

New Fellows elected to the Academy

40 of the United Kingdom's leading medical researchers have been recognised for excellence in medical science with their election to the Academy Fellowship. These distinguished scientists bring the total Fellowship to 983. We offer the new Fellows our warmest congratulations on their election and welcome them to the Academy.

[Details of these new Fellows](#) can be viewed on the Academy website where you can also download [nomination forms for the 2011 election](#).

The new Fellows will be formally admitted to the Academy at a ceremony on [Tuesday 22 June 2010](#). We hope you will support the Academy and our new Fellows at this important event and look forward to seeing you there.

[View programme](#)

[Download attendance reply form](#)

Jean Shanks Lecture

The Admission day will also include the Jean Shanks Lecture 2010 – '[Genetic fingerprinting and beyond](#)', to be given by Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys FRS FMedSci. The Lecture starts at 17.30 and will be followed by a drinks reception at 18.30. [A flyer for the lecture is available](#). Please do forward this information to interested colleagues.

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The new Fellows elected in 2009

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Developments at 41 Portland Place

Work onsite at 41 Portland Place is going well. The old lift has been removed from the well of the main staircase and a new shaft has been erected in a more convenient location where there is space to accommodate all access requirements. A new exhibition area has been created on the ground floor in a beautiful Georgian room, previously hidden behind the partition walls of multiple WCs. The installation of new services throughout the building is almost complete and work has begun on the office suites to provide new facilities and work areas for the Academy.

To date we are delighted to have raised £4.6million of our £5million target and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated to the appeal, particularly our Fellows who have together contributed over £300,000 to date.

[View a list of everyone who has donated](#). We have also received contributions to

the appeal from a number of anonymous donors. If you have made a donation and your name is not included in the list please contact us so that we can thank you publicly.

We have still not reached our fundraising target and we are now working hard to raise the remaining £400,000 over the last 20 weeks of construction works onsite.

If all Fellows donate £1,000 to the appeal we will reach our goal. Fellows who donate £1,000 will be recognised on the permanent appeal board that will hang in the reception at 41 Portland Place.

If you have not yet given we ask you to consider two options:



Option A - £1,000

A donation of £250 per year for 4 years, to give a total of £1,000.

With a donation of £1,000 your name will be listed on the appeal board in our new headquarters.

Option B - £500

A donation of £125 per year for 4 years, to give a total of £500. All donors will be listed in a commemorative publication.

[View information on how to make a donation online, by cheque or bank transfer.](#)

We are immensely grateful for the generosity of all our Fellows and thank you for all your support.

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Academy to conduct review of medical research regulation

On 25 March 2010, the Health Secretary Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP announced a commission for the Academy to conduct an [independent review of the regulation and governance of medical research](#), with a focus on clinical trials. This commission was in response to the recommendation in our report '[Reaping the rewards: a vision for UK medical sciences](#)', that the UK should lead the world in creating a proportionate, risk-based regulatory framework for medical research involving humans that is fit for purpose and informed by an independent review of existing regulations.

The study will be undertaken by a working group, chaired by Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci. The other members of the working group will be announced shortly. The working group will:

- Review the regulatory and governance environment for medical research in the UK. (In addition to the focus on all stages of clinical trials, experimental medicine and epidemiological studies will be considered).
- Identify key problems and their causes, including unnecessary process steps, delays, barriers, costs, complexity, reporting requirements and data collection.
- Make recommendations with respect to the regulatory and governance framework that will: increase the speed of decision-making; reduce complexity; and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and cost.
- Ensure the protection of the safety of participants, as well as the need for appropriate arrangements for governance and accountability.

[A call for evidence to inform the study](#) was launched on 20 April 2010 with a closing date of 1 June 2010. We are seeking input from all organisations and individuals with an involvement or interest in the regulatory and governance framework around medical research. We would be grateful if the Fellowship would consider responding to this call for evidence and disseminate it as widely as possible.

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Academy's public dialogue welcomed

The Academy has chosen a consortium led by [Ipsos-MORI](#), and including the public engagement specialists [Dialogue by Design](#) and the [British Science Association](#), to design and deliver a programme of public dialogue on the use of animals containing human material in medical research. A series of deliberative public workshops and focus groups will take place in Newcastle and London in May and June.

The dialogue will feed into the Academy's current study, enabling the working



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group to hear and consider public hopes and concerns, alongside the views of scientists and other stakeholders received through the study's call for evidence.

In response to the announcement of the contract a spokesperson from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills said, *'These animals can play a key role in advancing new therapies for currently incurable diseases. But dialogue is vital for increasing our understanding of the public's hopes and concerns about new technologies. I particularly welcome the consortium approach at the heart of this project. By bringing together world-renowned research expertise with experienced dialogue practitioners and science communication professionals, the public has a real opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape future policy.'*

A Department of Health Spokesperson said, *'It is essential that there is dialogue with the public on this important area of work. It can be an emotive area of research but one that holds the potential to bring huge advances for healthcare in the future. We have a long term commitment to research and are confident that the Academy's report will benefit greatly from this.'*

Sarah Castell, Head of Qualitative Methods, Ipsos MORI said, *'I am delighted that the Academy has chosen us carry out public dialogue on this important area. We believe that this is the right methodology to give the Academy a really thoughtful and rounded view of public attitudes to this complex topic. We're looking forward to working with the public, as they navigate through the scientific evidence, meet with scientists and other experts, and explore different perspectives.'*

The Academy's study is chaired by Professor Martin Bobrow CBE FRS FMedSci, and supported by the [Wellcome Trust](#), [Medical Research Council](#) and [Department of Health for England](#).

