**Higher education and modern life**

Our universities have been the source of a huge amount of the progressive and critical thinking on government, education, social welfare and economics that has shaped twentieth century society.

**A new blueprint to put innovation at the heart of healthcare delivery** was launched by Lord Drayson and Lord Darzi at Imperial College London.

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) Blueprint sets out to transform the UK environment for life sciences companies and ensure faster patient access to cutting-edge medicines and technologies. The OLS forms part of the Government’s active industrial policy.

**Consultation on alternative medicine regulation announced**

A consultation on whether, and if so, how, practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine should be regulated was launched in August by the Department of Health.

**New council champions equality and diversity**

A new Equality and Diversity Council that will strengthen the national focus on improving quality in the National Health Service, was announced by the Department of Health In August.
Niall Dickson to join the GMC as new Chief Executive
The GMC has appointed Niall Dickson as the new Chief Executive of the General Medical Council. He will take up his post in January next year.
Niall joins the GMC from The King’s Fund, where he has been Chief Executive since 2004. Prior to that, he was the BBC’s Social Affairs Editor.

New governance guidance published for PCT’s
The Appointments Commission and the Department of Health have today published guidance to help Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) with their governance arrangements for Provider Committees.

National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS)

Call to extend clinical outcome data on choose and book
The Department of Health’s GP czar David Colin-Thomé has called for clinical outcome data to be included in the NHS’s electronic booking system choose and book.

Registered Professionals - Education and Training

New training and education programme introduced for the scientific workforce in genetics
A new education programme has been developed to provide enhanced training in genetic technologies and clinical applications for healthcare scientists working in laboratory genetics, Health Minister Ann Keen announced today.

New interactive case studies launched
The GMC has today launched a series of challenging online tutorials that tackle tricky ethical scenarios. The tutorials which include child protection, whistle-blowing and addiction will be added to the existing scenarios, which all appear on Good Medical Practice in Action, the GMC’s interactive learning website for doctors.

Milburn report ignores crippling cost of medical education, says BMA
A new report aimed at increasing the number of doctors from lower income groups was today (Tuesday, 21st July 2009) branded a missed opportunity by doctor and medical student leaders after it failed to address the full extent of the soaring financial cost of studying medicine in the UK.

BMA concerned about NHS preparedness for new working time regulations
With just days to go before the implementation of the 48-hour working week for junior doctors, the BMA’s junior doctors' leader warns that not all of the NHS is prepared for the European Working Time Directive.

Genome wide association (GWA) studies
GWA studies represent a powerful new tool for deciphering the role of genetics in human biology and common disease. By analysing hundreds of thousands of locations across the genome and comparing individuals with a specific disease against carefully selected controls, the approach is, for the first time, identifying genetic variations associated with common polygenic diseases.
Essential information on when to expect your CCT and General Practice Registration

Information for GP trainees completing training July/August 2009

Saffron leads the way in Europe
Saffron Brown, an RCN Northern region student activist, has been elected President of the European Nursing Students Association (ENSA).

RCN warns of unsustainable pressure due to nursing vacancies
The RCN has expressed concern about mounting pressure on nurses after figures show long-term nursing vacancies are rising.

Skills for Health co-ordinates Ministerial visit on behalf of NHS North West
Representatives from Skills for Health and the Skills Academy for Health co-ordinated a recent visit to Aintree Hospital by the Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham, during which he announced additional funding of £25 million to create 5,000 new NHS Apprenticeships.

Complementary and Natural Healthcare National Occupational Standards (NOS) approval
Skills for Health have recently completed the Complementary and Natural Healthcare project. The project identified common functions, such as assessment across different therapies and identified any relevant gaps for NOS development.

The NHS Clinical Leader Network
The NHS Clinical Leaders Network (CLN) is a national, professional leadership network for clinicians in England.

Non Registered Professionals - Education and Training

Three Quarters of the nation are planning a career change
Three quarters (74 per cent) of the population are planning to change their career, however one in four (25 per cent) suspect they never will as they are unsure about what they really want, the Careers Advice Service reveals today.

Primary Care

DH defends GP earnings
The Department of Health defended the GP wage structure after it was revealed that some GPs are earning more than £300,000 a year.
RCGP Statement on NICE Guidance ‘When to Suspect Child Maltreatment’  GP's play an important role in helping children we suspect have been, or consider to have been, maltreated. This guidance from NICE complements the RCGP/NSPCC toolkit for GPs  
*Safeguarding Children and Young People* which is being used as part of the GP training curriculum.

**PMETB and GMC unite on Postgraduate Board**

PMETB has accepted an invitation to join the GMC’s Postgraduate Board which advises and supports the GMC’s Council when making and implementing postgraduate medical education and training policy.

