

May 2008

## **Pioneering clinical leadership programme for allied health professionals**

City University London has launched a pioneering Masters programme to help allied health professionals (AHPs) develop their careers in management and leadership.

The new MSc in Allied Health Professions Clinical Leadership is the first programme in the UK designed to develop management and leadership skills for established AHPs. It is tailored to suit both those currently occupying leadership and management positions, including consultant posts, as well as those looking to move into such roles.

The programme, which builds on City's proven track record in providing health management education and training, has been developed in response to the NHS change agenda. This requires AHPs to adopt new roles and responsibilities that cross professional and organisational boundaries.

Professor Roland Petchey, who is leading the course at City University London, says: "The importance of AHPs' contribution to health service provision remains under-recognised in comparison to nursing and medicine. Few AHPs have been able to undertake leadership roles beyond their immediate services. This cross-professional course will equip AHPs with the skills and knowledge they require as clinical leaders, capable of implementing change."

Subjects covered during the course include organisational development; change management; contemporary developments in AHP policy and service delivery; and building the evidence base for effective AHP policy and practice. A number of modules will be led by internationally recognised visiting lecturers, from a wide range of professional backgrounds.

This MSc is delivered on a part-time basis and lasts for two years, although participants can also take the shorter Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma options.

The course has been developed in close consultation with major external stakeholders in the Department of Health and the NHS. It is informed by close and detailed analysis of recent and likely future strategic developments affecting the NHS in general and the AHPs in particular.

Welcoming the new programme, Karen Middleton, Chief Health Professions Officer at the Department of Health, said: "I am very pleased to offer my support to this excellent programme for AHP leaders. The programme is extremely welcome and timely, as a rapidly-changing NHS increasingly requires clinical leaders with the skills and competence to lead with vision and creativity, and to implement the strategic direction for the health and social care system in a way that has never been asked of them before. To my knowledge, there is no other programme in England which provides such a complete package for AHPs in such a flexible way".

Course participants will also gain access to a network of senior professionals via associate membership of City University's Centre for AHP Research, alongside opportunities for continuing mentorship, advice and consultancy beyond the duration of the programme.

Further information about the AHP Clinical Leadership programme is available at <http://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/ahpclinlead-msc.html>.

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### **Notes**

1. Contact Roland Petchey, Professor of Health Services Research and Policy, on 020 7040 8796 (email [r.p.petchey@city.ac.uk](mailto:r.p.petchey@city.ac.uk)).
2. The Centre for Allied Health Professions Research, based at City University London, was established in 2005 to carry out research into policy, service and workforce issues relating to the AHPs. See <http://www.city.ac.uk/communityandhealth/cahpr>.