

Devon  
for  
the

NEWS  
LMC  
DEVON

### Chief Officer's Corner

#### Waiting for the Paper

Well – a Happy New Year to you all!! I await the latest “new White Paper” to hit the Health Service with interest and some concern as the recent track record of the Department of Health and its political masters gives some pause. Are the changes in QOF reasonable and appropriate; is the pensions situation entirely clarified; is the headlong rush to bring big business into front line Primary Health Care good for patients and fully thought through; is it fair that there will be a freeze on Global sums and PMS baseline contract values with the only increase in GP practice income coming from new DESs covering PBC and even more dubious issues such as Choose and Book? From recent evidence what can we expect from “Care outside hospitals” (which seems to me a clumsy and backhanded way to define the very basis upon which British health care is founded!)?



Buried within the Health and Social Care Act was the enabling legislation that allows the Government to impose change on the health service without the need for further Primary Legislation and this has the massive advantage for Ministers that they do not have to go cap in hand to their rebellious back benchers in order for Tony Blair to finally appear to achieve something from his near nine years “in charge”. It seems likely that “TB’s legacy” will have to be most obvious in the two areas of Health and Education (perhaps because almost all other areas that might interest future historians appear to be more under the control of Brussels) and in Health change can now be forced through by ministerial diktat in the form of new “Regulations”. APMS and SPMS were given birth without “old Labour” backbenchers noticing and with the profession accepting assurances that these mechanisms would be rarely used and only where local standard providers could not, or did not wish to, provide new or replacement services. The reality may well be somewhat different. Look at Out-of-Hours services in Cornwall where the recent tendering process has brought in “big business” in the form of an APMS provider who is outside the NHS (and cannot provide NHS pensions) by the name of SERCO. Their tender was the lowest in terms of cost but was also, I understand, the poorest in terms of the details as to how they were going to provide the service. Their up front tender was some £2m cheaper than the current provider Kernowdoc and £500k less than that of Devondocs. I sincerely hope that they will be able to provide the quality of care that patients require and that the Cornish PCTs, who have taken the

lowest tender, do not find that their future costs under Payment by Results do not give them cause to wonder whether their grabbing of this seeming “bird in the hand” does not make them regret buying “a pig in a poke”!



I am writing this little piece sat at my computer at home having had a small cardiac “blip” which has a working diagnosis of an episode of “Acute Coronary Syndrome” and caused me to test the catering of the

CCU and Taw Ward at the RD&E for three

days over last weekend (much improved by the way!). My angiogram on Monday was reassuringly similar to my last one in 2001 so I am following doctor’s orders to “rest for a couple of weeks” before getting back to work proper. So a happy coincidence then that by the time the White Paper finally appears I should be raring to go!!

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### The Plymouth Sub-Committee

As some of you may know Dr Dick Page has recently retired as Chairman of the LMC Sub Committee covering Plymouth and the South Hams & West Devon PCT areas and Dr Preston de Mendonca has been appointed in his place.

Dick has been a stalwart supporter of his constituents over many years and was particularly active in the liaison role between practices and Derriford Hospital. He has acted as "a wise man" in the old "3 wise men" system that antedated the current "Performance Process" and as a GP adviser within the Complaints Procedures. All of this has been done calmly and largely anonymously as Dick can at times be somewhat of a shrinking violet! He plans to retire from practice as a GP Principal in April which will no doubt allow him more time to practice his golf drive off the foredeck of his

yacht!! Thank you Dick and enjoy an active retirement. (Happily Dick stays on as an LMC member until his retirement.)



I take this opportunity to welcome Preston to his new position of responsibility within the LMC. He has been the LMC GP lead for the Plymouth PCT area since the PCT's formation and looks forward to being equally active on behalf of his South Hams & West Devon GP colleagues. He is already interested in the proposed Sherford Development and wishes to help our PCT colleagues in creating an appropriate health care system for a brand new community. May I both welcome him and wish him the very best in representing the interests of all the GPs in his Sub Committee area.

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### GPC advice on "Correction Factors" after "GP" issue of 13th January

We received the following from the GPC today:

"Today's 'GP' carries an "exclusive" with the headline 'GMS correction factor to end'. We would like to assure you that this article is a complete misrepresentation. There is no intention to cut correction factors. There is no intention to depart from the blue book agreement that future inflationary or cost of living uplifts to core GMS funding will apply equally to the global sum and the correction factor.

