

Council Member Professor Norma Brook CBE passes away

07/01/2009

Professor Norma Brook CBE sadly passed away on Wednesday 31st December 2008. Norma was appointed a Member of the Hearing Aid Council by the Secretary of State on January 1st 2005.

Norma was a much liked and admired Council Member renowned for her intelligence and expertise. Her leadership of the introduction of a foundation degree for dispensers has transformed the way dispensers are trained. While such projects illustrate her dedication to public protection, Norma will be best remembered for her unfailing good humour, her kindness and her inspirational courage.

Norma was President of the Health Professions Council (HPC) from May 2001 until her retirement in July 2006 and a member of the Council for Regulatory Excellence (CHRE). She was previously Chair of the Physiotherapists Board, Chair of the Department of Health Working Group 'Extending Professional Regulation' and a member of the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM). Norma was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen in 2006.

Trained as physiotherapist, Norma was frequently honoured for her outstanding contribution to the development of physiotherapy education and her expertise in connective tissue manipulation. Such recognition included a Fellowship of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and honorary doctorates from Robert Gordon University, the University of East Anglia, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Brighton, the University of Central England and Coventry University. In addition, Norma was a Visiting Professor of Physiotherapy Education for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and an external examiner of University of Malta.

The HAC's Chief Executive, Sandra Verkuyten commented:

"Norma's tremendous achievements in public service stand testament to her vision, devotion, sagacity and leadership. They are a lasting legacy for which we should all be grateful. However, such was Norma's warmth, I will not be alone amongst those fortunate enough to have worked with her in feeling that I have lost much more than just a colleague but a friend. Her loss is deeply saddening and our thoughts are with those to whom she was closest".

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1. The HAC is an independent, statutory regulator set up by the Hearing Aid Council Act (1968, as amended) to register dispensers and their employers working in the private hearing aid sector. It sets the standards of education, training, conduct and performance dispensers must meet to join the register and investigates any alleged breaches of those standards. There are around 1500 hearing aid dispensers on the HAC register.

2. For further information please contact Stuart Holland by email at stuart.holland@thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk or by telephone on 020 3102 4030.