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Gulf growing between teaching and research in UK universities

The Academy's latest report '[Redressing the balance: the status and valuation of teaching in academic careers](#)' highlights an urgent need to redress the balance between teaching and research in our Higher Education Institutions to maintain the UK's position as a world leader in biomedical and clinical sciences.

The report launched on 26 March 2010 and was prepared by the Academy's Non-clinical Academic Careers Committee, chaired by Professor Keith Gull CBE FRS FMedSci. The study was initiated in response to a perceived need to address the diminishing value and status of teaching within our higher education system. Although the report focuses on the status of teaching within biomedical science departments and medical schools, many of the findings are applicable more broadly across all academic disciplines.

The report, which has been warmly welcomed by the academic community, was covered in a number of journals. Professor Keith Gull FMedSci wrote an article for the New Scientist blog '[the S word](#)', and articles also appeared in [Research Fortnight](#) and [The Lancet](#).

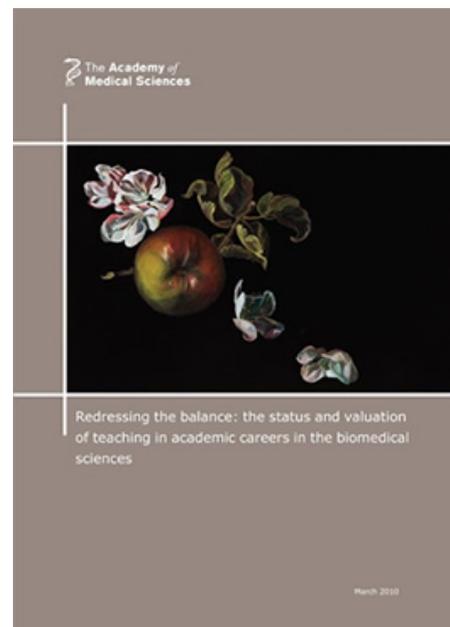
The Academy will, as usual, work to follow up the report's findings. As a first step we are holding a discussion dinner in early May with key representatives from the [Department of Business, Innovation and Skills](#), the [Higher Education Funding Council for England](#), [Universities UK](#), and Vice-Chancellors from a number of Higher Education Institutions, to discuss how the report's recommendations should be taken forward.

We welcome your comments and thoughts on the report.

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HFEA data now available for research

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The Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA) register is a unique, UK wide record of every fertility treatment cycle involving in vitro fertilisation (and the use of donated gametes or embryos in treatment) carried out since 1 August 1991. Thanks to new Regulations, which were made following the recent revision of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act, researchers can now apply to use more of the HFEA's information for research purposes.

Identifying information (data of sufficient detail to uniquely identify a single person) is particularly valuable for research as, for example, it allows data from

different sources to be linked, creating the combination of information needed to answer specific research questions. Since October 2009, identifying information on the HFEA register has been available for research only with the consent of the person(s) to whom it relates. For the earliest HFEA records, it is often no longer practicable for such consent to be obtained.

From 6 April 2010, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Disclosure of Information for Research Purposes) Regulations 2010 set out a process for researchers to apply to use identifying information where consent to its disclosure cannot be obtained. Researchers must demonstrate that their research is in the public interest, or in the interest of improving patient care; that identifying information is necessary to achieve the research aims; and that it is not practicable to obtain consent.

Throughout the parliamentary debate of the HFE Act, and discussions on these resulting Regulations, the Academy has worked closely with organisations including the Wellcome Trust, and Medical Research Council to advise on scientific and regulatory issues covered by the legislation. It is hoped that this new access will enable researchers to make better use of HFEA data in studying the long-term health implications of fertility treatments, in turn fulfilling a clinical duty of care to those involved in treatment of this kind.

Non-identifying information from the register is also available for research. However, the HFEA will continue its policy not to disclose data concerning donated gametes or embryos, or where patient consent has been withheld. People who have undergone treatment can instruct the HFEA not to disclose their information via the HFEA website.

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New UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship grants awarded

The Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme, launched in 2008, recently awarded a second round of Fellowship Awards. This distinctive scheme offers short-term fellowships to early and mid-career clinical academics and biomedical scientists, providing them with the opportunity to gain additional research experience, learn new techniques and further develop their collaborative links.

Following the Selection Panel Meeting held on 9 March 2010, the Academy is pleased to announce that, out of 32 applications considered, 21 grants awards were made. The awardees will each receive up to a maximum of £4,000 to cover travel and subsistence for a period of up to four weeks.