We have contacted NHS employers with a view to issuing a joint statement rebutting this article. We are also contacting the editor of GP to correct the publication's complete misconstruction of statements made and are considering what further action to take."

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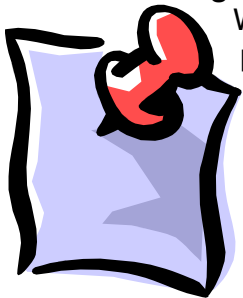
### GP Registrar e-bulletin - January 2006

We have just received the electronic copy of the Registrar Bulletin which I have placed on our website: [www.devonlmc.org](http://www.devonlmc.org). As and when further copies are received they will be placed on the website and we will alert you of their arrival through the Purple Pages.

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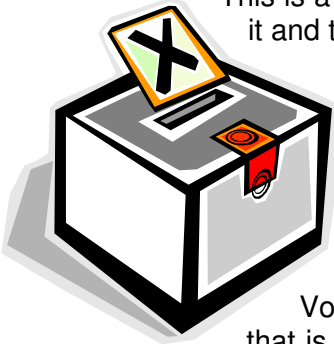
### BMA Junior Members Forum 2006

The BMA is hoping to invite members of the Association who are within 12 years of provisional registration or 11 years of full registration, and particularly those who have not attended previous Forums, to their weekend meeting to be held at the Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth, over the weekend of 8 and 9 April on the subject of "21<sup>st</sup> Century Doctors...a life or medicine?" There will be 4 speakers on the Saturday morning followed by working groups in the afternoon and the Sunday will be devoted to debates arising from the previous day's activity or other medical/medico-political subjects and the meeting will end at about 3.30pm on the Sunday. Overnight accommodation and all meals will be provided for Friday evening and receipted travelling expenses will be reimbursed. There will be a semi-formal dinner on the Saturday evening. If you are interested you need to contact me as the LMC has to nominate you and we have to do so by 5.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. In the event that you are not selected after our nomination any junior member of the BMA may attend the Forum as an observer at their own



expense and provided there are spaces available, with a daily delegate rate of £50 which includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. There is an overnight bed and breakfast rate on the Saturday and Friday of £115 including VAT per night for single occupants of a double room and £145 for 2 people sharing a double room.

This is a useful way of introducing yourself into national BMA politics if you wish to do it and this is a relatively painless introduction if you choose to ask to be nominated.



#### **GPC Election 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

There is an election to the GPC on 13<sup>th</sup> April in Somerset and North & East Devon Constituency which has Dr Roger Bulley standing for re-election. The GPC seek nominations by 17<sup>th</sup> February of qualified doctors essentially GPs in the constituency performing at least two sessions of GP work a week in a practice (or practices) who contribute to their LMC Voluntary levy or who themselves make a Voluntary Contribution to their LMC if that is not the case. If you wonder if you qualify ring the LMC office to check!! You will require 7 nominators who are similarly qualified and these qualifications will be verified by your LMC. Election packs can be obtained via the BMA website at <http://www.bma.org.uk> for BMA members (and follow the links) or via the LMC office for non-members.

It is my view that Roger Bulley has done a good job for us locally over the years and I will be supporting him in the election but, as a democrat at heart, I will be pleased to advise any Devon qualified GP on how to go about being nominated and elected!! Good luck everybody!

#### **Debbie Galbraith - Executive Officer**

##### **Feedback from Meeting with Council Executive Officers**

The meeting with the Chief Executives from Devon County councils was very successful. They took on board the findings from the practice Survey that some of you had completed. These meetings will be ongoing to discuss and hopefully diminish unnecessary paperwork for GPs and Practice Managers.

Please continue to send me any reports or requests you receive from councils or other organisations that you feel do not require GP or practice input, and I will deal with them for you. The next meeting with the Councils will be in March so any feedback before then would be helpful.

##### **HFEA – Tomorrow’s Children: report of the welfare of the child policy review**

Dr Page, Plymouth Sub Committee, reported that a letter had been received from the Authority saying that GPs would no longer be asked about the suitability of patients for assisted conception. It was felt this was a great victory for commonsense.