**RCGP Calls for Action on Alcohol Abuse**

RCGP Chairman Professor Steve Field has responded to the public affairs committee (PAC) report on alcohol abuse today.

**Public Health**

**Government action needed to reduce harmful drinking say public sector professionals**  
A survey of over 1,000 teachers, nurses, doctors, police and public health consultants shows the overwhelming majority wants tougher rules on alcohol.

**FPH President Responds to the Public Accounts Committee report on health services for alcohol misuse**

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis, President of the UK Faculty of Public Health, commented on the publication of the Public Accounts Committee report *Reducing Alcohol Harm: Health services in England for alcohol misuse*:

**Swine Flu & Defence of the Realm: We are Prepared – Where are the Resources?**

The schools have broken up and we are now entering what could be the fourth phase of the Swine Flu phenomenon. In all, the Public Health community and its partners have stepped up to the plate and ridden these waves of surf.

**Allied Health**

**AHP Bulletin, Issue 72, July / August 2009**

The bulletin’s aim is to address matters related to the organisation and delivery of allied health professional services and includes items of direct interest to AHP staff.

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society calls for older people to review their medicine with a pharmacist.**

New research released today by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) reveals how older people are taking a cocktail of medicine without fully understanding what they are or the side effects they are causing
Society calls for clarification of responsible pharmacist regulations.
The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has called for clarification of the responsible pharmacist requirements but will not be asking the Department of Health to amend the commencement date of the regulations.

Protests as Physio ousted as British Pain Society president
Leading pain expert and physiotherapist Paul Watson has been ousted from the presidency of the British Pain Society.

Government to clarify policy on the role of competition
A ground-breaking meeting took place yesterday between the health ministerial team for England and representatives of the health unions, including the CSP.

International Reports and News

Alzheimer’s on the rise in Europe
Twenty countries are teaming up to study Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, in the first test of a new approach to research in Europe.

Safety of pandemic vaccines
GENEVA -- WHO is aware of some media reports that have expressed concern about the safety of vaccines for pandemic influenza. The public needs to be reassured that regulatory procedures in place for the licensing of pandemic vaccines, including procedures for expediting regulatory approval, are rigorous and do not compromise safety or quality controls.

Live Consultations

Closing August

Closing September
- A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions
Closing date: 15 September 2009

Awards
- Clinical Senior Lectureship Awards The awards for round four have been announced.
- NHS Leadership Awards 2009 - Shortlist released

Events, Conferences and Courses
September 2009

- 29Aug-2 September – Malaga
  Association of Medical Educators Europe Conference
- 3-5 September — Tromso, Norway
  14th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Dental Public Health
- 9-11 September – Manchester
  UKCEA Conference
- 14-16 September — Warwick
  Health Protection 2009
- 24 September -Healthy lives, Brighter Futures – south east regional conference
- 24-25 September – Cardiff
  2nd Injury Prevention Conference for the UK and Ireland
- 28-29 September – Brussels
  2nd European meeting of EHESP school of public health

October 2009

- 5-6 October – London
  National Obesity Forum Conference 2009 - Obesity: Time to get serious!
- 14-16 October – Rotterdam
  HIA 09: An International Conference. On the move.
- 13 October – London
  Improving patients’ experiences in hospitals – yes we can! (King’s Fund)
- 18-23 October – Nairobi
  8th International Conference on Urban Health
- 20 October – Liverpool
  Big Food Debate II - national public health nutrition conference

November 2009

- 3 November – London
  Inequalities, Ethics and Obesity
- 5-6 November – Washington, DC
  2008 research conference on food, nutrition, physical activity & cancer
- 7-11 November – Philadelphia
  137th APHA Annual Meeting : Water and Public Health - The 21st Century Challenge
- 5th-7th November, Glasgow
  RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference 2009
- 12-13 November – Peebles
  Scotland Faculty of Public Health: Public Health in a Change of Age
- 16-18 November – Manchester
  The 11th International Hepatitis C conference
- 16-20 November – Havana, Cuba
  Forum 2009 : Innovating for the health of all
- 18 November – Nottingham
  BHFN 9th Annual Conference - National policy to local practice: working together to deliver physical activity programmes
- 24 November
-  King’s Fund Annual Conference
- 25-28 November – Lodz, Poland
  31st ASPHER annual conference: Transcending the borders – intercultural & trans disciplinary public health education to promote social and environmental well-being – promoting innovation
- 26-28 November – Lodz, Poland
  17th EUPHA Conference on Public Health: Human Ecology and Public Health – promoting social and environmental conditions conducive to health
26-28 November – Lodz, Poland
The second joint European Conference on Public Health