

2011 election results

40 of the UK'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 number of Academy Fellows to 1022. 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 2012 election](#).

The new Fellows will be formally admitted to the Academy at a [ceremony on Wednesday 29 June 2011](#). We hope you will support the Academy and our new Fellows at this important event and look forward to seeing you there.

Fellows elected in 2011

Professor Douglas Altman, Director of the Centre for Statistics in Medicine and Cancer Research UK Medical Statistics Group, University of Oxford

Professor Gianni Angelini, BHF Professor of Cardiac Surgery, University of Bristol

Professor Shankar Balasubramanian, Herchel Smith Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Cambridge

Professor Phillip Beales, Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics and Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, University College London

Professor John Bolam, MRC Senior Scientist, University of Oxford

Professor Graham Burton, Professor of Reproductive Biology, University of Cambridge

Professor Peter Calverley, Professor of Respiratory Medicine, University of Liverpool

Professor Vincenzo Crunelli, Professor of Neuroscience, Cardiff University

Professor David Cunningham, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Head of Gastrointestinal and Lymphoma Units, Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Daniel Davis, Professor of Molecular Immunology, Head of Immunology and Infection Section, Imperial College London

Dr John Diffley, Deputy Director, Cancer Research UK London Research Institute

Professor Thomas Embley, Professor of Evolutionary Molecular Biology, Newcastle University

Professor Margaret Frame, Professor of Cancer Biology and Director of Centre for Cancer Research, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh

Professor Adrian Grant, Director of Research and Commercialisation, University of Aberdeen

Professor Timothy Griffiths, Professor of Cognitive Neurology, Newcastle University

Professor Christopher Griffiths, Foundation Professor of Dermatology and Director of Academic Health Science Centre, The University of Manchester

Professor David Hawkes, Professor and Director for Medical Image Computing, University College London

Professor Andrew King, Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Neurophysiology, University of Oxford



Fellows elected in 2010

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Professor Graeme Laurie, Chair of Medical Jurisprudence, University of Edinburgh

Professor Paul Little, Professor of Primary Care Research, University of Southampton

Professor Eleanor Maguire, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London

Professor Paul Martin, Professor of Cell Biology, University of Bristol

Professor Duncan Maskell, Head of Department and Marks and Spencer Professor of Farm Animal Health, Food Science and Food Safety, University of Cambridge

Professor John McGrath, Professor of Molecular Dermatology, King's College London

Dr Andrew McKenzie, Senior Staff Scientist, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

Professor Elizabeth Miller, Consultant Epidemiologist, Health Protection Agency

Professor Nicholas Morrell, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiopulmonary Medicine, University of Cambridge

Professor Herbie Newell, Professor of Cancer Therapeutics, University of Newcastle

Professor Andrew Phillips, Professor of Epidemiology, University College London

Baron Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Professor Frances Platt, Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmacology, University of Oxford

Professor Giampietro Schiavo, Senior Group Leader (tenured), Cancer Research UK

Professor Allan Struthers, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Therapeutic, University of Dundee

Professor Christoph Tang, Professor of Infectious Diseases, Imperial College London

Professor Anita Thapar, Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Cardiff University

Professor Simon Thompson, Director of Research Biostatistics, University of Cambridge

Professor Bart Vanhaesebroeck, Professor of Cell Signalling and Centre Lead, Barts Cancer Institute, QMUL

Professor Christopher Whitty, Chief Scientific Adviser, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Professor Dominic Withers, Professor of Diabetes and Endocrinology and Honorary Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology, Imperial College London

Professor Maria Zambon, Director, Health Protection Agency

Invitation to new Fellows admission day and summer soir e

The 40 new Fellows elected in 2011 will be formally admitted during a ceremony on Thursday 29 June. All Fellows are warmly invited to attend the day's events (see programme below). As well as the election of new Fellows, the day includes The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in the Medical Sciences 2011: 'How antibiotics illuminate ribosome function and vice versa', which will be given by Dr Venki Ramakrishnan FRS FMedSci, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.



The day will conclude with a summer soir ee at the Academy headquarters building, 41 Portland Place.

Invitations and reply cards will be posted to Fellows shortly.

Programme

Wednesday 29 June 2011

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), 66 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AD and The Academy of Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH

- 14.00 Tea available at RIBA
- 14.20 **Welcome from the President**
Jarvis Auditorium, RIBA
- 15.15 **Presentations from new Fellows**
Jarvis Auditorium, RIBA,
Professor Eleanor Maguire, Professor Christopher Whitty,
Professor Graeme Laurie
- 16.00 Afternoon tea Jarvis Auditorium, RIBA
- 16.30 **The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture
in the Medical Sciences 2011**
Jarvis Auditorium, RIBA
How antibiotics illuminate ribosome function and vice versa
Dr Venki Ramakrishnan FRS FMedSci MRC Laboratory of
Molecular Biology, Cambridge
- 17.30 **Fellows Summer Soir ee 2011**
Drinks and canap e will be served in the John Newsom-Davis
Suite and on the Terrace at 41 Portland Place
- 20.00 Close

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Honorary Fellowship candidate suggestions

We are inviting suggestions for candidates for [Honorary Fellowship of the Academy](#). As set out in our [Standing Orders](#) Honorary Fellowship is offered to distinguished individuals in recognition of their public service and contribution to medical science.

Suggestions should be made in writing to the President and should include the name, title, qualifications, nationality, date of birth and usual place of residence of the candidate. The letter should contain a statement of the principal grounds on which the proposal is made. The deadline for suggestions is **30 June 2011**. Suggestions will be considered by Council and a short list will then be put to the Fellowship for election at the AGM on 24 November 2011.

We very much look forward to admitting Honorary Fellows Dr Venki Ramakrishnan and Professor John Gurdon to the Academy at the AGM in November.

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Professor Sheena Radford FMedSci, Professor Maria Grazia Spillantini FMedSci and Professor Nazneen Rahman FMedSci elected in 2010

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Professor Sir Edwin Southern FRS FMedSci and Sir Alan Langlands FRSE FMedSci elected Honorary Fellows in 2009

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Implementation of report recommendations:

Since the launch of the report, the Academy President and working group chair, Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci, have met with senior officials from the Department of Health and Treasury to inform uptake of the recommendations, culminating in the announcement of a number of initiatives in the Government's recent '[Plan for Growth](#)'. Published alongside the 2011 Budget, the Plan for Growth explicitly acknowledged the impact of our report, with the Academy uniquely cited throughout the section on life sciences. Many of the Academy's recommendations are to be taken forward, including:

- The creation of a new Health Research Regulatory Agency (HRRA), with the aim of streamlining regulation and improving the cost effectiveness of clinical trials. As recommended by the Academy, this will be established with the National Research Ethics Service at its core, and the new Agency will work with the MHRA to promote proportionate standards for compliance and inspection of clinical trials.
- New incentives for efficiency in research initiation and delivery. Our report identified delays in NHS Trusts approving research as the major bottleneck in the regulation and governance process. In response, the Government has stated that future NIHR funding will become conditional on organisations meeting milestones in the R&D approval process, including a 70 day benchmark from funding being agreed to the recruitment of the first patients into trials.
- Adopting a proportional approach to the EU Clinical Trials Directive. The Government stated their intention to reduce "perceived gold plating" and increase the proportionality of the EU Clinical Trials Directive and its implementation. Government will seek to influence the European Commission and European Parliament to change the Directive and further reduce its burden.

Further detail on these announcements is available on the [National Institute for Health Research website](#). In a [media statement](#) the Academy welcomed these steps and we now look forward to seeing how these initiatives are developed and ensuring that changes to the regulatory environment in the UK are implemented effectively.

Presentation to the U.S Institute of Medicine

As part of the wider dissemination of this report, Sir Michael recently visited Washington DC to present to a meeting of the U.S Institute of Medicine's (IOM) [Forum on Drug Discovery, Development and Translation](#). The Forum includes leaders from private sector sponsors of biomedical and clinical research; federal agencies sponsoring and regulating biomedical and clinical research and the academic community.

The Academy's report was well received, with participants impressed by the Academy's impact in the UK and noting that the UK and the US face many similar regulatory challenges. We look forward to building on these links with the IOM in future activities.

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Academy responds to HFEA report on mitochondrial disease



AMS visit to Washington in March

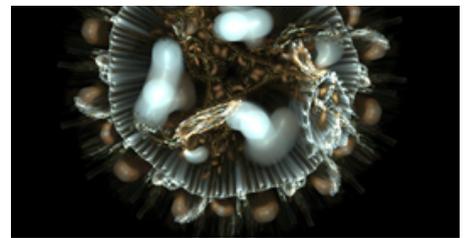
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The Academy, together with partner organisations, has [called on Government to publish a timetable for the introduction of regulations](#) to permit new approaches to avoid the transmission of mitochondrial disease, once sufficient pre-clinical evidence is established. The Academy's President, Professor John Bell said 'Translating medical research should be a major focus for biomedical research scientists and the healthcare community. Techniques to prevent the hereditary transmission of mitochondrial disease could be of significant clinical benefit. We hope the Government will act to agree the regulatory framework that will be used when the necessary preclinical data is available. This will prevent undue delay in delivering benefits to patients.'

Mitochondrial diseases can be caused by mutations in nuclear DNA, or in the DNA contained within mitochondria (mtDNA). Although relative rare, the seriousness of mtDNA diseases and their unusual pattern of inheritance (mtDNA is transmitted solely from the mother in the cytoplasm of the oocyte (egg)) have made a focus of research to prevent their transmission.

Considerable work in this area is ongoing in the UK, and in response to recent developments, the [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority \(HFEA\)](#) were asked to undertake a review of the current scientific evidence on the safety and efficacy of methods to avoid mitochondrial disease through assisted conception. Co-chaired by [Professor Neva Haites](#) OBE FMedSci and [Dr Robin Lovell Badge](#) FRS FMedSci, the HFEA's expert panel [reported in April](#). Three approaches were considered (see box).



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Approaches to avoid the transmission of mitochondrial disease

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) is currently used to test embryos that might carry DNA mutations, so that unaffected embryos can be selected for use in treatment. The HFEA's review concluded that PGD is suitable for some, but not all, patients with mtDNA mutations, and it can reduce, but not eliminate the risk of transmitting abnormal mtDNA. Recommendations for centres carrying out PGD for mtDNA mutations to improve diagnosis, were set out in the HFEA's report.

Maternal spindle transfer (MST) and pronuclear transfer (PNT): MST involves the transfer the nuclear genetic material from the oocyte of a woman with disease-conferring mtDNA mutations into an enucleated oocyte donated by a woman with 'normal' mtDNA - which would then be fertilised by sperm from the patient's partner. PNT is similar, but involves the transfer of the couple's genetic material from a fertilised oocyte (zygote) into an enucleated donor zygote with 'normal' mtDNA. In both cases, the resulting embryo would receive genetic material from three sources: nuclear DNA from the affected woman and her partner, and mtDNA from a donor woman.

The HFEA review concluded that MST and PNT are potentially useful for many patients with mtDNA disorders, and that for some patients these may be the only techniques that would make it possible for them to have a genetically related, unaffected child. Although optimistic about the future potential of

these techniques, the review panel recommended a cautious approach and advised that a specific set of further preclinical studies should be undertaken and taken into account, before the techniques could be assessed as safe for clinical use.

The HFEA's full report is available at <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/6372.html>.

The UK's [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act](#) currently only permits eggs and embryos that have not had either their nuclear or mtDNA altered to be used in infertility treatment. However, the Act allows for regulations to be passed by Parliament that would allow techniques such as MST and PNT (see box) to be used.

The Academy will continue to engage as Government responds to the HFEA's report, updates will appear on in the [policy highlights section](#) of the Academy website.

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New legislation on the research use of animals

Implementation of EU Directive 2010/63/EU

The recently revised European Union Directive on 'the protection of animals used for scientific purposes' entered into force in Autumn 2010. Broad in scope, the new Directive was intended to harmonise animal research throughout the EEC, both in terms of pre-clinical research practice, and in standardising associated regulation and licensing procedures for researchers. The Directive must now be transposed into Member State national legislation by November 2012, and will apply throughout Europe on 1st January 2013.

The process of transposition is being led in the UK by the Animals and Scientific Procedures Division of the Home Office. Publication of a consultation document on the implementation of the Directive is understood to be imminent.

The Academy's current working group study on '[Animals containing human material](#)' will feed into this consultation on specific issues. We will also continue to liaise with the [UK Bioscience Sector Collaboration](#) to respond more broadly to the issues raised in the transposition of the Directive.

Animal Procedure Committee review of the assessment of cumulative severity in non-human primates used in neuroscience research

[The Animal Procedures Committee \(APC\)](#) is an advisory non-departmental public body, which advises the Home Secretary on matters concerned with the regulation of the use of animals in scientific procedures in the UK.

To inform implementation of the Directive 2010/63/EU (see above), which will introduce the requirement for a 'severity classification' of animal studies, the APC has recently initiated a review 'of the assessment of cumulative severity in non-human primates used in neuroscience research'. The review will be led by the Primate Sub-Committee of the APC, chaired by Professor John Pickard FMedSci. The Home Office Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate will provide independent advice to the Home Secretary. The terms of reference for this study have been published, and a set of detailed consultation questions are expected to be available shortly. The Academy will respond to the review in partnership with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC), and Wellcome Trust.

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Workforce consultation

In March the Academy responded to the [Government's plans to restructure education and training within the NHS](#). 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.

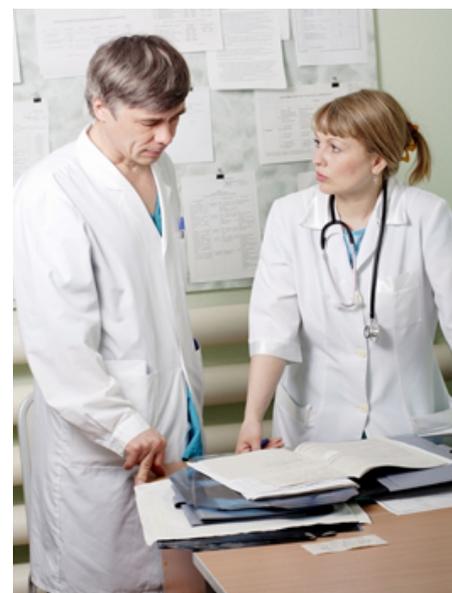
[The Academy's response](#) was prepared by a small working group of Fellows, chaired by Sir Mark Walport FMedSci. It stresses the importance of designing a system with clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities and proposes an alternative model to that outlined by the Government, which places partnerships between higher education institutes and healthcare providers at the centre of local commissioning arrangements. Other key features of the Academy's proposed model include:

- The key purchaser/provider split for the provision of education and training



Academy of Medical Sciences report on the use of non human primates in research (2006)

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should be between HEE and local education and training providers.

- The education and training of healthcare professionals should be nationally coordinated by Health Education England (HEE).
- HEE should be governed by a small Board. It should hold and allocate funding, which should be ring-fenced for the sole purpose of education and training.
- HEI/healthcare provider partnerships should lead the local provision of education and training.
- We do not agree that local skills networks should commission education and training. Instead, they should act as advisory bodies that collect local workforce intelligence and provide a forum for discussion and debate.
- The schedule for implementation must be carefully considered and allow sufficient time for piloting and evaluation.

