

# Physiotherapy

JOURNAL OF THE CHARTERED SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY  
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ISSN 0031 9406

## COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INTO PHYSIOTHERAPY ORGANISATION



AS reported in November (p 381) the Society is collaborating with the Brunel Institute of Organisation and Social Studies Health Services Organisation Research Unit (HSORU) on a project concerning the implications for the profession of the development of clinical specialisation in physiotherapy.

The story begins with the publication, in April 1977, of a Brunel Working Paper on the organisation of physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the NHS. This was produced in association with a number of individual members of both professions. The Society was not formally involved but the published paper was closely studied by a small group appointed by Council. One of this Group's recommendations was that the Society should collaborate with HSORU on the present project and this collaboration started last year under the aegis of a joint steering committee which reports to the CSP Council.

The first stage consisted of field work. A research team from Brunel, Dr Warren Kinston and Mr John Øvretveit, went around the country interviewing Chartered Physiotherapists chosen by the Steering Committee and these interviews formed the basis of the report received by Council last November. In January and February a series of short 'workshops' took place at Brunel on the role of the District Physiotherapists; these were heavily over-subscribed. Articles discussing the organisational issues are being prepared for publication in *Physiotherapy* during the next year or so, and more workshops will be arranged, probably in different parts of the country. The research unit is funded for this work by the DHSS.

This is an interesting development which could have far-reaching implications for the future structure of the profession, in particular the relationship between the manager of physiotherapy services and the 'independent' clinical specialist.

The aim of the project is to promote an improved understanding of organisation among all physiotherapists. Critical comments from readers will be welcomed by the joint steering committee.

RJSB