

The Commission is aware that no solution exists to the problem of delivering 21st-century care in 19th or 20th-century physical environments with antiquated systems of communication and cooperation extant when the NHS was founded. Moreover, the endless use of health services as a political football, challenges to mutually acceptable and agreed changes to the delivery of care by the Competition Commission,⁷ the courts, or politicians⁸ should not stand in the way of this change. As the Mid Staffordshire scandal has shown, history does not deal kindly with those who shirk their responsibilities in this regard. It is time for the Royal College of Physicians and its members and fellows to show the way.

Timothy Evans

Future Hospital Commission, Royal College of Physicians, London NW1 4LE, UK

Linda.Cuthbertson@rcplondon.ac.uk

I declare that I have no conflicts of interest.

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China—a call for papers

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To accelerate these scientific developments, CMB and *The Lancet* again join together to invite submissions of papers for a China themed issue to be published in September, 2014, timed to the celebration of CMB's centenary in Beijing. We welcome submissions of high quality research from Chinese and international scientists working on key aspects of health development in China.

The 2014 CMB–*Lancet* special issue will also feature commissioned papers on the next century of health in China. Among key themes for the 2014 themed issue will

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Please submit manuscripts via *The Lancet's* e-submission system EES and note in your cover letter that your submission is in response to this call for papers; the deadline for submissions is March 7, 2014.

Lincoln C Chen, Helena Hui Wang

China Medical Board, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA (LCC), and *The Lancet*, Beijing 100738, China (HHW)

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