The Academy's response also stresses the importance of health research in the NHS and of developing a workforce equipped to carry out and utilise high quality research.

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Policy internship scheme

Do you know a PhD student who is funded by the Wellcome Trust or the Medical Research Council? Are they interested in science policy? Applications are invited for the next round of our successful [policy internship scheme](#), which allows Wellcome Trust funded four year PhD students to spend three months in the Academy's policy team. We are also delighted to announce that the Medical Research Council has agreed, in principle, to support a similar scheme for the students it funds.

Feedback from our interns has continued to be overwhelmingly positive. Dr Anna Wade, who recently completed her PhD at University College London said: 'The whole experience has been enjoyable and the fact that I was involved in a wide range of diverse projects was the most valuable and enjoyable aspect of the internship'.

During their time at the Academy, our policy interns have the opportunity to work on existing high level policy projects, such as our recent review of the regulation and governance of health research, or to research new projects. They also have the opportunity to lead on a particular aspect of our policy work such as a consultation response. The scheme allows interns the opportunity to engage with Fellows, other senior researchers and policymakers. One intern said, 'my interaction with Fellows and other senior scientists through the guise of policy has made me more confident in approaching and forming interactions with these people'.

Internships 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 PhD during the placement; or for the three months immediately following their fourth year. Places are awarded through a competitive application process. Successful applicants will receive a three-month extension to their PhD stipend while based at the Academy. A travel grant is available on a case-by-case basis for students who normally live outside of London.

Academy Fellows with eligible PhD students are encouraged to draw the scheme to their attention.

The deadline for applications from Wellcome Trust funded students will be 16 May 2011 and interviews will be conducted in July 2010. Further details and an application form for the Wellcome Trust funded scheme are available on the Academy's website.

MRC-funded students are invited to register their interest in the scheme with Dr Rachel Quinn.

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Dr Anna Wade, Policy intern April – June 2010

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Academy mentoring scheme evaluation

Overall, 82 Academy mentors (50%), 147 mentees (66%) and 67 buddy group members (53%) contributed to the external evaluation of the Academy's mentoring schemes. We are very grateful to all Fellows who took the time to contribute to this important piece of work. The scheme would not be possible without your ongoing support. Thank you in particular to the 41 Fellows who mentor more than one mentee.

Key findings:

- 82% of mentees are satisfied overall with the Academy's mentoring scheme (34% very satisfied, 48% fairly satisfied).

"Having had the experience of successfully navigating through clinical medicine and science, my mentor has been instrumental in helping me structure my career when I hit a 'road-block'."

Academy mentee

- 60% of mentees agree that Academy mentoring has had a positive impact on their career progression (19% mentees say 'very positive').
- 60% of mentees agree that the Academy's mentoring scheme has helped them to become more independent, 53% of mentees agree it has helped them stay in academic medicine.
- 69% of mentors feel they have benefitted from the scheme to some extent, in particular through gaining an understanding of how to help young academics and the issues they face. Most mentors who feel they have not benefitted from the scheme have had limited contact with their mentee.

"[Mentoring] provides a unique insight into the problems faced by my junior colleagues at a national level... The process of mentoring someone else inevitably makes you reconsider your own position and reflect on what you want to do and achieve."

Academy mentor

- 42% of mentors who responded to the survey had attended a mentor training workshop, 91% found the workshop useful:

"There is quite a lot of confusion about where mentoring fits into the spectrum between supervisor/line manager/boss and just being a colleague, and I found the workshop really clarified what mentoring is all about."

Academy mentor

Given that the full impact and value of mentoring may only be realised over a number of years, we are very pleased that many mentees are reporting benefits at such an early stage.

If you are already a mentor and have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Academy's mentoring team – 020 3176 2160 or mentoring@acmedsci.ac.uk.

