

## Fellowship election 2012 – call for nominations

A reminder to all Fellows to submit nominations for new candidates to be considered for election in 2012. All candidates are assessed on merit. However, with an aim to be fully representative of the UK as a whole, we ask that you consider worthy candidates from across the board (gender, geography, ethnicity, speciality) and beyond your institution.

Principal nominators are reminded to update their candidates' papers for this year's election. This really does give your candidates the best chance in the process.

[View further details and download forms.](#)



Four of the six female Fellows elected in 2011

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## Admission day 2011

Forty Fellows were admitted to the Academy at a ceremony on 29 June. As well as an informative seminar for new Fellows and the prestigious admission ceremony itself, the day included presentations on: 'Space, memory and the human brain' by Professor Eleanor Maguire FMedSci, University College London; 'Improving treatment of malaria in Africa and Asia' by Professor Christopher Whitty FMedSci, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and 'Reflexive Governance: a new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research?' by Professor Graeme Laurie FMedSci, University of Edinburgh.

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in the Medical Sciences 2011 '[How antibiotics illuminate ribosome function and vice versa](#)' was given on the day by Dr Venki Ramakrishnan FRS, who will be admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in November 2011.

The day ended with a Soirée for Fellows held at Academy HQ – 41 Portland Place. Over 200 Fellows and guests enjoyed a delicious BBQ on the terrace within the medical themed garden, which provided a wonderful opportunity for the Fellowship to meet the new intake.

[View photos from Admissions day 2011.](#)

The badge of FMedSci is much sought after, with only 40 Fellows selected each year from a pool of over 350 candidates. The diversity of talent and expertise within these nominees is an important factor in maintaining the breadth of experience amongst our Fellowship. The sectional committees work hard to ensure the best candidates are selected through a rigorous and fair process and we rely on Fellows to nominate first class individuals whose work is having a major impact on medical science.

The nomination process for the 2012 Fellowship elections is now open. Fellows are encouraged to nominate new candidates, and equally importantly, to update the papers of their existing nominations.

[Nominate a candidate for Fellowship.](#)



The new Fellows elected in 2011

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## June council meeting

Council met on 9 June, where the main item of business was the election of the next Academy President; [Sir John Tooke FMedSci](#) will take up the post on 25 November 2011. Council also appointed Professor Jean-Paul Vincent FMedSci as Chair of Sectional Committee 2 and noted the suggestions for new and retiring [members from each Committee](#). Sir John Savill FRS FRSE FMedSci, CEO of the Medical Research Council (MRC) presented on 'The MRC and industry', and generated considerable discussion about how the MRC can drive economic development in the UK life sciences industry.

The Treasurer's report noted that the draft results for the financial year for the Academy group (the charity and its trading subsidiary) were encouraging, and that the external audit had gone well; the full accounts will be signed off by Council in October. Various policy activities were discussed, including the [revalidation of doctors](#), immigration policy, and [healthcare and public health reforms](#). Updates were given on ongoing projects, including: '[animals containing human material](#)', the '[review of regulation and governance of research](#)' and 'human enhancement in the workplace'. Noted were: the Academy's involvement in a Federation of European Academies of Medicine ([FEAM](#)) [response to an EU green paper on research](#); a letter from the Academy to the Health Secretary in response to the HFEA's review on treatments to avoid transmission of mitochondrial disease; and a report of a talk from [Dr Jinqwu Zang, Head of R&D at GSK China](#). Attention was also drawn to the programme of [Fellows' Dinners](#).



The Academy is governed by a Council of Fellows including the six Honorary Officers.

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## Report launch: Animals containing human material

The Academy's latest report, '[Animals containing human material](#)' is published today.