##### **Choose and Book - Just an update**

The practices should finally have received the letter from the Choose and Book Lead, Neil Parsons, covering all areas of the 8 PCTs. The delay for this letter being released was the proofing of its contents by the LMC. Any experiences, feedback and comments from practices with regards to Choose and Book would be appreciated so please email them to: [debbie@devonlmc.org](mailto:debbie@devonlmc.org)

##### **Patient Transport**

Just a reminder that patient transport is no longer dealt with by GP practices and it remains the responsibility of your PCT.



# CAUTION

## European City Guide

A GP has drawn our attention to the company 'European City Guide', having received threatening correspondence from them relating to a payment of £700 for inclusion in their CD Rom promoting small businesses, which, needless to say, the GP did not agree to in the first place.

Although other similar such marketing tactics are probably quite common and most GPs will not be taken in by this kind of thing, I thought I would pass this information on as ECGs tactics appear to be particularly aggressive. There is also an online campaign against this company at <http://www.stopecg.org/> which provides more information.

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### Sarah Hale - Executive Officer Copying Letters to Patients

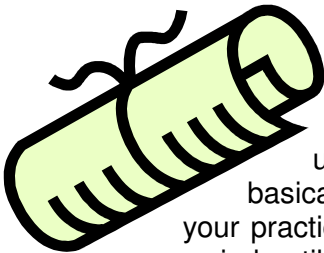
Just a reminder to practices (and PCTs) that practices are not obliged to participate with this initiative. One PCT has written out to practices to find out how they can push this forward. It is still the view of the LMC (as per the CO report October 2005) that this is not something that GP practices have to comply with and that the concept is ill-considered, unfunded and relies on an unconvincing and anecdotal evidence base.




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### NHS Pension Scheme End of Year Certificate – Paul Ham, PPSA

I have now had chance to look at the final end of year certificate that was issued in December and I am afraid to say that I am not entirely happy with various parts of it but most concerning to me is the final calculation undertaken before arriving at your pensionable pay figure. The adjustment basically reduces your pay figure depending on your practice year end. The later your practice year end, the greater the reduction! This had been nagging at the back of my mind until I had a telephone call from a practice manager who inspired me to investigate further. I therefore tried to get my head around this adjustment and the only reason I could think of was to allow for increased level of pay in the latter financial year. In other words, to allow for the benefit of more of your profit relating to the current fiscal year and the related inflated fees.



I put this to the Pensions Agency who said that that was exactly what the adjustment was for so I gave myself a pat on the back. However, I then thought about it some more, worked the whole process through in my head and realised that it wouldn't work long-term because of many mathematical factors. I proceeded to model the long-term effect of this adjustment based on two GPs both earning exactly the same amount but one having a 31<sup>st</sup> March year end and the other a 30<sup>th</sup> June year end. I feel that the results proved my theory. After 20 years the model with the adjustment produced a pension of £5,500pa greater (that's £16,500 greater lump sum) for the GP whose year end was 30<sup>th</sup> June. I had applied inflation at 5% to my model so by discounting this figure it relates to £2,200pa (£6,600 lump sum) in today's money. The most damning evidence was that when the 1.1667 adjustment was removed the outcome actually produced a benefit to the doctor with the 31<sup>st</sup> March year end of £815pa (£2,445 lump sum) which when discounted came to only £320pa (£960 lump sum).

With or without the adjustment, there is some level of inequity depending on your year end but the concerning thing is that the inequity is far greater with the adjustment. I would imagine that if you've got a year end of 30<sup>th</sup> June that you're saying fine, leave it as it is, but I feel that this process should be equitable. My only suggestion would be to move every practice to a 30<sup>th</sup> June year end!!! I ran this past the Pensions Agency and was met with the following response "I'm really sorry but I think we have to move on. The Agency has passed

on concerns to the Dept of Health over the past few months in respect of the Cert but have been told (rather firmly) that this is the final version, has been tested over and over again, and everyone has to live with it". So there we have it!!! I have spoken but I am clearly not important enough to be heard. From this Pensions Agency response I shall no longer be questioning anything in this certificate. I have campaigned against elements of the new superannuation process since day one but to no avail. I will say that I agree with the principle of the new process but I am now stepping down from my soapbox to get on with the mammoth task ahead of processing c.800 certificates. Unfortunately, motivating myself knowing all that I know about the weaknesses of this process is going to be difficult, but I can assure you that the PPSA will nevertheless strive to get this work done accurately and on time regardless.

