

Revalidation: the way ahead

A response from the Society of Biology to the General Medical Council

04 June 2010

The Society of Biology is a single unified voice for biology: advising Government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; supporting our members, and engaging and encouraging public interest in the life sciences. The Society of Biology is a charity, created by the unification of the Biosciences Federation and the Institute of Biology, and is building on the heritage and reputation of these two organisations to champion the study and development of biology, and provide expert guidance and opinion. The Society represents a diverse membership of over 80,000 - including practising scientists, students and interested non-professionals - as individuals, or through the learned societies and other organisations listed below.

The Society of Biology welcomes and supports the General Medical Council's proposals for the revalidation of doctors. The Society's particular concern is about the process as it will relate to doctors in academic and research posts, both clinical and non-clinical. We approve of the proposal (section 1, para 98) that such doctors will only need to undergo a single annual appraisal that will cover all areas of their practice. The Society is concerned that appraisal should accommodate the teaching, scholarship and research activity undertaken by these doctors and while ensuring high standards of clinical practice should not introduce undue or inhibitory burdens that would dissuade doctors from pursuing clinical and academic work in tandem.

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The Society of Biology is pleased for this response to be publicly available and will shortly place a version on www.societyofbiology.org. For any queries, please contact Dr Laura Bellingan, Society of Biology, 9 Red Lion Court, London, EC4A 3EF. Email: policy@societyofbiology.org

Member Organisations represented by the Society of Biology

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Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour
Association of Applied Biologists
Biochemical Society
Breakspear Hospital
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