

## New Academy President: Professor Sir John Tooke

Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci began a 5 year term as President of the Academy of Medical Sciences on 24 November. He takes over from Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci who retired at the AGM, completing a 5 year term in which he led the Academy to significantly increased prominence and influence.

As President, Sir John is keen to promote the development of cross sector partnerships that explore holistic and radical ways of supporting industry, academia and NHS collaboration. He will also engage decision-makers to ensure resources are strategically deployed to create a sustainable science and innovation base that meets health needs.

John has been working with the Academy across a range of significant political issues affecting medical sciences. His experience and skill will be extremely valuable as we work to encourage implementation of our recommendations on regulation and governance - which are so important to the private sector, as well as on the Health Care Bill and Workforce Reforms. As we look ahead to 2012 we will begin to gather evidence on what has been achieved by medical sciences in the UK stimulated by the CSR settlement of 2010. We must demonstrate the return on investment for the next CSR in 2013. But more than that, John's vision of the road ahead will ensure that the Academy continues to make its mark on behalf of the whole medical science sector.

On his election as President Sir John said, *'These are crucial times for UK medical science with unprecedented opportunity coupled with significant risk. The Academy's role has never been more important. I feel very honoured to be the new President of the Academy, succeeding Professor Sir John Bell. During his presidency, Sir John has accomplished a huge amount upon which I will endeavour to build.'*

Sir John Tooke PMedSci is Vice Provost (Health), Head of the School of Life and Medical Sciences and Head of the Medical School at University College London. He was previously inaugural Dean of the Peninsula Medical School, and in 2007 was appointed by the Secretary of State for Health to Chair an Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers. Sir John has published extensively in the fields of diabetes and vascular physiology and has worked across the basic and clinical science interface at several institutions both in the UK and overseas.

## Results of 2011 Council Elections

Fourteen candidates stood for election to the Academy's Council in the 2011 elections. The ballot was counted on 8 November and the proceedings were overseen by the Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci.

The following Fellows were elected to Council:

Professor Carol Dezateux CBE FMedSci

Professor John Iredale FMedSci

Professor Roger Lemon FMedSci

Professor Jonathan Shepherd CBE FMedSci

Professor Simon Tavaré FRS FMedSci

Professor Peter Weissberg FMedSci

Professor Raymond Hill was reappointed for a further year as a co-opted member.

We thank those stepping down for their great contribution to Council and the



Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci

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



work of the Academy:

Professor Christopher Day FMedSci  
 Professor Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci  
 Professor Roger Jones FMedSci (co-opted member)  
 Professor Irene Leigh OBE FRSE FMedSci  
 Professor Terence Rabbitts FRS FMedSci  
 Professor Jonathan Seckl FRSE FMedSci  
 Professor Rosalind Smyth FMedSci (co-opted member)  
 Professor Simon Wessely FMedSci



Retiring Council member Professor Chris Day FMedSci

**For further information please contact**  
[lesley.sims@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.sims@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Report of November Council meeting

Council met on 24 November, and after a presentation from Sir David Carter, Chair of the Board of Academic Medicine in Scotland the main item of business was the strategy for Fellowship Elections. Following ongoing discussions regarding an increase in the number of Fellows elected annually and the ineligibility under current rules, of some significant individuals of relevance to the Academy aims, Council agreed that:

- There be a rise of 4 in the number of new Fellows elected this year.
- The office would undertake research into the reconfiguration of some sectional committees, and descriptions of the committees, to maintain equality of opportunity and encompass industry and healthcare, which would need to be considered and approved by Council by April 2012.
- If this did not bring about an appropriate adjustment, the next steps would be to consider an additional Sectional Committee and/or a general category of membership per se.

Council discussed the decline in the proportion of women applying for fellowship and it was resolved that a small task force of 5-6 people be convened to consider the issues of women in the Fellowship and in academia more widely over the next six months

The [results of the 2011 Council elections](#) were announced and the retiring Council members were thanked for their contributions.

Updates were received on the Academy Strategy 2012-16 and the recent [questionnaire sent to the Fellowship](#), Global health partnerships and capacity building meeting, House of Lords STEM inquiry, workforce reforms and a [new scheme to inspire medical undergraduates](#).

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci, which was given by Vice President, Professor Ron Laskey CBE FRS FMedSci.