Chaired by Professor Martin Bobrow CBE FRS FMedSci, this working group report examines the scientific, social, ethical, safety and regulatory aspects of research involving animals, containing human material. Consideration of this rapidly

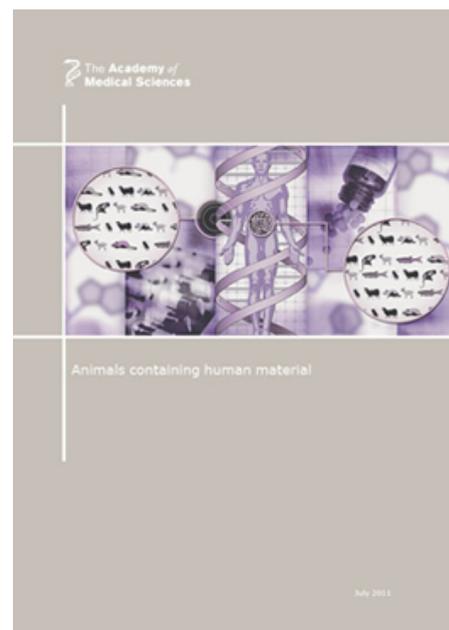
advancing area of science is needed to ensure that research into our understanding of diseases and their treatment can continue to take place in the UK within a robust ethical and regulatory framework.

At the launch Professor Martin Bobrow said, '*This is a complex research area and there should be ongoing dialogue between scientists, regulators and the wider public to address emerging issues. Our report recommends that the Home Office puts in place a national expert body, within the existing stringent system of animal research regulation, to provide specific advice on sensitive types of ACHM research.*'

Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng PMedSci also commented, '*This is an area of research with real potential to deliver scientific advances and bring new treatments to the clinic. Several different UK regulators are involved in regulation of this research, and it is vital to ensure they are closely coordinated. The current transposition of the EU Directive on the use of animals in research provides an important opportunity for the Home Office to act on the Academy's recommendations. I believe that the UK scientific community is well placed to raise international awareness of these issues and provide leadership in this challenging area of biomedical science.*'

Fellows will shortly receive a printed copy of the report and a lay summary written by Dr Geoff Watts FMedSci. Copies can be downloaded from [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/publications](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/publications).

Thank you again to all our Fellows and colleagues who submitted evidence to the study or contributed to the report.



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## Shaping our future animal research regulations

The Academy is preparing a response to the [Home Office's current consultation](#) on how the new European Directive on the use of animals in research will be put into effect in the UK. This will include some of the recommendations from our animals containing human material report. We will also contribute to a wider cross-sector response to the Home Office coordinated by the [UK Bioscience Sector Collaboration](#).

[The European Directive 2010/63/EU](#) on 'the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes' came into force in September 2010. The Directive must now be 'transposed' into UK national legislation by November 2012. This process involves alignment of the UK's current legislation (the Animals Scientific Procedure Act (1986)) with the new Directive. The Animals in Scientific Procedures Division of the Home Office is leading this work.

The Directive is intended to harmonise animal research standards and practices across Europe, and makes provisions for many aspects of research involving animals, including:

- Development of alternative approaches (the 3Rs)
- Training and licensing of researchers
- Research project authorisation
- Ethical review processes (local, national, and international)

The Home Office's consultation was published in July and closes on 5 September 2011.

## Streamlining health research regulation

Much activity continues around the Academy's successful report '[A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research](#)'. Many of the recommendations from the report, which outline steps to streamline the regulatory approval of health research, were accepted by the Government as part of the [2011 Budget](#). Through engaging Government officials, Parliamentarians and European policymakers, work is now focused on the implementation of our recommendations and ensuring the momentum and [support generated by our Review](#) is maintained.

### The creation of the Health Research Regulatory Agency (HRR)

The Academy's recommendation was that a new regulator be established to remove complexity and oversee a new regulatory and governance pathway for health research. The creation of the new body has received strong support from across the research community and by all political parties:

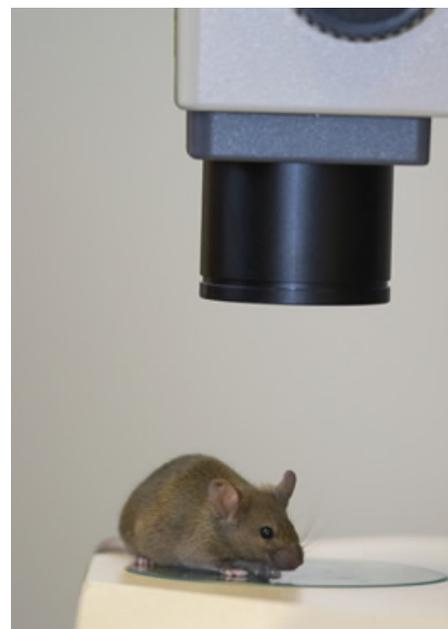
*"The Academy of Medical Sciences made a proposal to create a health research agency that was not just supported by the medical and research professions, but by all the political aspects of all the parties in both Houses of Parliament. It is rare for that to occur..." (Lord Willis of Knaresborough)*

*"I am immensely supportive of the splendid report produced by a committee chaired by Sir Michael Rawlins for the Academy of Medical Sciences on the future regulation of research." (Lord Walton of Detchant)*

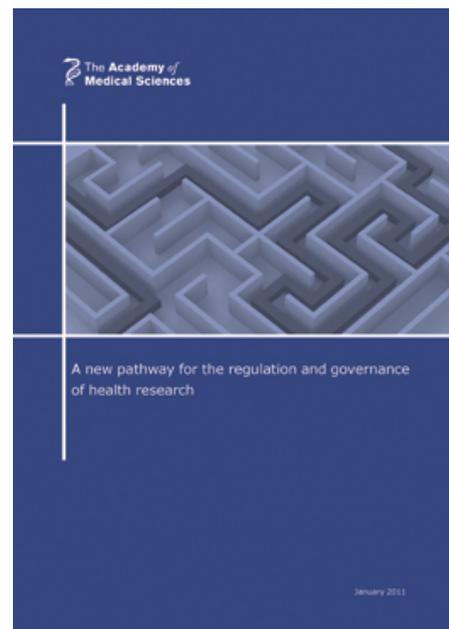
In line with our proposals, there has been a firm commitment from Government that the HRR will be established as a Special Health Authority in 2011, with additional regulatory functions then transferred through primary legislation. Discussions around the most appropriate legislative vehicle to fully establish the new body are ongoing and staff and the working group chair, Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci, recently spoke at the AGM of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research to inform discussion on this issue.

### Influencing revisions to the European Clinical Trials Directive

[The Academy responses](#) to the recent European Commission consultation on proposals to revise the Directive included: an individual submission; leading on a



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response from the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM); and contributing to a joint statement by UK non-commercial research organisations (including Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation and the Association of Medical Research Charities).

Given the influence of submissions from pan-European bodies, the Academy's strong relationship with FEAM has been crucial and Dr Rob Frost, Policy Manager, recently represented both the Academy and FEAM at a Brussels meeting of the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice on 'How to achieve successful new trial legislation'.

In addition to amending the Directive, we have also called for the MHRA to adopt a more proportionate approach within the scope of the current Directive and their pilot of a [notification scheme](#) for 'low-risk' trials is a welcome and important first step in this area.

We look forward to keeping Fellows updated on future progress on all aspects of the report in future newsletters.

## Health and public health reforms

In April the Government announced a pause in the legislative process of its Health and Social Care Bill, to engage in a listening exercise, led by the Future Forum. This group published its [report, with recommendations](#), on Monday 13 June. The Government published its [full response](#) on Monday 20 June.

The Academy has been engaged in promoting the importance of using the Bill to promote research and innovation in the NHS, as well as in highlighting the need to establish an independent source of public health expertise outside of the Department of Health, and in ensuring the appropriate systems are in place to provide professional education and training to the NHS workforce. [The Academy has responded](#) to many of the consultations relating to the Bill, including a joint submission with other research charities to the Future Forum, and the President met with Professor Steve Field, who led the Future Forum. The Government has proposed a number of amendments to the Bill, which were [welcomed by the Academy](#), including specific commitments to:

- Create a new duty for the Secretary of State to promote research.
- Create a new duty for clinical commissioning groups to promote research and innovation and the use of research evidence.
- Ensure that a culture of research and innovation is embedded in the arrangements for both the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England.
- Make sure that clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board ensure that treatment costs for patients who are taking part in research funded by Government and Research Charity partner organisations are funded through normal arrangements for commissioning patient care.
- Consider further how to amend the Bill to protect patient confidentiality in a way that supports plans to drive quality improvement through greater access to personal information; and to promote high quality research.
- Establish Public Health England as an Executive Agency of the Department of Health.
- Ensure a safe and robust transition for the education and training system (further details are expected in the autumn).
- Introduce an explicit duty for the Secretary of State to maintain a system for professional education and training as part of the comprehensive health service.

Following the Government's announcements, the President received a letter from the Secretary of State for Health, the Rt. Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP, to thank him and the Academy for the 'key contributions' made, which were 'highly influential in shaping the overall direction of the subsequent changes to the legislation'.

The Academy office continues to monitor developments.



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## 2012 Spring meeting for Clinician Scientists in training

The eleventh Annual Meeting for Clinician Scientists in Training will take place on 29 February 2012 at the Royal College of Physicians, London. This prestigious cross-specialty event offers young clinician scientists the opportunity to present their work, meet peers from different disciplines and network with senior figures in medical research. The meeting is run through a collaboration of the Medical Research Society, Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal College of Physicians. [A letter setting out further details, including information on submission of abstracts and the prizes on offer is available.](#)

**We warmly encourage you to publicise this meeting to clinical academic trainees in your institutions.**



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## Recognising excellent biomedical researchers

Do you know an outstanding biomedical researcher who is in the early stages of their research career? If so, please consider nominating them for the 2011 [Foulkes Foundation Medal](#).

The medal is awarded every two years to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in biomedical research. Candidates will have made significant achievements in the first 15 years of research since completion of their PhD. Nominees do not need to be an Academy Fellow.

To nominate, please submit a letter outlining the nominee's principal achievements, their significance and impact, and attach a copy of their 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.

Previous winners:

- 2009 – [Professor Peter Rothwell FMedSci](#)
- 2007 – [Professor Robin Ali FMedSci](#)



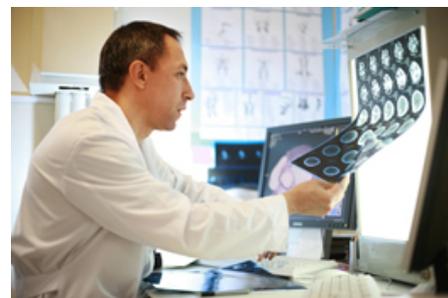
**For further information contact [nigel.eady@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.eady@acmedsci.ac.uk)**

## Fifth round of Starter Grant awards

This Academy scheme for research active Clinical Lecturers has now delivered five rounds of funding and supported 105 Clinical Lecturers with grants totalling just over £3m. The most recent awards were made in June where the scheme benefited for the first time from the additional funding support of the British Heart Foundation. This new support joins that from the Wellcome Trust. 20 awards were made through the most recent round of funding, totalling £583,232.

The awards provide up to £30,000 over two years to cover the cost of research consumables and equipment helping Clinical Lecturers develop their research data to bid for longer-term research fellowships and funding.

The decision making is aided by the written peer reviews from Fellows of the Academy and these are very gratefully received. We look forward to the



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Fellowship's continued support in future grant rounds. The next call for applications closes on 5 September and we encourage Fellows to make Clinical Lecturers within their departments aware of this funding opportunity.

