



Press Release
New Chairman for the MTHR Research Programme

David Coggon OBE, Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Southampton University, will succeed Professor Lawrie Challis OBE as Chairman of the MTHR Programme Management Committee. Professor Coggon is currently a member of the Programme Management Committee and was formerly a member of the Stewart Committee on mobile phones and health.

The present Chairman of the Programme Management Committee of the MTHR, Professor Lawrie Challis, announced today that he was stepping down after over five years in the post.

Professor Coggon said of his new role:

"Since its inception in 2001, the MTHR programme has made a substantial contribution to our understanding of possible health risks from mobile phone technology. I look forward to continuing this important work"

Professor Challis, outgoing Chairman, commented:

"I am delighted to have been part of the first stage of the MTHR programme and very pleased that David Coggon has agreed to take over as chairman. I have worked with him on the Stewart Committee and, since, on the Health Protection Agency's Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation and have considerable respect for his abilities."

Biographical details and downloadable portrait photos for both Professor Lawrie Challis and Professor David Coggon are available to download at www.mthr.org.uk

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25 January 2008

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme was set up in response to the research recommendations contained within the 'Stewart Report'.

The Programme received approximately £8.8 million of funding from a variety of government and industry sources.

To ensure the independence of the research carried out, scientific management of the programme was entrusted to an independent Programme Management Committee made up of independent experts, mostly senior university academics. Funds contributed by the sponsors of the Programme are managed on behalf of the Committee by the Department of Health as Secretariat to the Programme.

The first Chairman of the Programme Management Committee was Sir William Stewart and he was succeeded in November 2002 by Professor Lawrie Challis, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Nottingham and formerly Vice-chairman of the Stewart Committee.

The Programme was set up in 2001 and has supported 28 individual research projects, mostly undertaken in UK universities. Of these, 23 have now been completed and most have published results in peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals (23 papers to date, with more expected in the near future).

The progress of the programme so far is outlined in the MTHR Report 2007. This summarises the state of knowledge at the time of the Stewart Report and the current state of knowledge, taking account of both research supported by the Programme and that carried out elsewhere. It also provides an indication of future research priorities.

Details of all the projects supported by the Programme are published on its web site (<http://www.mthr.org.uk>).

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