

## **Anglo-Japanese Conference on Medical Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **Joint statement by the Council of Heads of Medical Schools of the United Kingdom and the Japan Medical Education Foundation**

A ground-breaking bilateral conference on the development of medical education at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, organised jointly by the Council of Heads of Medical Schools of the United Kingdom and the Japan Medical Education Foundation, was held at the Ditchley Park Conference Centre, Oxfordshire, England, from 18 to 20 October 2002. The event was generously sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, GlaxoSmithKline, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation.

The conference was attended by Heads and Deans of Medical Schools in both Japan and the United Kingdom, by other senior medical academics and by representatives of both the Japanese and UK Governments. The Japanese Ambassador in London, His Excellency Mr Masaki Orita, was the principal guest at the conference dinner and the guest speaker at the dinner was Professor Sir David Weatherall, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and formerly Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine in the University of Oxford, England, and an international authority on the impact of genomics on health and healthcare.

The conference sessions were devoted to:

- The impact on medical education of changes in society in both Japan and the UK – what kind of doctor does society need?
- Changes in patterns of medical education and widening student access to medicine, including graduate entry and inter-professional approaches to learning
- Enhancement of the quality of basic and clinical medical education and the roles of the professional quality management bodies, including preparation for academic and research careers in medicine
- The location of medical education, in both the community and hospital settings
- Assessment of medical students and maintaining the quality of the outcomes of medical education.

The discussions focussed on the complexity and common features of medical education in both countries and contrasts between Japan and the UK in the societal and governmental environment for medical education. The attached diagram summarises the issues that were debated.

The conference closed with the following understanding between the delegations:

- To issue an agreed statement
- To publish full proceedings of the Anglo-Japanese conference
- To jointly promote staff and student exchanges in the two countries
- To arrange the mutual exchange of information on medical student assessment schemes
- To meet again in three years time in Japan

## SUMMARY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED

