

2008 will be a year to remember:

it is of course the 60th Anniversary of the NHS, but it is also marks 50 years since the development of ultrasound and 35 years since the publication of what is now widely known as the Alberti regimen. All of these have had an enormous impact on healthcare in Scotland and indeed around the world. 2008, however, will also be memorable for being the year in which the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow hosts its first ever Triennial Conference, on 6th and 7th November at the SECC Glasgow. This is an ambitious two day event which has the theme "Setting Standards, Achieving Excellence". We are delighted that HRH the Princess Royal has agreed to honour us with her attendance. During the conference we celebrate our unique position of being a College of physicians, surgeons, dentists and travel medicine specialists, a truly multidisciplinary and multiprofessional group.

Providing high quality education and CPD is one of the most important functions of the college and we have a long history of delivering events "in-house". Meetings such as the Surgical Forum, Medical Forum, Dental Symposium, Travel Medicine Symposium and Autumn Lung Conference are annual events with their own enthusiastic following. The Triennial Conference will bring all of these meetings under one umbrella, and will be enhanced by the addition of a History of Medicine forum, drawing on the extensive College archive and expertise.

Throughout the two day conference, which has been approved for 12 CPD points, four to five parallel sessions will run simultaneously giving delegates both the opportunity to focus on their own particular specialty or to broaden their horizons further by attending sessions of interest within other aspects of the programme. There will also be some over-arching plenary sessions which will include keynote lectures from Professor Sir Graham Teasdale, Dr Harry Burns CMO, Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Dr Jason Leitch, Scottish Government Lead for Patient Safety and, to close the conference, an inspirational lecture from Dr Mike Stroud OBE.



triennial conference

SETTING STANDARDS, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Supported generously by the
William & Elizabeth Davies
Foundation Trust

Professor BO Williams
President, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

Dr Stroud is best known for his attempt with Sir Ranulph Fiennes to make the first unsupported journey on foot from Arctic Canada to the North Pole in 1986.

We are in the fortunate position of having secured a faculty of nationally and internationally renowned speakers to deliver the lectures in all strands of the programme and it is with a sense of growing excitement and anticipation that we approach the Conference.

The highlights of the programme are too numerous to list within this editorial, but the full programme can be easily viewed at www.rcpsg.ac.uk.

While the main focus of the Conference is educational, the scientific programme is complemented by a number of social events. We are delighted to have been granted Civic Hospitality by the City of Glasgow at a reception in the City Chambers at the end of Day One, and this will be followed by the Conference Dinner in the same venue. The social programme culminates in a spectacular Triennial Dinner and Ball at the incomparable Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on Friday 7th November following the close of the Conference.

As medicine becomes increasingly specialised and sub-specialised, the broad representation of professions and specialties within our College is one of its enduring strengths - no other UK College has ever, nor indeed could, deliver an event such as this. The Triennial Conference combines quality, innovation, setting standards and not merely aspiring to, but achieving excellence.

Join us in Glasgow for this landmark event. I look forward to welcoming you there.