Since the first round of awards in April 2009, the scheme has seen the benefits of its funding in the number of successful applicants who have further developed their academic careers, for example, by securing Intermediate Clinical Fellowships, Senior Lectureships and further substantial grant funding. This good news comes from our continuing contact with successful applicants and a mid-scheme evaluation that is currently being undertaken, conducted in collaboration with our colleagues at the Wellcome Trust. Further details of the results of the evaluation will be available in due course.

## Lecture report – Moving from made in China to discovered in China

On Thursday 12 May, Dr Jingwu Zang (Senior Vice President and Head of R&D China for GlaxoSmithKline) gave a talk at the Academy entitled 'Moving from Made in China to Discovered in China – Opportunities and Challenges'. A diverse audience of 70 Academy Fellows, representatives from across industry and policy making and other invited guests explored opportunities presented by the recent expansion of medical research in China.

[A lecture note has now been published](#) which summarises the key issues explored during the event, combining information from Dr Zang's excellent lecture with points raised during the extensive and vibrant discussion.

Opportunities for UK collaboration to further grow and embed Chinese medical research capacities – important to China's own medical future and to further increasing its attractiveness as a location for investment and R&D – were discussed alongside capitalising on China's current benefits as a healthcare market.

The event concluded with comments from Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng PMedSci and the Minister of State for Universities and Science, The Rt Hon David Willetts MP. Following the meeting, the Academy liaised with the Minister's office to inform his visit to China in June.



David Willetts, John Bell and Jingwu Zang

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## Aligning European research and innovation funding

In May 2011 the [Federation of European Academies of Medicine \(FEAM\)](#) submitted its response to the recent [European Commission Research and Innovation Green Paper](#) that seeks to bring together many of the current cross European science funding streams. The Academy took a leading role in preparing this response, which was approved at the annual FEAM meeting in Rome. Attending the meeting were the Academy's Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, and our Director of Medical Science Policy, Dr Rachel Quinn. The meeting also saw the election of Academy Fellow Professor Dermot Kelleher FMedSci as FEAM Vice-President and discussion of plans for FEAM work on animal and human health, direct to consumer genetic testing and medical education in Europe.

[The FEAM response to the Green Paper](#) supports plans to align core elements of EU level support for research and innovation, provided these are carried out in a manner that complements rather than distorts successful national research agendas. While FEAM was keen to increase the participation of newer member states in research and innovation, the response stresses that this should be achieved without compromising excellence as a central criteria for funding. It also calls for a balance between fundamental research that generates often anticipated rewards and research into 'grand challenges' that focus on the specific needs of society. Other key messages included the need to simplify funding, the need for financial instruments to support innovative biomedical companies, the



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importance of partnerships between university and healthcare systems, improving the mobility of researchers geographically and between sectors, and the need to ensure European regulations such as the [Clinical Trials Directive](#) do not stifle vital medical research.

## Mentoring and outreach events 2011

### Mentoring events

22 September, **Cardiff** – Developing a career in academic medicine

29 September, **Birmingham** – Developing a career in academic medicine

### Visiting lecturers

19 September, **Liverpool** – Visiting lecturer – Professor Adrian Hill FMedSci

22 November, **Newcastle** – Visiting lecturer – Professor Adrian Bird FMedSci

### Medical students event

19 October, **Belfast** – Expanding your horizons: careers in academic medicine



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## AGM and Jean Shanks lecture

The Academy of Medical Sciences' AGM, Foulkes Foundation Medal Award, Admission of Honorary Fellows, Jean Shanks Lecture and Fellows' Dinner will take place on Thursday 24 November 2011.

The meetings during the day will take place at The Royal Society and will be followed by a dinner for Fellows at [41 Portland Place](#). The dinner will provide a chance to join Fellows, staff and friends to celebrate the Academy's achievements this year and mark the official transition of the Presidency from Sir John Bell to Sir John Tooke. Places at the dinner will be limited; further details to follow.

