

## **Important Developments in Practitioner Regulation and Training Accreditation**

The regulation of healthcare professionals is undergoing some important changes with the establishment of the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) to oversee standards of healthcare regulation. The PSA regulates statutory regulators, such as the General Medical Council and the Health and Care Professions Council, and it accredits **voluntary registers** that can demonstrate that they meet specific standards. Last year the PSA endorsed the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) as the holder of an Accredited Voluntary Register (AVR) for complementary therapy practitioners, an important milestone for the regulation of nutritional therapists.

The CNHC has developed its Quality Assurance structure to formally link with BANT and other approved Professional Associations which act as verifiers for applications to the CNHC register. BANT and the NTC have therefore been working together on how the process of accreditation of courses will formally feed into the process of practitioner registration with the CNHC.

The processes for accreditation of professional training will therefore be transferred from the NTC to a new body established by BANT, the **Nutritional Therapy Education Commission (NTEC)**, which will formalise the link between accreditation and registration. This also underpins BANT's commitment to registration and to raising standards and professionalism.

**The NTC Accreditation status of each course will be formally adopted by NTEC** and each training provider will be asked to consent to the transfer of their confidential accreditation files from the NTC to the NTEC. The current NTC assets, processes, and expertise in accreditation will move to NTEC.

**NTEC** will have a wider remit than accreditation, and will embark on a programme of work that will enhance the training and recognition of registered nutritional therapists and applied nutritionists.

NTEC will be chaired by Carol Granger, current chair of the NTC, and Karen Watkins has accepted the position of the NTEC Accreditation Officer. The commission will have positions for practitioner representatives and for the CNHC Profession Specific Board members.



Carol Granger

NTC Chair

NTEC Chair



Karen Watkins

NTEC Accreditation Committee Chair

NTEC Accreditation Officer