We are also always interested to hear from any Fellows who are keen to get involved in mentoring activities.

In conjunction with the Academy's Mentoring Advisory Group, comprising Fellows

and mentoring experts, we are now considering the complete evaluation report – developments and updates to the scheme will be announced in due course. However, the evaluation is already informing ongoing activities. We will be publishing a mentoring handbook later this year. This will build on learning from the evaluation exercise and our experience of designing and running the mentoring scheme over the last 9 years. The handbook will be an invaluable guide for mentors and mentees as well as – we hope – inspiring organisations and institutions which employ or fund academics to consider setting up their own mentoring schemes.



Professor Dame Sally Davies FMedSci speaking at a recent mentoring event

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mentoring schemes.

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Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme

25 new Travel Fellowships have been awarded through the third round of funding for the [Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme](#). These short-term Fellowships support early and mid-career clinical academics and biomedical scientists to develop their research, share knowledge, and establish collaborations between institutions in the UK and Middle East. The successful applicants will receive up to £3,500 to support their visit, which lasts for up to one month. The Fellowships are offered on an annual basis with the fourth round opening for applications in October 2011. Further details of the awardees can be found at www.acmedsci.ac.uk/turnberg

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Foulkes Foundation Medal 2011

There is still time to nominate individuals for the 2011 [Foulkes Foundation Medal](#).

Awarded every two years, the medal brings recognition to an individual for excellence in biomedical research, with the aim of inspiring others to pursue a research career.

The nomination process is straightforward. Please submit a letter outlining the nominee's principal achievements, their significance and impact, and attach a copy of the nominee's CV and publication list.

The submission deadline is 12 September and the winner will receive the medal at the Academy's AGM on 24 November.

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The Foulkes Foundation Medal

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Brazil workshop on tropical medicine and parasitology

On 21-23 February 2011 the Academy's Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, led a delegation of senior UK scientists to Sao Paulo, Brazil to participate in a high-level workshop on tropical medicine and parasitology. During his time in Sao Paulo, Professor Souhami also visited senior researchers and officials at the [Federal University of Sao Paulo](#), FAPESP (the State Science Foundation of Sao Paulo), the State University of Sao Paulo and the Sao Paulo State Health Secretariat to discuss UK-Brazil partnerships in the medical sciences.

The event was organised by a unique collaboration involving FAPESP, the Brazil office of the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN) - part of the UK Government's network of science attaches at embassies and consulates round the world - and the Academy of Medical Sciences. It was undertaken in recognition of the complementary strengths of UK and Brazilian research in tropical medicine and parasitology, and the substantial increase in impact of scientific publications involving partners from the two countries.

The objectives of the workshop were to facilitate partnerships between Brazilian and UK experts in tropical medicine and parasitology, to identify scientific opportunities that might become the focus of collaborations and to consider policy measures that might encourage such activity in the future. To help achieve these goals Professor Souhami briefed the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Sir John Beddington FRS, on the provisional findings of the workshop prior to his forthcoming visit to Brazil.

A summary of the workshop is currently being prepared and will be published in the near future.

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Academy's Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, speaking at the workshop

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Building institutions through equitable partnerships in global health

Universities have great strength in biomedical and health research, education and training. In partnership with academic institutions in the developing world, universities in developed countries are in a pivotal position to address major issues in global health and to assist in building capacity. Over the last five years, there has been a marked growth in global health departments, institutes and programmes in North American universities. A similar pattern is emerging in the UK, but to date there has been limited discussion or debate as to the optimal role of the university in global health and the type of institutional partnerships that meet the needs and priorities of Southern institutions, as well as building and



Professor Chris Whitty FMedSci (far right) speaking at the conference

sustaining capacity for the future.

To consider the issue of building institutions through equitable partnerships in global health in more depth, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal College of Physicians, the Wellcome Trust, Universities UK and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation held a high-level conference in April 2011. The conference brought together a diverse group of over 100 senior figures from 21 different countries representing universities, research institutes, funders, professional societies, charities and industry. Its objective was to share best practice, review lessons learned and plan a way forward for international partnerships that promote equity and sustainability. A particular focus of the conference was the perspective of Southern institutions, with many panellists from institutes in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and South America.

A report of the meeting is now being prepared. You can view tweets from the conference at [#globalhealth](#) [@acmedsci](#) and [@rcplondon](#)

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Mentoring workshops

Fellows are warmly invited to the following events, which form part of the Academy's Mentoring and Outreach Scheme. These workshops are aimed at clinical academic trainees, who greatly value the opportunity to network and discuss their careers with Academy Fellows.

- 18 July – Brighton – Developing a career in academic medicine
- 22 September – Cardiff – Developing a career in academic medicine
- 29 September – Birmingham – Developing a career in academic medicine
- 19 October – Belfast – Expanding your horizons: careers in academic medicine

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Participants at a recent mentoring workshop

For further information and to book a place contact

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Sackler Lecture – Dr Venki Ramakrishnan

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in the Medical Sciences 2011 will be given Nobel Laureate by Dr Venki Ramakrishnan FRS FMedSci, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.

Dr Ramakrishnan's lecture 'How antibiotics illuminate ribosome function and vice versa' will take place at 17.00 on Wednesday 29 June 2011 at The Royal Institute of British Architects.

Fellows are asked to publicise the lecture to their colleagues

Fellows are asked to publicise the lecture to their colleagues.

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Dr Venki Ramakrishnan

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Cheltenham Science Festival

The Academy is jointly organising an event with the Physiological Society at this year's [Cheltenham Science Festival](#). Academy Fellows Dr Geoff Watts, Professor Dame Linda Partridge and Professor David Barker will be exploring how scientists are learning more about how diet, genetics and other factors can help us live not just longer but healthier lives.

Click on the link below for further information and to book tickets.

[Baby boomers and the ageing revolution](#)

Friday 10 June 2011, 16:30 – 17.30

Town Hall, Cheltenham

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Rejuvenating ageing research (2009)

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41 Portland Place opened by HRH The Princess Royal

HRH The Princess Royal attended a Gala reception at 41 Portland Place on Thursday 31 March to officially open the Academy's headquarters building. The

www.acmedsci.ac.uk/newsletter_may/all.html



reception was attended by over 200 Fellows and guests. The Vice Presidents Professor Ron Laskey CBE FRS FMedSci and Professor Patrick Sissons FMedSci led HRH on a tour of the building, during which time she met seven groups of Fellows, staff and guests to hear about the Academy, our work and the development of 41 Portland Place. Speeches were given by the President and Sir Mark Walport before HRH unveiled a commemorative plaque that now hangs in our reception area.

[View photos from the event](#)

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HRH The Princess Royal at the gala opening of the new Academy headquarters. [View additional photos from the event](#)

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Special meeting and dinner offers for Fellows

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 designed the building with Fellows in mind and hope that over time it will become a useful base in central London for many of you. You will recently have received details in the post of the facilities available exclusively for Fellows. We hope you will be able to make use of the [generous discount package](#) that allows Fellows to hold half day meetings for just £25 per person, or private dinners for £35 per person.

If you are looking to run any of the following events please think about holding them at 41 Portland Place. Profits generated through venue hire of 41 Portland Place are used to fund activities run by the Academy of Medical Science to promote advances in medical science and ensure research is rapidly translated into benefits for patients.

- Discussion meetings, lectures and symposia
- Strategy and training sessions
- Lab away days
- Formal presentations, interview panels and assessments

- Press conferences and screenings
- Private dining
- Governance and board meetings
- Summer parties
- Poster sessions
- Gala dinners and receptions

[View rooms at 41 Portland Place](#)

[View hospitality menus at 41 Portland Place](#)

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Fellows dinner package £35 per person

For further information and to book a place contact
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