

A word from our President Prof. Brendan Cooper:



Freedom of speech is a subject that has been in high profile in television and sport recently, so in Healthcare Science Week, we need to express the freedom to call for more funding for healthcare scientist training, better career progression and more senior scientists running NHS services in this brave new world of the NHS.

This plea isn't the result of an industrial grievance, but more a statement of the powerful contribution that healthcare scientists have made, do make and will make in an innovative and technological NHS going forward. As scientists, we are the bastion of high quality, best value and brilliantly educated NHS workforce who deliver so much to the clinical services that the media usually don't see because they only see doctors and nurses. However, just like other clinical colleagues, patients are at the centre of our care and just as vulnerable to our absence as when doctors and nurses aren't on the wards.

I hope all healthcare scientists this week, have been able reach out to schools, universities and the public, to persuade young people from every kind of background to consider a long career in healthcare science. We have had to shout that little bit louder because of the industrial action taking place involving doctors and nurses, but our call for more NHS funding, better pay and greater career opportunities must be heard if the health service in the UK is to survive years of chronic underfunding.

Shout out for healthcare scientists. What do we want – more scientists; when do we want them, - now and in the future!