



June 17th, 2015

## National post for medical professor

South Tyneside District Hospital Consultant Professor Colin Rees has been appointed to one of the top posts in the country in his field, as Vice President of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG).

In this role, Professor Rees will lead UK endoscopy on behalf of the BSG for the next two years.

He said: "This is a tremendous honour and I am very much looking forward to taking on this new challenge, whilst continuing my clinical and research work with South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and Durham University. The North East leads the way in many areas of Gastroenterology and this post is a recognition of our leading role, both nationally and internationally - particularly in relation to endoscopy."

Professor Rees is an international expert in endoscopy. As well as chairing the BSG's endoscopy research, he is Chairman of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy's research committee. He has led several national initiatives, including the evaluation of colonoscopy within the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and the setting of national endoscopy standards. In 2007, he founded the Northern Region Endoscopy Group to improve the quality of the service for patients throughout the North East.

He has been awarded the UK's leading Endoscopy award for his work on prevention and earlier diagnosis of bowel cancer and, in recognition of this, he will present the Hopkins Endoscopy Lecture at the 2nd Digestive Disorders Federation meeting at the ExCeL London convention centre next week (June 22nd-25th).

Professor Rees, who is South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's director of research and development, is enthusiastic about the importance of research to patients and to NHS staff. "Research is an important part of delivering the best possible healthcare to our patients."

Trust Chief Executive Lorraine Lambert said: "I am delighted to see Colin receive this very well deserved recognition. From the time he joined us in South Tyneside in 1998, he has, together with his colleagues, built an outstanding Gastroenterology service and he has been instrumental in improving patient care, not only in South Tyneside but nationally and internationally .



“This latest opportunity will be an ideal platform for him to make an ongoing contribution to shaping the future of his specialist field, ensuring that others across the country will benefit from his expertise and commitment to service improvement. I wish him every success in his new role.” **ends**

*Pictured above: Professor Colin Rees, who is the new Vice President of the British Society of Gastroenterology*

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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