And finally..... I was asked what would happen if a doctor did not submit their return by 28<sup>th</sup> February. The response was "The Practice **MUST** send in the Cert by 28 February, if they do not they are in breach of NHSPS Regulations which are statutory." I'm working on a Newsletter that tells them this.



### **Child Protection Guidance – Ann Morecraft, PPSA**

New multi-agency child protection guidelines for Devon, Plymouth & Torbay are web-based and can be found on:

**<http://www.devon.gov.uk/child-protection-procedures>**

This guidance replaces the old green folder version. It will be updated at intervals. Please put it on your Desktop. It is important that the new guidance should be accessible to all staff who have contact with children and families. For staff in training it is an excellent learning tool.

Previous local serious case reviews into the deaths of children by abuse or neglect have shown a lack of knowledge of local procedures by key staff. There is guidance in the new procedures which will help you in many day-to-day situations in child safeguarding - use it! Explore the web site, for example "Substance use by parents/carers and child protection" in Section 1, an area which is causing increasing concern both locally and nationally.



### **Domestic Violence - Voices of the Victims**

#### **Jane Richards - LMC Portfolio Representative for Domestic Violence**

Do you know where to refer a woman who hints to you – or even tells you directly – about violence to her in her home?

Or do you make seemingly soothing noises and otherwise largely disbelieve her concerns and send her back into the ongoing abuse?

In a recent study done for ADVA - Against Domestic Violence and Abuse in Devon – we GPs came out badly on our initial responses to victims opening up about the abuse they suffer. Many comments were made by the victims who responded to the survey about GPs not recognising abuse if there were no physical signs or helping the women by listening to their stories and believing them. We are more likely to prescribe anti-depressants than refer them for practical help and support.

Women's Aid runs services in all the districts of the county and several safe houses and drop-in centres. They also provide support for the children caught up in such situations which the victims greatly value and courses such as "Pattern Changing" for the survivors of domestic violence.



### Some Useful “Domestic Violence” Phone Numbers

South Devon Women’s Safe House .....	01803 524594
Exeter Women’s Refuge .....	01392 667144
Exeter Young Women’s Service.....	01392 667147
Plymouth Women’s Refuge.....	01752 562286
North Devon Women’s refuge .....	01271 321946
North Devon Outreach.....	01271 370079
Rape Crisis Line .....	01752 223584



### Personal Child Health Record Book (Red Book)

*A short note on this book which has been produced by Dave Price, Child Health System Manager, RD& E NHS Foundation Trust, Child Health Dept.*

The PCHR (Red Book) has been developed after wide consultation and will continue to evolve with changing needs and findings from research. A National group oversees its development under the auspices of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

In Devon, all areas use the current National version of the book, which reflects the recommendations of Hall 4 and is designed to be used in conjunction with the ‘Birth to Five’ book – hence the lack of health promotion material within the Red Book.

A recent local decision now sees the book issued to Mothers by Midwifery staff at Maternity Units in many PCTs, although Health Visitors still explain the content and usage of the book.

The record should be completed contemporaneously as far as is possible, and **ALL** Health Professionals should participate in its completion along with the Parents/Carers. There are pages for developmental screening and routine reviews, hearing screening, HV’s First Visit, GP’s 6/8 week review, school entry review, growth charts and much more besides.

It is in the interest of all concerned that the book be used as designed, assisting the task of sharing information and cementing partnership working with colleagues and Parents/Carers.

Many of the three-part tear out pages (**not** the vaccination pages) should be forwarded to your local Child Health Department (see foot of each such page) – from which further information or guidance with regard to usage can be sought.

## Comings and Goings January

### Welcome to:

- Dr Elizabeth Shawcross, Castle Gardens Surgery, Torrington
- Dr Edmund Doyle, Friary House Surgery, Plymouth
- Dr William Reader, Friary House Surgery, Plymouth

### Goodbye to:

- Dr Peter Edwards, Buckfastleigh Medical Centre
- Dr Rowena Nicholson, Kingskerswell Health Centre

### The following doctors have moved to different surgeries:

- Dr Gary Lenden from Ernesettle Green to Pathfields Practice, Plymouth
- Dr Anna Kennaird from Barton Surgery, Dawlish to Kingskerswell Health Centre

### Exeter Sessional GP Group - New Venue

The ESGP monthly evening meetings will have a new venue as from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The new venue is the **Clarence Room in The Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter** (just beside ASK). The January meeting will therefore be the last to be held at ASK. Future meetings will still be held at **7.00pm** and food arrives at 7.15pm with the guest speaker planned to commence at 7.45pm.

**New members welcome.**

**Next Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> February** - Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Yvette Parker)





### Australian Aboriginal Medicine - Andrew Stainer-Smith

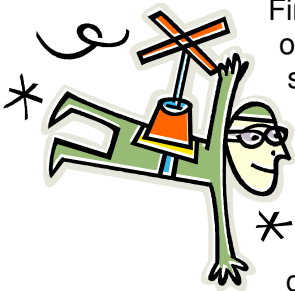
It is a delight to be back in Devon. My wife, 13 year old and I returned in 2005 from remote Northern Territory. Finding somewhere where we could live and work together was not easy. We survived one cyclone.

Arnhem Land is truly hot. Either bone dry or torrentially wet with crocodiles, lethal jelly fish and diseases I had never heard of. I saw children die of rheumatic fever. Look up Melioidosis.

Aboriginal Australians desperately need doctors prepared to work hard. Whether white Australia wants them is a different question.

In Australia there is no law against incitement to racial hatred. John Howard says it would be 'an unnecessary infringement of free speech'. The words 'Liberal Party' now leave a sour taste.

Life expectancy in Australia is 20 years less for indigenous than non-indigenous. For Maoris the gap is 12 years; For First Nation Americans 7 years. The WHO ranks black Australian health below Bangladesh and the Southern Sudan.



First, I was flying doctor for 6 months on some fairly hairy evacuations, but with the opportunity to work in communities. After getting to know the Northern Territory I signed up with a new Aboriginal Health Service that is trying to help. All the same, the waste and inbuilt tendency to fail was palpable.

I ended up doing one useful job, getting a computer system operating in remote communities with a recall system that functions. But the real rewards came in the few times I managed to be a successful advocate. One's heart goes out to struggling families assaulted with lamentable education and no employment. Alcohol is thrust on them and whole generations for one reason or another are 'lost'. It was truly a privilege to be welcomed out bush.

If this sort of work interests you, do contact me: [stainersmith@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stainersmith@dsl.pipex.com)

Torbay **NHS**

Care Trust

#### Are you interested in becoming an Appraiser?

Torbay Care Trust are currently seeking new and enthusiastic Doctors to become trained Appraisers

#### Payment for being an appraiser:

Locum Fee payable = £379.00  
Professional Fee payable = £187.00  
Total payable = £566.00

Please could you contact me by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 if you are interested either by email: [jane.booth@nhs.net](mailto:jane.booth@nhs.net) Tel: 01803 210545 or by post using the address below

**Many thanks for you time and look forward to hearing from you!**

Jane Booth, Primary Care Support Manager, Bay House, Unit 2, Riviera Park, Nicholson Road, Torquay TQ2 7TD. Tel: 01803 210545. Fax: 01803 210598.

## DOCTORS' SUPPORT NETWORK

### Need to talk to another Doctor?

Confidential Peer Support Line run by Doctors for Doctors, 36 hours a week.

Doctors' SupportLine: 0870 765 0001

### Useful Contacts

**www.support4doctors.org** - a website run by the RMBF – aims to put doctors and their families in touch with a range of organisations who can help – work and career; money and finance; health and wellbeing; family and home.

**The Sick Doctors Trust** – Tel: 0870 445163. **www.sick-doctors-trust.co.uk** – Undertakes early intervention and treatment for doctors suffering from addiction to alcohol or other drugs.