The awards have been funded by the Daniel Turnberg Memorial Fund with generous support from the Wellcome Trust, the Royal College of Physicians and The Wolfson Foundation. As part of this second round of awards, Lord Darzi FMedSci has also secured funding from his department at Imperial College, London to support a travel fellowship within the research field of quality and safety.

This fellowship scheme runs annually. The third round of awards will open for applications in November 2010.

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Successful intern scheme at Academy opens for new applications

Following the successful launch of the [Academy of Medical Sciences' and Wellcome Trust policy internship scheme](#) in March 2009 we are pleased to open a new round of applications. Feedback from our first two interns has been overwhelmingly positive. Dr Sarah Gibb, who recently completed her PhD at the University of Dundee said: *'The internship was one of the best experiences linked to my PhD. This is such a unique opportunity, I would encourage all PhD students to apply for these limited positions.'*

During their time at the Academy our interns had the opportunity to work on high level policy projects, such as a Department of Health consultation on encouraging innovation in the NHS and the Academy's statement on climate change mitigation and health. The scheme also allowed our interns to engage with senior medical scientists and policymakers. Stephen Lu, who is undertaking a PhD at the University of Cambridge, described the scheme as *'..a good way to network and meet people.'*

Internships will take place at the Academy's new offices at 41 Portland Place, London. The scheme is open to students who will be in their third or fourth year of a Wellcome Trust Four Year PhD during the placement; or for the three months immediately following their fourth year. Places are awarded through a competitive application process. Successful applicants receive a three-month extension to their Wellcome Trust PhD stipend while based at the Academy. Financial support for travel and other expenses of up to £2000 is available on a case-by-case basis for students who normally live outside of London.

The deadline for applications is 23 May 2010 and interviews will be conducted on 7 July 2010. Academy Fellows with eligible PhD students are encouraged to draw the scheme to their attention.

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Mentoring and outreach events

One of the Academy's strategic goals is to develop the next generation of leading medical researchers. The Academy's Mentoring and Outreach Scheme is an innovative way to support the increasing number of clinical academics across the training grades. One element of the scheme is our programme of outreach activities for trainees and medical students.

This rolling programme of regional events brings together academic trainees, senior academics and other key representatives from the wider medical science community. These events include interactive sessions that provide the opportunity to:

- Hear inspirational talks
- Establish effective networks amongst peers and colleagues
- Hear from funders about fellowships and grants
- Understand how to use mentoring
- Learn about policy developments
- Engage in open debate

The Academy's first outreach event in Northern Ireland, on 22 March, was extremely successful and attracted over 80 participants. Further events are taking place in [Bristol on Tuesday 11 May](#) and [Sheffield on Wednesday 9 June](#). Academy Fellows are an invaluable part of these days, and trainees greatly appreciate the chance to network with senior academics. As one attendee in Belfast commented:

'I am now confident that I would like to pursue a career in academic medicine and found the advice I received during the networking session very valuable!'

The event in Sheffield also includes a [Mentor Development Workshop](#), open to



Stephen Lu, Academy intern Jan – Mar 2010

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Academy Fellows, Clinician Scientist Fellows, Clinical Lecturers and other senior academics. This is a chance to explore the role of a mentor, as well as discuss the elements that lead to an effective mentoring relationship.

The Academy is grateful to the [National Institute for Health Research](#) and [NHS Education for Scotland](#) who financially support the scheme. The Belfast event was funded by [Queen's University Belfast](#), the [Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency](#), the [HSC Research and Development Office](#), [Public Health Agency](#) and the [Medical Research Society](#).

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Diabetes & obesity: getting to the heart of the matter

The Academy and the [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) (RSE) are holding a joint symposium, [Diabetes & obesity: getting to the heart of the matter](#), in Edinburgh on Wednesday 26 May 2010. The event will bring together researchers working at all levels across academia, industry and the health service to review contemporary findings and consider future developments in diabetes research. Speakers will cover topics including epidemiology and genetics, disease mechanisms, novel imaging approaches, and new therapies, with the focus very much on horizon-scanning, rather than simply reiterating what is already well known.

With support from the [RSE Scotland Foundation](#), the symposium will include leading scientists such as Professor Stephen O'Rahilly FRS FMedSci, University of Cambridge (monogenic causes); Professor Andrew Morris FRSE FMedSci, University of Dundee (societal change); and Dr Tim Rolph, Pfizer (novel therapies).

[Book a free place at the symposium](#)

[Download programme](#)

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Dates for your diary 2010

11 May - [Developing a Career in Academic Medicine workshop](#), Bristol

26 May - [Diabetes & obesity: getting to the heart of the matter](#), Edinburgh

9 June - [Developing a Career in Academic Medicine workshop](#) and [Mentor Development Workshop](#), Sheffield

22 June - [New Fellows Admission day](#) and [Jean Shanks Lecture 2010 - Genetic fingerprinting and beyond](#)

23 July - Deadline for applications to [Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers](#)

24 September - Nomination deadline for [Fellowship election 2011](#)

1 October - Bookings open at [41 Portland Place](#)

18 November - [Annual General Meeting, 41 Portland Place](#)

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