

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

3 Birdcage Walk Westminster London SW1H 9JJ

Tel: 020 7222 7085 Fax: 7222 7189 e-mail: lloyd@pandsctte.demon.co.uk

www.scienceinparliament.org.uk

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

ON TUESDAY, 16TH JUNE 2009 AT 5.30 PM

IN THE WILSON ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE*

(Please recheck the room allocation on <http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk> on the day)

MEDICAL TESTING - DO WE WANT MORE OR LESS OF IT?

Addresses by

Professor Michael Baum MB ChB FRCS MD FRCR(Hon)

Professor Emeritus of Surgery and Visiting Professor
Of Medical Humanities University College London

Professor Karol Sikora MA MBBCh PhD FRCR FRCP FFP

Dean of the Medical School, University of Buckingham
Scientific Director, Medical Solutions PLC

A Medical test is a procedure performed to detect, diagnose or evaluate disease, disease processes, susceptibility, and determine a course of treatment. A diagnostic test is a procedure performed to confirm or determine the presence of disease in an individual suspected of having the disease, usually following the report of symptoms, or based on the results of other medical tests. Such tests include a screening which is a medical test or series used to detect or predict the presence of disease in individuals at risk for disease within a defined group, such as a population, family or workforce. Screenings may be performed to monitor disease prevalence, manage epidemiology, aid in prevention, or strictly for statistical purposes. Some medical tests are used to evaluate the progress of, or response to medical treatment. They are also used to monitor the course of a disease and as a prerequisite for insurance purposes.

Some medical testing procedures have health risks, and even require general anaesthesia. Medical tests may also have indirect risks such as the stress of testing, and riskier tests may be required as follow-up for a (potentially) false positive test result. Any increase in testing may therefore involve additional risk to the patient which generates public concern, thus discouraging the use of further testing.

IAN TAYLOR MBE MP

Chairman

The Meeting will be followed by an informal reception in the Club Room, 1 Parliament Street

*Portcullis House is on the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment; the entrance is on Victoria Embankment.
The Wilson Room is on the first floor.