



PRESS RELEASE

THE FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

30 August 2013

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine has today announced that its next President is to be Dr Richard Heron FRCP FFOM, who is the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President Health for BP across the world.

He is the immediate past President of the Society of Occupational Medicine and has been centrally involved in the discussions between the Faculty and the Society about the potential to create a new single organisation for occupational health in the UK.

Richard said:

'This is a time of great challenge for occupational medicine and occupational health, a time of change and a time for great opportunity, as successive governments focus on the health of the working age population.

'As immediate past President of the Society of Occupational Medicine, and health leader in a major multinational company I believe I have experience of working with governments and health professionals to offer. I am honoured to be the next President of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

'We cannot meet the challenges or take advantage of the opportunities alone; which is why the work we are doing with the Society of Occupational Medicine and others to create a single organisation is so important.

'The attraction of young, enthusiastic post-graduate doctors to train and become the next generation of competent specialists is crucial. We have a distinguished record in the training and development of occupational physicians to build on. We are increasingly called upon to provide assurance of their fitness to practise in a multidisciplinary team environment.

'I intend to be in touch with as many members as possible to hear their views on the proposed new single organisation, and get a real feel for their concerns and priorities.'

The current President, Dr Olivia Carlton, said:

'This is excellent news for the Faculty and for the specialty of occupational medicine – and indeed for occupational health as a whole. I have worked closely with Richard over the last two years and know that he will be a tremendous asset.'

Dr Richard Heron formally assumes the role of President-Elect in November and will be inaugurated as President at the AGM on 20 May 2014.

Note to Editors

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine is a faculty of the Royal College of Physicians but has operated as an independent charity for over 30 years.

Its mission is to drive improvement in the health of the working age population through outstanding occupational health capability. Its work focuses predominantly on the management of postgraduate training for doctors who specialise in occupational medicine. It also offers qualifications to other doctors and occupational health professionals.

As a 'designated body', the Faculty is also playing a key role in the revalidation of occupational physicians throughout the UK.

In addition to its work in qualifications, training and revalidation, the Faculty seeks to promote good health in the workplace more widely, liaising with government, running conferences and publishing guidance on good practice. More information can be found at: www.fom.ac.uk.

For further information, please contact the Chief Executive, Nicky Coates at: nicky.coates@fom.ac.uk.