Registration for the AGM is due to start at 14.30. The Jean Shanks Lecture takes place at 17.30. We are delighted that Professor Dame Linda Partridge CBE FRS FRSE FMedSci, Weldon Professorial of Biometry and Director of the Institute for Healthy Ageing, University College London has accepted our invitation to give the lecture, entitled 'Rejuvenating ageing research'.

Booking details will be sent in September, but please put the date in your diary.



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## Fellows' dinners

The first of our Fellows dinners took place on 18 July with a talk 'From the Gulf to Iraq: a tale of two wars but only one syndrome' given by Professor Simon Wessley FMedSci, King's College London.

Two more discussion dinners are planned for later in the year. The evenings provide an opportunity for you to hear talks given by Academy Fellows and to enjoy a three course meal prepared by the Academy's resident Chef Will Carvalho.

The talk commences with drinks in the Fellows Room from 17.30 the talks commence at 18.00 and discussion continues over dinner, served at 19.00 in the Laurie Landeau Room.

All Fellows are warmly invited to attend one or more of the following discussion dinners:

Monday 3 October

### **The Future of Global Health: the Contribution of UK Science, Medicine, and the Academy of Medical Sciences**

*Professor Richard Horton FMedSci, Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet*



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Professor Richard Horton, FRCGS, Editor in Chief, *The Lancet*

Monday 31 October

### Cancer and inflammation

Professor Fran Balkwill, Professor of Cancer Biology and Centre Lead, Centre for Cancer and Inflammation, Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and

Dentistry

Tickets for each dinner cost £50 per person and include a three course meal with drinks. Fellows may book one additional place for a guest. Attendance at each dinner is limited to 20 places so early booking is advised

To book a place contact Alison Rojo, 020 3176 2156 [alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk)

We are currently scoping dinners for a programme in 2012. If you would like to recommend a Fellows' to speak or if you are able to hold a dinner at your institution please contact Nick Hillier (020 3176 2154, [nick.hillier@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:nick.hillier@acmedsci.ac.uk)). Now that we are settled in our new home at 41 Portland Place we are keen to explore opportunities for Fellows dinners in other regions.

## Last chance to book with current Fellows offers

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 events from 4 to 80 people.

### The following offers are only available until 31 August 2011.

Half day meetings can be booked for just £25 per person (including VAT). This package includes room hire, lunch and additional refreshments and much more, meaning that a fully catered half day meeting for 6 people costs just £150 – an amazing discount exclusive to Academy Fellows. The package also applies to larger seminars for up to 70 people (subject to availability), which again represents excellent value for money.

Dinner packages start at a competitive rate of £35 per person (including VAT) including room hire. 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.

[Full details can be viewed on the 41 Portland Place website](#)

Or contact Hannah Evans, 020 3176 2177 [hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk)

### At 41 Portland Place, we've got Christmas wrapped!

Our headquarters at 41 Portland Place is a perfect venue for Fellows to hold their Christmas celebrations. We have developed two great value packages that are available in both our modern and period rooms.

#### Seasonal Canapé Package @ £27.00 + VAT per person

Evening hire of one of our period rooms

One glass of festive cheer on arrival (Your choice of either Mulled wine or Prosecco)

Fruit juices and still & sparkling water available throughout the evening

A selection of six Christmas canapés per person

Christmas decoration

Cloakroom

Please note, surcharge applies for bookings less than 20 guests

#### Christmas Dinner Package @ £41.00 + VAT per person

Evening hire of one of our period rooms

Choice of three courses from our Christmas menu

Coffee, tea and petit fours

Half a bottle of wine per person



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Solano Vino Tinto  
Solano Vino Blanco  
Bottled water and fruit juices  
Additional alcoholic beverages charged on consumption  
Table decoration including Christmas crackers  
Cloakroom  
Please note, surcharge applies for bookings less than 20 guests

[Full details can be viewed on the 41 Portland Place website.](#)

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



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