

## NANP council adopts a fresh name

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, so the theory goes, supplementary lists will be abolished, with all GPs instead appearing on the 'Performers List'. So, will we be able to abandon the term 'non-principal' at last? Unfortunately not – simply calling us all a performer doesn't exactly solve any of the problems still faced by those traditionally calling themselves non-principals. In fact, it may serve to make any problems worse by statistically hiding them. The great thing about the term non-principal is that it encompasses all the different types of GP not working as a principal, from the highly independent and flexible self-employed GP locum to those employed assistants with significant contractual obligations. Unfortunately the term itself is inherently negative, defining itself by something that it isn't rather than what it is. The term means absolutely nothing to our patients and tends to confuse those organisations that NANP are trying to influence – we always have to start our negotiations on the wrong footing!

So, after conducting a survey amongst some of our members – many thanks to those who took part – NANP council has decided to change the way in which it refers to both non-principals and locums, using instead the terms 'Sessional GP' and 'Freelance GP' respectively. What we are not doing is expecting everyone to follow suit – there are many of you perfectly happy with terms you already use. Simply, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, NANP council will adopt this change as an internal matter and leave it up to individuals or groups how they wish to refer to themselves.

This will of course mean a name change too for the organisation, instead becoming the National Association of Sessional GPs (yes, we will at long last have the term 'GP' in the title!) and we'll be introducing these changes over the next few months.

Here are some of the other names we considered:

*Independent* Not really applicable to non-principals with contracts e.g. assistants, retainers FCS

*Freelance* Only applies to self-employed non-principals like locums.

*Portfolio* Not specific to non-principals e.g. a GP who is a partner and GP tutor and medical advisor is a portfolio GP but not a non-principal.

How the new terms relate to each other:

