

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL

**Minutes of Part I of the 55th meeting of the Education Committee (EdC)
Tuesday 10 February 2009 at Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road,
London SE1 3LU.**

* * * * *

Chair: Professor Trudie Roberts

Present: Dr Kathy Boursicot Rosalind Stuart-Menteth
Fionnuala Cook Dr Andrew Thompson
Professor Adrian Eddleston Fiona Walsh
Catherine Hamilton-Plant John Wilden
Professor Ian Hughes Margaret Wolff
Tim McClune Dr Les Wootton

In Attendance: Evlynn Gilvarry, Chief Executive & Registrar
Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager
Joy Winyard, Professional Standards Officer
Jane Quinnell, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from Dr Stephen Barasi.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2008 were signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

3. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MANAGER REPORT

4. The Chair had nothing further to report that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda. Mr Dye's department report was received. He additionally confirmed that the nationwide consultations on Revalidation and the Osteopathic Practice Framework would begin formally at the beginning of March.
5. Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE) Sarah Eldred, GOsC Public & International Affairs Manager, attended the meeting to give a short update on work of FORE. For the purposes of the Education Committee, FORE had recently agreed a European Framework on Standards of Osteopathic Education and Training (EFSOET), thereby completing a portfolio of 3 standards documents for adoption throughout Europe. Ratified by over 20 osteopathic organisations across Europe, EFSOET complemented the other two documents agreed by FORE – the European Framework for Codes of Osteopathic Practice (EFCOP) and European Framework for Standards of Osteopathic Practice (EFSOP) to help the osteopathic profession achieve regulation in countries throughout Europe where none exists and promote high standards of osteopathic care throughout Europe. The trio of documents would be formally launched in 2009. FORE was now conducting a review of its role, structure, membership and funding to ensure it was fit for

purpose for future.

6. Annual Reports Ms Wolff asked what happened to the information provided by the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEs) in their Annual Reports. It was confirmed that the Professional Standards Department reviewed the information and drew out areas of concern which would be referred to the EdC. Additionally, trends were analysed and the information was used to feed into the Quality Assurance Agency review process. Ms Wolff considered that the information on the Annual Reports was a useful resource and she wondered whether information should be fed back to the OEs. OEs were used to getting a response from their validating universities on their annual reports to them. It was accepted that the OEs needed to understand why the information was being collected and perhaps now was the time to review the Annual Report template to consider the type of information that was being collected. The Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) had very recently agreed to the purchase of a new database system for the GOsC and information from the Annual Reports could be used more effectively with the new system.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR OSTEOPATHIC RESEARCH (NCOR)

7. The F&GP has recently looked at NCOR's funding. The EdC, post 1 April 2009, would need to look at the whole research area as it moves forward. There was increasing pressure to build the evidence base. F&GP had agreed to make money available for NCOR for another year as it had money invested in some projects that were shortly to deliver results but perhaps now was the time for a working group to be established to look at the detail. A careful and considered view was required on NCOR and the GOsC's continued support of its infrastructure.

STANDARDISED DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

8. The EdC noted a report on the Standardised Data Collection project commissioned by NCOR.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. There was no other business for consideration.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. 16 June 2009.

Signed: Professor Ian Hughes
Chair

Date: 16 June 2009