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To all lead healthcare scientists and Presidents of all healthcare science professional bodies

Dear colleague,

As many of you will be aware, it was announced earlier this year that the time was right to develop a 2024 Healthcare Science Strategy for England. I am writing to update you on the scope of this work, developments so far and how you can shape the Strategy going forwards.

The NHS recently turned 70 and following a long term funding settlement, work has begun to develop a long term plan for the NHS. There has not been a better time to demonstrate how healthcare science can play a full role in transforming care and services for patients.

Key developments

The CSO team has been leading a rapid horizon scan to identify those technologies that will impact significantly on healthcare science services in the next ten years. On 27 July, we hosted a webinar with over 95 healthcare scientists, many of whom were still studying or were two years post training. It was great to get the views of the next generation of healthcare science leaders and we are looking forward to a follow up webinar for the healthcare science community in October.

A cross system Healthcare Science Strategic Advisory Board has also recently been established. The Board had its first meeting on 31 July and has agreed to oversee the development and implementation of the Strategy. The Board will play a crucial role in identifying those system wide measures that are needed in order to support the development of healthcare science including (but not limited to): advising and making recommendations on how the profession will drive technological developments, plans for the implications of these changes for healthcare science service models and identifying the consequences of new technology for the selection, curricula, education and training and leadership development of current and future healthcare scientists.

How you can get involved

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

- Take part in our Tweet chats starting on 19 September – we will be inviting your views and comments on some of the emerging themes in the Strategy. Simply follow @WeHCSscientists to find out more.
- Attend our webinar in October (date tbc) – we plan to test out some of our initial thinking and to get your input. This will be advertised via @WeHCSscientists
- Attend our summit meeting on 4 October – many of you will have received an invitation already for this event, therefore if it is not already in your calendar, be sure to attend this as we will be using the session to share the results of the rapid horizon scan and to get your input on some of the key themes and recommendations.

I hope this letter serves as a useful update. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email: england.futureHCS@nhs.net.

I look forward to engaging with you as we develop our strategy for healthcare science over the next few months.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Carragher
Deputy Chief Scientific Officer