**BMA Counselling Service** – Tel: 08459 200169

**BMA Doctors for Doctors** – **www.bma.org.uk** (click on doctors' health and well-being. This is intended as a self-help tool to aid doctors in assessing appropriate help for any difficulties. (BMA Members only)

**Mind** Tel: 0845 766 0163 – the leading mental health charity in England and Wales.

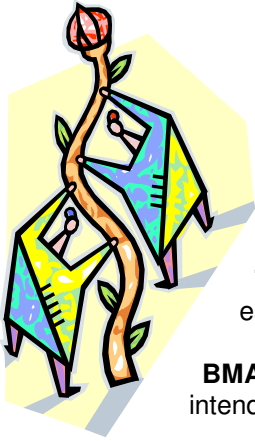
**Independent Career Assessment** – **www.medicalforum.com**

### Financial Help

**BMA Charities** Tel: 0207387 4499

**Royal Medical Benevolent Fund** Tel: 020 8540 9194

**The Royal Medical Foundation** Tel: 01372 821011



## Position Sought – Please note new email address

### Practice Nurse

**Mary Jo Cookson, SRN SCM RHV**

9 years practice nurse experience. Moving to Plymouth in the spring of 2006. Currently working in inner city Birmingham. I am looking for a practice nurse vacancy (approximately 24 hrs per week). Please contact me on 07746 054 490 (mobile) or 0121 702 2367 (home).

Email address: **cookson\_mj@yahoo.co.uk**

### Qualified Phlebotomist

requires employment at surgeries in the Exeter and Mid Devon areas. Permanent and temporary cover available. Trained at RD & E.

Previous practice experience using the vacutainer system.

Member of National Association of Phlebotomists.

Please contact Lesley Fairclough Tel: 01363 774018 or 07909 671333.

## VACANCIES

Shiphay Manor & Abbey Road  
Surgeries  
37 Shiphay Lane  
Torquay  
TQ2 7DU  
Tel: 01803 290000

### Locum Required 3<sup>rd</sup> April to June 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006

We are looking for a 9-session locum for this period whilst we advertise for a new partner for this friendly, helpful practice. Half day on Wednesday. No out of hours.

If you would like to discuss this or can offer part of this commitment please telephone Julia Ellis, Practice Manager.

Dean Cross Surgery  
21 Radford Park Road  
Plymstock  
Plymouth  
PL9 9DL  
Email:  
**patricia.bewsher@nhs.net**

### Full-time Partner Required

We are a 6-partner (5WTE) GMS practice looking to replace a full-time senior partner who is due to retire at the end of May 2006. We are flexible about the options and would consider full-time and job share. We have a full complement of nursing, community and administrative staff

- 9,800 patients
- Paper light using Microtest computer system
- Scope for pursuing special interests
- Coastal suburb
- Preferred start date beginning of June

Further information please contact Patricia Bewsher, Practice Manager.

Wembury Surgery  
51 Hawthorn Drive  
Wembury  
PL9 0BE  
Tel: 01752 862118

### Dispenser Required

Experienced dispenser required for 1½ -2 days per week, with extra sessions to cover holidays and half-terms. Busy dispensing practice. Salary based on experience with access to NHS pension scheme. For details please contact Mrs J F Bennett or Mrs Sarah Williams.

Dr Turner & Partners  
Topsham Surgery  
Holman Way  
Topsham.  
Tel 01392 874646  
**Closing date 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2006**

### Part-time Practice Nurse

Well motivated Practice Nurse to join our progressive team. We are looking for a skilled nurse with experience in modern primary care – CDM, acute illness, vaccines, cytology, family planning etc  
2.5 days per week initially – Salary commensurate with experience.  
List size 6500 and increasing, PMS Practice, QOF high achievers and great place to work!

### Phlebotomist/HCA

If you are a qualified phlebotomist or HCA and have 2 mornings free per week, we would be delighted to hear from you.  
Please telephone the Practice Manager, Mrs Linda Kay, for an application pack for both posts.

### Locums Available

Locum available Exeter Area and Mid Devon - **Dr Andrew Stainer-Smith**  
22 years GP experience in Devon. Recently returned from Australia.  
I am looking for short or longer term locum work. Tel: 01837 840352. Mob: 07913 613775  
CV/terms on: [www.stainersmith.dsl.pipex.com](http://www.stainersmith.dsl.pipex.com) email: [stainersmith@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stainersmith@dsl.pipex.com)

### GP Locum Available

I am planning to move to Devon March 2006. I am keen to hear from practices in East/Mid Devon & Exeter requiring locum cover from this date onwards. Will consider short- and long-term posts and OOH. I hold MRCGP, MSc qualifications and I am on lists for CHS, O&G etc. Also in early discussions regarding Primary Care research in Exeter. Please contact: Dr Jeremy Sims - 01983 811688 or [drsim8@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:drsim8@tiscali.co.uk)

### Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committees require

## Office Manager/Secretary

**Full time 37.5 hours per week. Competitive salary package including employer pension contribution and five weeks holiday**

A small professional team located on the outskirts of Exeter is looking for an enthusiastic and flexible person to join us. You will have excellent computer skills and a good knowledge of Microsoft Office applications together with strong organisational and interpersonal/communication skills. A minimum of three years secretarial/administrative experience required. This is a great opportunity to enjoy varied and interesting work where your skills will be fully recognised and appreciated.

For more information and a copy of the job description please contact Sue Taylor at **Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XX** or phone 01392 834022, email: [sue@devonlpc.org](mailto:sue@devonlpc.org).

## Conferences, Courses and Information

### Calling All Sessional GPs...

The South West Peninsula Deanery is organising a conference on 30<sup>th</sup> March at the St Mellion Hotel near Saltash, Plymouth, to which all Sessional GPs from Devon and Cornwall will be invited. The conference aims to inspire you about your future in general practice, and to give you the chance to develop skills that will enable you to thrive in your work environment.

More details to follow shortly.... Dr Vic Mohan

### Working for Health – Conference on Employment & Sickness Absence Buckerell Lodge Hotel, Exeter

**Cost £45.00 including lunch. 12.30 – 4.30 pm**

Places to be booked by 12 April. Further information from Richard Frost, WorkWAYS, Exeter. Tel: 01392 208833. [www.mindfulemployer.net](http://www.mindfulemployer.net)



## General Practice – Which Future? Study Day

Thursday 23 February 2006 £35.00 including lunch

**A few places still remaining**

A full day of presentations and workshops for GPs, Practice Managers and Primary Care Staff, with a combination of National and Local speakers.

**Superannuation – PBC – Premises – New NHS Structures**

Further information Jill Hellens - Tel: 01823-344314. Email: [jill.hellens@somerset.nhs.net](mailto:jill.hellens@somerset.nhs.net)

### Plymouth GP Education - STUDY DAYS Personal Learning Plan Course - 21/22 March 2006 - Kitley House Hotel, Nr Plymouth.

Advanced notice of this two-day course designed to help you build your own PLP. In the beautiful surroundings of Kitley House Hotel, come and explore ways of identifying learning needs, converting these into manageable bite-sized objectives, and finding learning opportunities that will meet these needs in a way that suits your learning style. Fee £200 for 2 days plus follow-up morning.

Application form/details available from [irene.hart@phnt.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:irene.hart@phnt.swest.nhs.uk)



### New Guidance and Documents – Secretariat Manager John Baker

You will find one copy of the following documents with this newsletter:

1. GPC Guidance - Guidance for Medical Practitioners summoned for Jury Service (Blue)
2. GPC Guidance for GPs - Focus on agenda for change and practice staff (Green)
3. GPC Guidance - Patients presenting with Dental Problems: GP Responsibilities (Pink)
- 4-A Cot Death and Co-Sleeping - Local Update to Health Visitors and Midwives (Cream)
- 4-B Alcohol Intake Awareness (cream)

The following documents along with the above have been recently posted on the LMC web site: [www.devonlmc.org/Whats-hot.htm](http://www.devonlmc.org/Whats-hot.htm)

1. Agreement reached on changes to the national GMS Contract
  - GPC: Summary of QOF Points Removal, Redistribution and Assignment
  - NHS Employer Press Release: Agreement reached on changes to the national GMS contract
  - GPC Summary of GMS Contract Review Negotiations 2005/06
  - NHS Employers: Investing in General Practice – Revisions to the GMS contract for 2006–07 in England, stage 1
  - Copy of letter from Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chairman of the General Practitioners Committee dated 19 December 2005
2. National Health Service Act 1977 Updates
  - Alternative Provider Medical Services (No. 2) Directions 2005
  - Primary Care Trust Medical Services (No. 2) Directions 2005

### VoxPop Registration – need to register...

The registration process is simple and the link below allows remote registration of new members to Voxpop. The information requested has been kept to a minimum to afford easy access to all. Once you have registered via this route your registration request will be logged with the Voxpop server. LMC staff will then verify your inclusion and will activate your account. When this has happened the server will inform you by e-mail and your account will be ready to use.

Register at <http://www.webmedix.net/voxpath3/registration.html>

