

## **Gold Standards Framework Centre Visit to China**

Professor Keri Thomas, National Clinical Director of the GSF Centre, Mark Thomas and Julie Armstrong Wilson were invited as guest speakers at a specially convened conference at Peking University Health Science Centre last week to help establish a care regime there for patients nearing the end of their lives.

Faced with a rudimentary primary care system and an impending family care crisis caused by its one child policy, China is looking to the UK for help in developing an effective end of life care plan.

The conference was organised by Professor KK Cheng who is Professor of Public Health and Primary Care at Birmingham University as well as Department Head at Peking University. The conference forms part of the close health ties between the two countries developed through a Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the UK and Chinese governments in 2011.

Prof Thomas said: "This is a very exciting opportunity for us to understand how China is currently caring for this most vulnerable group of patients and explore ways in which the National GSF Centre can help in developing new ways of caring for them. We are very grateful to Professor Cheng for the chance to pass on to our Chinese colleagues' expertise that we have gained in the UK and find ways of making it work in China."

As well as presenting to doctors, health administrators and trainers at the conference on 2 April, Prof Thomas and her colleagues also visited a hospital and a large community medical centre in Peking, to witness first-hand the current implementation of end of life care.

Prof Cheng said: "There is a real appetite to learn the model of training and accreditation provided by GSF. The goal is that by 2020 a redeveloped primary care system will be in place with 50,000 trainers and 300,000 GPs and GSF would make a useful contribution to this."