**The Challenge of Changing Professional Boundaries**

Health care is an endlessly fascinating place for social scientists who are interested in work and the organizations within which it is carried out. One of the features of the modern world is the division of labour. Different groups of workers specialise in different kinds of work, which means they can do it faster, cheaper and better. But this map is being constantly undermined by changes in technology – and modern health care experiences this more than almost any other industry. However, the boundaries between the groups of workers tend to be sticky and to lag behind, which can make it hard to achieve the benefits of change. For nurses, this is aggravated by issues of gender and of public understanding. Nurses need to rise to the challenge of making their real work and skills more visible, and of owning the knowledge that they have.