

"Health testing -- what's in it for you?"

Full body 'MOTs', well-man and well-woman screening, DIY testing kits from blood sugar and cholesterol to genetics and allergy; they're all now part of the armoury for well people who want to protect their health. Surely it makes sense to adopt the 'better safe than sorry' attitude when it comes to something as important as your future well-being? But many doctors and scientists don't agree with this increasingly promoted idea that well people need to be tested for diseases – in fact, they say that testing for a disease before symptoms appear can even harm in ways people may not have considered. So can tests really give peace of mind? Are risks involved in our quest to safeguard our health? Whose responsibility is it to ensure that that doctors and the public are informed about the benefits and limitations of tests?

Join our panellists for this pressing and topical discussion:

Dr Danielle Freedman, Consultant Chemical Pathologist

Dr Evan Harris MP, Liberal Democrat Science Spokesperson and doctor formerly working in Public Health Medicine

Dr Margaret McCartney, GP and columnist at the Financial Times

Dr Andrew Valance-Owen, Medical Director, BUPA

Doris Ann Williams, Director General, The British In Vitro Diagnostics Association

Chair: Professor Peter Furness, Vice-President, Royal College of Pathologists

You will be welcome to stay for a wine reception once the discussion comes to a close.

"Health testing -- what's in it for you?" 6.30 – 8.30 pm Thursday 6th November, 2008 at the Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AF.

This is a free event, part of the first National Pathology Week, www.nationalpathologyweek.org supported by Sense About Science and the Royal College of Pathologists. Please contact Ruth Semple by Email ruth.semple@rcpath.org or 020 7451 6753 to reserve a place.