ESRC IHT/GSK Collaborative Workshop: 20 October 2004

Innovative Health Technologies: Innovation, Regulation and the Pharmaceutical Industry

Workshop objectives:

- to report results of recently completed, or completing research from the ESRC/MRC Innovative Health technologies Programme to GSK research and strategic policy staff
- to explore issues that are of mutual interest to researchers and GSK
- to determine whether there are future opportunities beyond the Programme (such as new work recently supported by the ESRC in stem cells, pharmacogenetics) that might be taken up to develop the collaboration down specific paths

Programme Outline

Lunch: 12.30-13.15

Chair for the Day: Dr Alun McCarthy, GSK

13.15 – 13.45
Genetics and Public Policy: Some Lessons from the IHT Programme.
This paper will explore public policy towards the implementation of genetics within the health care system and the opportunities and constraints that need to be considered, in light of results from across genetics-related projects
Professor Andrew Webster, (Director IHT Programme, University of York):

13.45-14.15
Regulation of Innovative Pharmaceuticals in the EU And US: a Comparative Analysis of Licensing and Implications for Regulation.
This paper examines results from Abraham et al.'s analysis of the inconsistent regulatory outcomes in regard to FDA/EMEA drug approval, and asks what might be involved in introducing greater transparency and comparative effectiveness into regulatory agencies' risk-benefit assessments.
Professor John Abraham, Dr Tim Reed (Director Centre for Research in Health and Medicine, University of Sussex; Research Fellow, CRHaM. [Note: Professor Abraham is also specialist advisor to the House of Commons Health Committee's review of the PI]).

14.15-14.45
Reforming The Governance of Human Genetics: The Politics of Public Trust.
This paper reports the results of research on the UK regulatory agencies charged with oversight of biotechnology and genetics research. It argues that there is a gap between these (relatively open) agencies and the formal machinery of (relatively closed) government and asks what implications this has for industry, pressure groups and good governance.
Professor Brian Salter, (University of East Anglia). PTO

14.45- 15.00 Break for tea

15.00- 15.30

Consumerism, Information and Drug Prescribing Governance.

This paper reports on completing research on the increasing use of the internet to access drugs globally, and the implications this has for regulation and our understanding of how and why people seek information about pharmaceuticals and the drugs they buy directly.

Professor Nick Fox, Dr Katie Ward (University of Sheffield)

15.30- 16.00

The Impact of Genomics on Innovation in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Contrary to much of the conventional wisdom, this project reports on the actual likely impact of genomics on drug development, arguing that this may be much less than is normally assumed. Detailed analysis of drug development suggest there is unlikely to be a 'revolutionary' shift in pharmaceutical innovation and that medicinal biotechnology is instead following a well-established pattern of slow and incremental technology diffusion.

Dr Paul Martin, Dr Paul Nightingale (IGBiS, University of Nottingham; SPRU, University of Sussex)

16:30 -

Concluding discussion: open discussion of the three workshop objectives.