

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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The Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior

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PRESS RELEASE: 3 November 2005

A meeting of the Committee was held on Monday, 17th October 2005 at 5.30pm in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House

“Complementary and Alternative Medicine – Should it be Provided on the NHS?”

The invited speakers were as follows:-

The Lord Walton of Detchant

Chairman of Inquiry into Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) by a Sub-Committee of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee

Professor Stephen Holgate

Medical Research Council Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology,
University of Southampton

David Tredinnick MP

Joint-Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Integrated
and Complementary Healthcare

Some 40 per cent of GPs recommend CAM therapies to their patients - indeed, 20 per cent offer them on their premises. Although many doctors accept that CAM has much to offer their patients, others are not so sympathetic. Nevertheless CAM is increasing in popularity with many patients who claim to have benefited. Is the evidence base for the efficacy of any of the twenty-five recognised CAM therapies good enough to justify the taxpayer paying for this treatment as part of the NHS?

Press Enquiries:

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A full report of the meeting will be published in Science in Parliament – Spring Issue 2006