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PRESS NOTICE

25th January 2008

Integration and Implementation of Diagnostic Technologies in Healthcare

The Science Council has today published its report on *Integration and Implementation of Diagnostic Technologies in Healthcare*. This report has been produced by the Council's Science in Health Group chaired by Professor Stephen Holgate, and the project received financial support from the Department of Health.

In his recent speech on the National Health Service, the Prime Minister drew attention to the important role diagnostics will make within the NHS in the next ten years. The speech served to emphasise our report's main findings, including the importance of an appropriate structure for the assessment and implementation of new diagnostic technologies in the NHS and the need for a skilled workforce to deliver reliable and consistent diagnostic services. These are crucial if the Government is to achieve the targets already set for the NHS for improving patient pathways.

Other issues identified in the report include R&D funding for the development of new diagnostic technologies, the need to support scientists in the NHS, and the regulation of diagnostics in the independent sector. These issues will inform the Science in Health Group's forthcoming project on *the context and future careers for Scientists in Health*, further details of which will shortly be available on the Science Council website.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Science Council

The Science Council is a membership organisation for learned and professional bodies across science and its applications and works with them to represent the sector to government and others. It was established by Royal Charter in 2003 with objects to advance science and its applications for public benefit, and is made up of a Council of all of its member organisations with a governing board drawn from the constituent membership.

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