

## Incredible room hire discount for Fellows at 41 Portland Place

As you know, one of the benefits of having our own, dedicated headquarters at [41 Portland Place](#) is the facilities we can offer to our Fellows. We have a dedicated and comfortable Fellows Room in the Jean Shanks Library on the ground floor, which Fellows are welcome to use from 8am – 8pm Monday – Friday. Please use it as a rest stop between meetings, or somewhere to catch up on work, or simply a place to chat to other Fellows. There is also a shower and changing room available to Fellows in the basement – please speak to reception on arrival. Secure bicycle storage is located in one of the vaults at the front of the building – again just speak to reception.

### Incredible Fellows discount for room hire at 41 Portland Place

Our headquarters at [41 Portland Place](#) is a perfect venue for Fellows to hold meetings, seminars and events, with both modern and period rooms that are able to accommodate anything from 4 to 80 people. To make booking simple and affordable we have developed two packages, which are available exclusively to Fellows **until 31 August 2011**.

#### Half day meeting – £25 per person (including VAT)

- Package includes half day room hire, 1 serving of tea, coffee & biscuits, and sandwich lunch (or sandwich & soup) with bottled still and sparkling water.
- Minimum numbers 6

This means that a fully catered half day meeting for 6 people costs just £150 – an amazing discount exclusive to Academy Fellows. This package also applies to larger seminars for up to 70 people (subject to availability), which represents excellent value for money.

#### Dinner package – £35 per person (including VAT)

- Package includes evening room hire, 2 course meal, bottled still and sparkling water, tea, coffee & chocolates
- Package excludes alcoholic drinks
- Minimum numbers 8

The dinner package offers an opportunity to hold high quality, affordable dinners in a beautiful London location, with all the benefits of personal service and a private dining room. A two course dinner for 8 works out at just £280.

These offers are available only to Academy Fellows, i.e. a Fellow must make the booking and attend the event.

[Back to welcome page](#)

## Royal opening of 41 Portland Place, 31 March

All Fellows are warmly invited to the gala opening of the [Academy of Medical Sciences at 41 Portland Place](#) by HRH The Princess Royal on the afternoon of Thursday 31 March 2011.

The reception will take place from 14.30 – 18.00. A champagne afternoon tea will



41 Portland Place is ideal for meetings and entertaining

### To take advantage of these incredible offers contact:

Lucy Clayton on 020 7520 5444  
[enquiries@41portlandplace.com](mailto:enquiries@41portlandplace.com)



be served throughout the event.

Invitations have been sent to Fellows via post. We would like to welcome as many Fellows as possible to this event, however there is a limit on numbers so you are strongly advised to return your RSVP card as early as possible.

[Back to welcome page](#)

## A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research

The year began with the launch of the Academy's report '[A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research](#)'. The report sets out a new regulatory and governance framework to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and increase the speed at which healthcare interventions become available to patients. We propose four key principles and make recommendations to:

- Create a new Health Research Agency (HRA) to rationalise the regulation and governance of all health research.
- Include within the HRA a new National Research Governance Service to facilitate timely approval of research studies by NHS Trusts.
- Improve the UK environment for clinical trials.
- Provide access to patient data that protects individual interests and allows approved research to proceed effectively.
- Embed a culture that values research within the NHS.

The report was produced by an expert working group chaired by Professor Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci.

The recommendations were [welcomed by Government and the scientific community](#), with Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Secretary of State for Health, stating: "The report makes the case for simplification under a health research agency that will streamline and co-ordinate regulatory and governance processes. The Government welcomes the report and will consider carefully how to implement its recommendations."

The report received extensive media coverage with broadcast items on the Today programme, 5 Live and Material World. Coverage by national broadsheets included [The Times](#), [Guardian](#) and [Financial Times](#) (including a front page leader). A commentary and editorial appeared in [The Lancet](#) and the [BMJ](#) ran an interview with Sir Michael. The report was also covered online by journals including [Nature](#), [Science](#) and [New Scientist](#).

We look forward to working with others to encourage implementation of the recommendations. Completed within 8 months and involving over 300 written submissions from across the scientific community, the project further demonstrates the Academy's success in delivering high-profile commissions and enhancing our policy influence.

[Back to welcome page](#)

## Diabetes and obesity: getting to the heart of the matter

In May 2010, the Academy and the [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) hosted a joint symposium to consider the current status and future directions of diabetes and obesity research. The event brought together researchers working at all levels across academia, industry and the health service to discuss the changing trends, review contemporary research findings, identify the wider implications for future research directions in the field and explore future opportunities to develop better preventative strategies. This was the first joint activity between the two

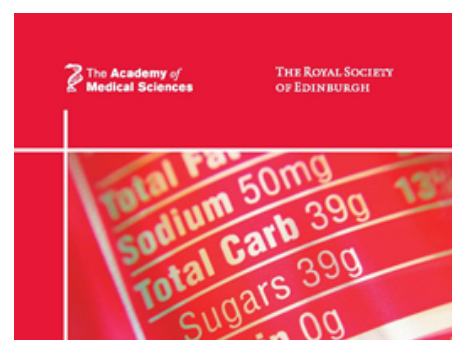


Afternoon tea at 41 Portland Place

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Academies, with support from the [RSE Scotland Foundation](#).

A report of the symposium, '[Diabetes and obesity: getting to the heart of the matter](#)' has now been published and explores:

- UK and global trends in diabetes and obesity.
- The role of genetics and epigenetics in understanding the diseases and the changing trends, and in considering management options for these conditions.
- Future management strategies, including the role of physical activity, the value of new methods for monitoring disease progress, and the emerging therapeutic options for type 2 diabetes.
- The importance of informatics in improving patient care and to achieving more effective translation of new discoveries, products and approaches into clinical practice.
- Future policy interventions and the importance of developing methods to more accurately predict which will be most effective in different population.

[Download a copy of the report](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)

## International health lecture video and report published

Last month the Academy published a [video, summary and slides](#) from our eighth International Health lecture on 'HIV and global health, 2011'. This was delivered by Dr Kevin M De Cock, Director of the Center of Global Health at the US Centers of Disease Control, who gave the lecture at the Institute of Physics in November 2010.

During his talk Dr De Cock considered some of the most topical matters in global health, such as the history and future of HIV/AIDS medicine, strengthening health systems, global health security and non-communicable disease. The lecture drew an engaged audience and sparked a long and lively discussion - demonstrating that this annual lecture has earned its place in the UK calendar of global health events.

[Back to welcome page](#)

## NHS 'Developing the healthcare workforce' consultation

The Government has outlined proposals to restructure education and training within the NHS. The current framework is seen by Government as too top-down and poorly integrated with financial and workforce planning. The proposals aim to give employers greater responsibility for planning and developing the healthcare workforce. Local 'skills networks' of employers will take on many of the functions currently carried out by Strategic Health Authorities. Health Education England (HEE) will be established as a multi-professional, autonomous statutory board, taking over the advisory role of Medical Education England. HEE will support healthcare providers in workforce issues that need to be managed nationally, taking a strategic overview of the funding priorities and allocating money to different areas as appropriate. The proposals are accompanied by a consultation, and the deadline for responses is 31 March 2011.

Sir Mark Walport FMedSci is leading a group of Fellows in responding to this consultation. The Academy's response will stress the importance of designing a system with clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities. It will also highlight the value of research within the NHS and the importance of the academic workforce, as well as the need to provide a flexible career pathway that allows movement between clinical and research activity. The response will emphasise the value of involving universities in postgraduate training and the need for them to play a central role within any skills networks.



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## Health and Social Care Bill 2011

In January, the Government published the [Health and Social Care Bill](#), which will establish the legislative architecture required for the Government's proposed reorganisation of the National Health Service. The Bill was published following earlier White Papers on [Health](#) and [Public Health](#), and a number of associated consultation documents.

The reforms will see the abolition of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts, instead handing the responsibility for commissioning 80% of the NHS budget to consortia of GPs, overseen by a national NHS Commissioning Board.

The Academy has been monitoring the progress of the proposed reforms and is concerned by the lack of focus on research within many of the proposals. We have undertaken the following:

- In September 2010, the President wrote to the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley CBE MP, regarding plans to alter how NHS performance is judged through a new [Outcomes Framework](#).
- The President wrote a second letter to Mr Lansley ahead of the publication of the [White Paper on public health](#) in November 2010.
- The Academy responded to the consultation on the proposals for a [new information strategy](#) to determine how information is accessed, collected, analysed and used in the NHS.

The Academy continues to emphasise the benefits of embedding research within the NHS and the importance of a robust evidence base on which to base and evaluate policies and programmes, particularly in the field of public health.

Fellows may also be interested to note that the Academy's Founder President, Sir Peter Lachmann FRS FMedSci, has published communications with the Secretary of State on his blog, [Sceptical Musings](#).

[View more information on the Academy's activities around the health service reforms.](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)

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## Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research

The Academy of Medical Sciences is an official supporter of a new Concordat which aims to create a greater focus on public engagement with research in universities and institutes. Signatories include [RCUK](#), the UK Funding Councils and [Royal Society](#).

Launched on in December 2010 by David Willetts MP, the Concordat provides a single statement of expectations and responsibilities of research funders in the UK regarding public engagement. The Concordat builds on and strengthens existing good practice by ensuring public engagement is valued, recognised and supported.

It has four principles:

1. UK research organisations have a strategic commitment to public engagement.
2. Researchers are recognised and valued for their involvement with public engagement activities.
3. Researchers are enabled to participate in public engagement activities through appropriate training, support and opportunities.
4. The signatories and supporters will undertake regular reviews of their and



Participants in the Academy's public dialogue on Animals containing human material

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the wider research sector's progress in fostering public engagement across the UK.

Briefings have been produced that outline what this Concordat means for you as researcher, manager of researchers or senior manager in a research institute, and suggest ways you can help implement the principles within your institution.

[View the Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)

## Important information regarding Fellows subscriptions

It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 18 November 2010 that the annual Fellowship subscriptions should be increased by 3.0% to take effect from 1 April 2011.

Further details are contained in a [letter from the Treasurer](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)

## Election of new President

Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci is due to retire from the Presidency of the Academy of Medical Sciences on 24 November 2011. A Search Committee has been formed to oversee the process for electing the new President. Members of the Search Committee are:

- Professor Ron Laskey FRS FMedSci (Chair)
- Professor Patrick Sissons FMedSci
- Professor Patrick Maxwell FMedSci
- Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci
- Professor Susan Iversen CBE FMedSci
- Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci
- Dame Julia Goodfellow FMedSci

The Committee met on 6 December 2010 and 10 January 2011, and will meet again on 14 March 2011.

On 14 January, a [letter was sent to the Fellowship seeking suggestions for candidates](#), and the relevant sections of the Standing Orders were enclosed. Fellows with suggestions of possible candidates for this post are asked to contact the Chair or members of the Search Committee, who can supply further details about the role, along with information on the nomination process. Suggestions submitted to the Committee are confidential.

The deadline for nominations is 31 March 2010.

[Back to welcome page](#)

## First Council Meeting 2011

The first Council meeting of 2011 took place on Thursday 10 February.

*The Following Fellows retired from Council on 18 November 2010*

Professor Peter Barnes FRS FMedSci

Professor John Connell FRSE FMedSci

Professor Sir Marc Feldmann FRS FMedSci

Dr Robin Lovell-Badge FRS FMedSci

*The Following Fellows were elected to the Academy's Council in 2011*

Professor David Adams FMedSci

Professor Alastair Buchan FMedSci

Professor Alan Fairlamb CBE FRSE FMedSci

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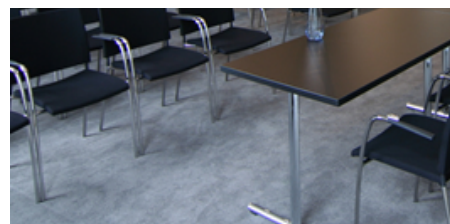
Professor Robert Lechler FMedSci  
Professor Joanna Wardlaw FMedSci  
Professor Jonathan Weber FMedSci

