



THE BRITISH DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association for Registered Dietitians
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Media Release

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PLYMOUTH PROFESSOR WINS AWARD FOR HER PIONEERING WAYS IN EDUCATING DIETITIANS

Professor Anne de Looy, Professor of Dietetics and Head of the School of Health Professions at the University of Plymouth, was awarded a Fellowship of The British Dietetic Association at the Association's Awards Ceremony on 21st June in London. Fellowship is the highest honour that the profession bestows on a dietitian and is conferred in recognition of a dietitian's work to promote the profession and the science and practice of dietetics. Anne's Fellowship is in respect of her pioneering work in education and multi-professional teaching and learning.

Over the years since Anne qualified as a dietitian she has held a number of posts in education. At Leeds Polytechnic (now Leeds Metropolitan University), she was responsible for the dietetics course from the mid 1970s until 1991; at Queen Margaret University College, where she became the first Professor of Dietetics in the UK, and now at the University of Plymouth. Anne has been instrumental in developing standards of proficiency for dietitians and is acknowledged in the profession as having improved the quality of clinical learning in the workplace with her innovative methods, especially in helping to bridge the gap between practice in the workplace and in the academic environment.

About two years ago Anne began her work with the European Federation of Associations of Dietitians (EFAD). As a result of that work 22 Associations across Europe have now accepted a single Benchmark Statement for European education standards in dietetics. Work is currently underway to disseminate best practice and especially to support member associations in establishing comparable practice-based learning.

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Currently, Anne is particularly involved in the development of shared learning for a range of health professionals in her School. This will promote multidisciplinary working in the Health Service and give an insight into the holistic nature of patient care. She is also one of the leading lights, taking forward the development of educational materials to help dietitians understand the importance of genetics in their future work.

Her enthusiasm for dietetics as a profession and as a discipline is boundless and the profession is immeasurably richer as a result of her challenging ideas and her ability to think outside the box.

Speaking about receiving the Fellowship, Anne said: "I am overwhelmed by this recognition and very humbled by the support of my colleagues. Everything I have done has built on the good work of other dietitians and I am just so excited to have been able to do this in the various jobs I have been involved in. I think having a creative mind has caused me and some of my colleagues anxiety at times, but on the whole some of the risks were worthwhile taking! I guess being able to enthuse new members of the profession (students) has been the greatest highlight and privilege. Being the Chair of the Professional Development Committee when we started to really think through why we were here and what role the dietitian had to play was also highly significant for me as this has been an ongoing theme culminating in two of the most significant areas of my career; firstly to be entrusted to develop a whole new programme for dietitians from scratch here at Plymouth and incorporate a problem-based approach to learning dietetics, and secondly to be able to work within Europe, currently with 29 member states and their dietitians, on the ways we can work together through education to ensure future health for the European Community."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

1. The British Dietetic Association Awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday 21 June 2006 at The International Hotel, Docklands, London.
2. Further information on the conference and the awards ceremony is available from:

Dr Frankie Phillips National PR Officer, The British Dietetic Association. Tel: 01626 362473, Mobile: 07908 712277, Email: pr@bda.uk.com
3. The British Dietetic Association, founded in 1936, is the professional association for registered dietitians in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the nation's largest organisation of food and nutrition professionals with over 5,000 members. About two-thirds of members are employed in the National Health Service. The remaining members work in education, industry, research, sport settings or freelance.

Registered dietitians hold the only legally-recognisable graduate qualification in nutrition and dietetics. They are experts in interpreting and translating the science of nutrition into practical ways of promoting nutritional well-being, disease treatment and the prevention of nutrition-related problems. Their advice is sound and based on current scientific evidence.

Registration, awarded by the Health Professionals Council, is an indication that a dietitian is fit to practise and is working within an agreed statement of conduct.

For further details about The British Dietetic Association, please visit our website: www.bda.uk.com

**June is Weight Wise: The Next Generation month
Get into Healthy Habits**

www.bdaweightwise.com

www.teenweightwise.com