff groups to ensure protection for the patients we serve.

For more information on the Academy for Healthcare Science, please visit our website [www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk). Please direct any questions about the Academy to Christine Hughes at CHIC Communications on 07802 251667.