*Co-opted members in 2011*

Professor Raymond Hill FMedSci  
Professor Roger Jones FMedSci  
Professor Ros Smyth FMedSci

[View information on the 2011 Council membership](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)



John Newsom-Davis Council Chamber at  
41 Portland Place

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## 2011 Fellowship election update

This year's Fellowship elections saw 361 candidates entered for the election cycle, of whom 117 were shortlisted to proceed to peer review. The peer review process is now almost complete and we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to review candidates and return referee reports. The election process relies on the participation of Fellows and would not be possible without your generous input. If you have been asked to review a candidate and haven't already done so, please return your reports as soon as possible to [clare.brown@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:clare.brown@acmedsci.ac.uk).

The seven Sectional Committees will meet in March to discuss candidates in detail and to vote on the individuals who will be presented to Council for election. If you would like to find out more about the election process please see our [website page on election to the Fellowship](#).

[Back to welcome page](#)



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## Applications open for the 2011 Foulkes Foundation Medal

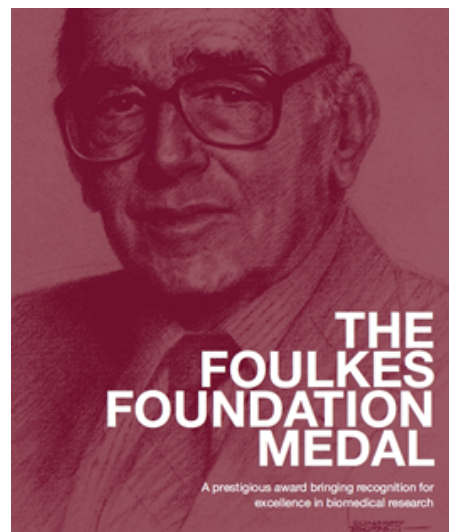


We are pleased to announce that nominations for the [Foulkes Foundation Medal 2011](#) are now open. The Foulkes Foundation Medal is awarded every two years, and is designed to bring recognition to an individual for excellence in biomedical research and to inspire and encourage others to pursue a career in this field. Those eligible will have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the first fifteen years of research since completion of their PhD, with work predominantly undertaken in the UK.

To nominate an individual, Fellows should submit a letter summarising the nominee's principal achievements, and their significance and impact, and the nominee's current CV and publication list. The winner will be selected by an Award Committee comprised of representatives from the [Foulkes Foundation](#) and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

**The deadline for nominations is 12 September** and the winner will be presented with the medal on 24 November at the Academy's AGM. The winner will be invited to present an award lecture at an Academy event at a later date. [View details on how to make a nomination for the Foulkes medal](#)

[Back to welcome page](#)



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## Turnberg Fellowships newsletter

The third round of funding for the Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowship Scheme is currently underway and the Selection Panel is due to meet in March 2011. The Academy recently produced a [Newsletter](#) for the scheme, highlighting its progress and detailing some of the achievements that have been made through the scheme so far.

[Back to welcome page](#)



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## Starter grants for Clinical Lecturers: £2.4m awarded to date

This scheme provides modest 'starter' funds to enable research-active Clinical Lecturers to pursue their research work, gather preliminary data and so further strengthen their applications for longer-term fellowships and funding.

[Thus far the scheme has made 86 grants totalling £2,418,636.](#) We are pleased to announce that the latest round of funding includes additional support from the British Heart Foundation who join our existing partner, the Wellcome Trust, in supporting the Academy to deliver this scheme.

[A new round of applications is now open](#) The deadline for applications is 7 March.

[Back to welcome page](#)



The Academy of  
Medical Sciences

wellcome trust

## Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers

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## Vacancies on the Defence Scientific Advisory Council

The Academy has been asked by the Ministry of Defence to notify Fellows of vacancies on the Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC). The Council would welcome applications from Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences. DSAC reports to the Secretary of State for Defence on 'issues of science, technology, and engineering (including medical science) related to defence' and provides an important independent benchmark of MoD research. Interested Fellows should go to the Public Appointments website [www.publicappnts-vacs.gov.uk](http://www.publicappnts-vacs.gov.uk). The closing date for applications is 11 March 2011.

[Back to welcome page](#)

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