Making it Work!

Recruitment & Retention in Remote Areas

International Conference

St Andrews Bay, Scotland
4– 6 SEPTEMBER 2003

Presented by
The Remote and Rural Areas Resource Initiative (RARARI) for NHS Scotland and the Northen Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord), with the support of the University of Tromsø

"Finding solutions to the problems of recruitment and retention are vital to the long-term sustainability of health services in remote communities."

The problems of recruitment and retention in the health sector are well known. The competition for qualified and good practitioners is tough, and far more so in remote and rural areas, with the difficulties of infrastructure, communications, professional isolation, onerous on-call duties, restricted educational opportunities, housing and balancing a family life. Finding solutions to the problems of recruitment and retention are vital to the long-term sustainability of health services in remote communities, and indeed the sustainability of the communities themselves.

A mile-stone conference will be held in Scotland in September 2003 to address the international challenge to find long-term solutions for recruitment and retention in remote and rural areas. The project is jointly funded by the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority – Helse Nord, with the support of the University of Tromsø and RARARI for NHS Scotland, who share similar geographical similarities and healthcare challenges.

Projects from around the world will be presented and this conference will allow an important opportunity to share common experiences, and learn from others who face similar challenges and seek solutions.

Purpose:

- *To present projects from around the world and to share common experiences and good practice*
- *To highlight the issues to politicians, management and the public*
- *To stimulate and develop new methods and new strategies*
- *To publish solutions and conclusions from the conference for information and development of new strategies for short and long term.*
- *To highlight ongoing research/lack of research in recruitment and retention.*
- *To build networks for future collaboration*
- *To learn and investigate how other sectors like enterprise, transport and the service sector overcome recruitment and retention difficulties in remote areas*

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Papers and projects must be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Niels Bentzen, Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine and General Practice, Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Chair Wonca International Classification Committee. For further details on how to submit papers email:
erin.greig@haht.scot.nhs.uk
Notes of interest or for require booking information please contact:
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Further information also available at www.rarari.org.uk