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## 7b

*To consider*

### **2014 International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities Conference**

#### **Issue**

1. Proposal to bid to host the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation in September 2014.

#### **Recommendations**

2.
  - a. To agree to bid to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation in September 2014 (paragraphs 10-12).
  - b. To agree to establish a Programme Committee to develop the programme for the 2014 IAMRA conference (paragraphs 13-17).
  - c. To authorise the Chair of the Council to sign off the GMC's proposal to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation in 2014 for submission to the IAMRA Management Committee by 15 June 2010 (paragraphs 19 and 20).

#### **Further information**

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: [gmc@gmc-uk.org](mailto:gmc@gmc-uk.org) or tel. 0161 923 6602

## Background

4. Strategic Aim Eight of the Business Plan 2010 states that we will help shape the local, UK and European and international regulatory environment through effective engagement with decision makers, other regulators and key interest groups.
5. On 31 March 2010, members held a preliminary discussion on the European and International Strategy and agreed that we should continue to build, develop, and play a leading role on the international stage through our engagement in IAMRA.
6. IAMRA's origins can be traced to a meeting convened by the US in Washington in 1994. International conferences have since taken place every two years. The GMC has been involved from the outset. IAMRA was formally established following the 4th International Conference, which we hosted in Oxford in 2000.
7. The IAMRA's purpose is to support medical regulatory authorities worldwide in protecting the public interest by promoting high standards for physician education, licensure and regulation, and facilitating the ongoing exchange of information among medical regulatory authorities.
8. IAMRA has a membership of 61 regulators from 30 countries.
9. We are one of IAMRA's founder members. Niall Dickson is a member of IAMRA's Management Committee and Chair of the Nominating Committee. We are also engaged in the IAMRA Physicians Information Exchange Working Group and the Exam Review Working Group, which is chaired by Kenneth Cochran, Chair of the Professional and Linguistics Assessment Board.

## Discussion

10. IAMRA holds an international conference every two years. The October 2008 conference was organised by the Health Professions Council of South Africa and was held in Cape Town; the 2010 conference will take place in Philadelphia, US, on 26-29 September 2010; and, in October 2012, the conference will be co-hosted by the Medical Council of Canada and the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada in Ottawa.
11. The IAMRA Management Committee is seeking to identify the host for its 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation in 2014 and has invited submissions by 15 June 2010.
12. We consider that organising and hosting the conference at a UK venue will provide us with an opportunity to continue to make a significant contribution to IAMRA's work, help shape the international regulatory environment, share the GMC's experience in medical regulation, and learn from the experiences of others.

**Recommendation:** To agree to bid to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation, in September 2014.

### *Theme of the conference*

13. The IAMRA 2014 conference will build upon the themes and outcomes of the 2010 Philadelphia conference on *Best Practices in Medical Regulation* and the subsequent conference taking place in Ottawa, Canada, in 2012.

14. In May 2009, the IAMRA Management Committee established a framework for the IAMRA biennial conference. The framework requires conference hosts to hold the event over a three day period. An additional half day will be devoted to the IAMRA Institute, which will be aimed at countries where medical regulation is still developing.

15. The framework sets out the broad themes of the conference. They are:

- a. Registration and licensure.
- b. Complaints and resolutions.
- c. Maintenance of licensure.
- d. Ethical guidance.

16. There will be an opportunity for the conference programme to reflect key projects the GMC is leading. They include, in particular, the introduction of revalidation from 2011, the future regulation of medical education and training, our work on developing the register, the transfer of our adjudication function to the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator in 2011, the revised edition of *Good Medical Practice*, the implementation of the standards in *Tomorrow's Doctors* (2009) and our ongoing work to keep our professional and ethical standards up to date.

17. The IAMRA Management Committee recommends that the host organisation establishes a Programme Committee 18 to 24 months prior to the conference to develop the programme, based on the conference framework, and make recommendations for speakers. This Committee must include a member of the IAMRA Management Committee, and we envisage that it will also include Council members and GMC staff.

**Recommendation:** To agree to establish a Programme Committee to develop the programme for the 2014 IAMRA conference.

18. If Council accepts this recommendation, we will invite expressions of interest from members in 2012, following the re-appointment of members for a second term. We envisage that the Programme Committee will be made up of two or three Council members, including a lay and medical member, and four staff.

### *Next steps*

19. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest to the IAMRA Management Committee is 15 June 2010.

20. We propose that, subject to the proposed recommendations being agreed, the Chair of the Council should be authorised to sign off the letter confirming our interest in hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation.

**Recommendation:** To authorise the Chair of the Council to sign off the GMC's proposal to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Regulation in 2014 for submission to the IAMRA Management Committee by 15 June 2010.

### **Resource implications**

21. The GMC is expected to pledge enough funding to pay for initial expenses of hiring a venue and paying for a conference organiser. Delegate fees for the conference are expected to reimburse the costs associated with the organisation of the conference.

22. As the host organisation we will be expected to bear the sole responsibility for covering the costs of the IAMRA conference in instances where the attendee registration fees fall below the projected expenses for running the conference. We understand that to date all IAMRA conference organisers, with the exception of the Health Professions Council of South Africa in 2008, have recovered their costs.

### **Equality**

23. We will ensure that the conference programme reflects any relevant equality and diversity issues.