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Chief Executive
Jill Rodney

14th February 2013

Professing Ian Cumming OBE
Chief Executive
Health Education England
Blenheim House
Dumcombe Street
Leeds
LS1 4PL

Dear Professor Cumming

Health Education England – Our Strategic Intent: Response from the Institute of Biomedical Science

We are delighted to receive this document from Health Education England (HEE), which brings a reassurance that HEE is an organisation that has a clear identity and obvious clarity of purpose. In the light of the findings and recommendations in the recently published Francis Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Enquiry it is encouraging to see the care and welfare of the patient at the heart of the values and principles of the organisation.

This Institute sees the creation of HEE as a positive step forward in enabling a meaningful and coordinated approach to workforce planning. The establishment of a single body for education, training and workforce development with a single budget to support this process is greatly welcomed. We appreciate that the remit of HEE is across the entire healthcare workforce, but speaking from the position of an organisation representing a vital, but often overlooked element of the healthcare workforce, this drive for transparency and equity of opportunity based on identification of need is a very positive approach.

We particularly support the fact that the Educational Outcomes Framework will provide the direction for HEE and provide clear accountability and transparency of decision making in providing the competent, compassionate workforce the NHS requires to serve the population. It is important to us that the key values around professionalism are at the forefront of education and training and are at the core of HEE's development.

We feel our own objectives and the work programme we are undertaking to support the biomedical science workforce are in alignment with the aims and purpose of HEE. The need for new and different skills driven by the introduction of new technologies is not novel in biomedical science; our accredited degrees are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of service and the service providers that employ these graduates. We have a well-

established (and used) CPD scheme, and vocational qualification structure that supports the entire biomedical science workforce from the most basic support workers to those in advanced practice at the top of our professional tree. We recognise the importance of well trained and competent support workers for the delivery of our new healthcare models and accordingly have just launched two levels of support worker qualifications that align to the two voluntary Science Council registers of Registered Science Technician and Registered Scientist. We are confident that we, the professional body for biomedical science, are working to ensure our profession is equipped to meet the challenges and changes now and in the future of healthcare provision. We appreciate that this document represents the establishment of principles and a direction of travel rather than a strategic implementation plan. However, we feel that the role of the professional bodies is pivotal to the establishment of, and adherence to, high standards of care. Professional bodies have standards of quality and care as the focus of their existence and consequently they have much to offer to the development of the current workforce and training of the future one.

In summary, we value the clarity of purpose stated by HEE, feel it is a necessary and important organisation for the present and future healthcare workforce and are confident that the Institute has a significant role to play in the education, training and on-going development of the biomedical science workforce now and in the future. It would be important that as HEE strategy develops further that some detail around the key performance indicators for the organisation are developed in conjunction with its stakeholders. We would be pleased to work with HEE in enabling its vision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Bishop', written in a cursive style.

Derek Bishop
President