DIRECTOR OF SCOTLAND’S FIRST INSTITUTE OF HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION ANNOUNCED

UNIQUE INSTITUTE SET TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION

Dr Bob Masterton, one of the country’s leading experts in infection prevention and control, has been appointed Director of the newly created Institute of Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) – Policy and Practice.

The Institute, which is a partnership between University of the West of Scotland and NHS Ayrshire & Arran, is the first of its kind in UK and has three key areas of focus – to influence policy and practice; education development and provision; and research.

Dr Masterton, will take up post on 1 May 2011 and will hold this new post along with his current role at NHS Ayrshire & Arran as Executive Medical Director and Consultant Microbiologist.

Healthcare associated infections (HAI) are estimated to cost the NHS in Scotland £183 million per year, and cause pain and suffering to those directly and indirectly affected. They represent one of the most significant, yet almost wholly avoidable, adverse events associated with receipt of healthcare in Scotland.

Reducing the occurrence of HAI is a priority for the Scottish Government and the Institute will play a key role in helping it continue to tackle this important issue, by driving up research and knowledge transfer activity and growing and developing niche academic programmes.

Dr Bob Masterton is a Fellow of three Royal Colleges in the UK and chaired the UK Working Party that published guidelines on Hospital Acquired Pneumonia in 2008. Throughout his career Dr Masterton has acted as the Chairman of the Infection Control Committees and Control of Infection Officer in a number of organisations. He has always retained involvement in infection control along with his research into antibiotic usage and has recently been appointed to chair the Scottish Healthcare Associated Infection National Advisory Group.

Commenting on his appointment Bob Masterton, 57, who lives in Ayrshire, said: “The Institute of Healthcare Associated Infection will play a key role in the continued fight against healthcare associated infection in Scotland and I am delighted to be appointed its Director.

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“I look forward to working together with colleagues at UWS, the Health Board and further field to tackle this complex and important issue.”

Paul Martin, University of the West of Scotland Vice Principal and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Social Sciences, said: “We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Bob Masterton which also marks the launch of our Institute of Healthcare Associated Infection.

“Bob has a wealth of expertise in the field of infection control and is perfectly placed to drive forward the Institute.

“The Institute, a further example of collaborative working between UWS and our Health Board partners, will increase knowledge transfer activities between UWS and the Health Board as well inform and influence policy and practice nationally and internationally.”

Dr Wai-yin Hatton, Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire & Arran, said: “We are extremely pleased that Dr Masterton has been appointed to this role. One of our key objectives in NHS Ayrshire & Arran is to reduce the number of HAIs in our healthcare settings. Bob is at the forefront of this work and his wealth of knowledge and experience will only enhance the work of the Institute of Healthcare Associated Infection.”

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For further information contact:
Niall Gordon (Senior Marketing Co-ordinator - PR)
Corporate Marketing, University of the West of Scotland
0141 848 3726 / 07764 285 882