## History of the Academy of Medical Sciences: Part II

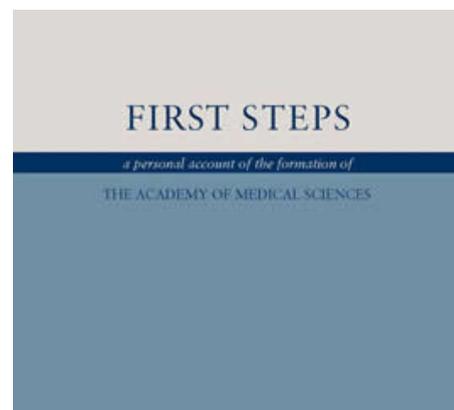
The Academy has commissioned the second part of its history and the authors, Mary Manning and Jolyon Oxley, hope to have a first draft ready for Council's approval by Spring 2012. This volume will cover the 10 years after the inauguration of the Academy and follow on from Sir Peter Lachmann's account of its inception '[First steps: a personal account of the formation of the Academy of Medical Sciences](#)'.

Mary and Jolyon would like to hear from any Fellows interested to participate in this exciting project. Your vital contributions will help to bring life to the historical account of the development of the Academy based on the many documents in the



Four of the six female Fellows elected in 2011'

**For further information please contact**  
[lesley.sims@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.sims@acmedsci.ac.uk)



Academy's archive. Fellows may wish to recollect important moments in the Academy's development and share their views about the challenges it faced in these early years. The accounts of those most involved with the work of the Academy, such as its sectional and other committees, would be particularly welcome.

**Fellows are invited either to make a written contribution or agree to be interviewed on the telephone.**

Copies of 'First steps: a personal account of the formation of the Academy of Medical Sciences' are available for free in the Fellows Room at 41 Portland Place.



**For further information please contact**  
[alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Health, public health and workforce reforms

### Health and Social Care Bill

The Health and Social Care Bill is currently under review in Committee stage in the House of Lords. In October, the Academy prepared a briefing in collaboration with other supporters of health research, '[Embedding research in the NHS](#)', which was circulated to peers with an interest in health research. A number of amendments relating to research and innovation have been tabled by peers and a [second joint briefing](#) was prepared in November, to provide background information on amendments relating to the following topics:

- The depth of the duties placed on the Secretary of State, Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups with respect to research, innovation and the use of evidence.
- The abolition of the Health Protection Agency and the creation of Public Health England.
- The establishment of a Health Research Authority (HRA).

The Academy was also involved in arranging a breakfast briefing for peers via the All Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research, at which Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci represented the Academy.

### Workforce planning, education and training

The Academy continues to engage Government in discussions over the proposed changes to workforce planning, education and training. This has included meetings with various officials from the Department of Health and a [letter to the Secretary of State](#) from Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci and Sir Mark Walport FRS FMedSci regarding the structure and governance of local education and training boards (LETBs), with particular emphasis on the role that higher education institutions should play within these local arrangements.

Peers agreed to amend the Health and Social Care Bill to place a 'Duty as to education and training' on the Secretary of State. A number of additional amendments relating to education and training were tabled by peers, which resulted in a commitment by Earl Howe to bring forward further amendments at report stage. The Academy continues to monitor developments here.

## Prime Minister's speech and life science strategy

Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci began a 5 year term as President of the Academy of Medical Sciences on 24 November. He takes over from Professor Sir



**For further information please contact**  
[catherine.luckin@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.luckin@acmedsci.ac.uk)

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Retiring Council member Professor Chris Day FMedSci

For further information please contact [rachel.quinn@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.quinn@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Animals in research: MP visits to research facilities

EU Directive 2010/63/EU came into force on 22 September 2010, and was intended to harmonise animal research standards and practices across Europe. The UK Home Office are currently working to 'transpose' the Directive into UK legislation. This process involves renewal of our existing legislation (the 1986 Animals Scientific Procedure Act, ASPA). The Academy submitted a response to the Home Office consultation on the transposition in September, and will continue to engage in this process. A Home Office summary indicating future policy directions is expected in January 2012.

The key parliamentary debates on the revised UK legislation (as Statutory Instruments) are likely to take place in June-July 2012. In response to increasing public interest, and recent animal group campaigns, two initial debates have been held:

- A short debate in the Lords, on 24 October 2011 'Animals: Experimentation' initiated by a question from Lord Wills.
- An adjournment debate in the Commons, on 7 December 2011 'Experimentation on animals', initiated by Mr David Amess.

The Academy will continue to work with partner organisations to provide briefings



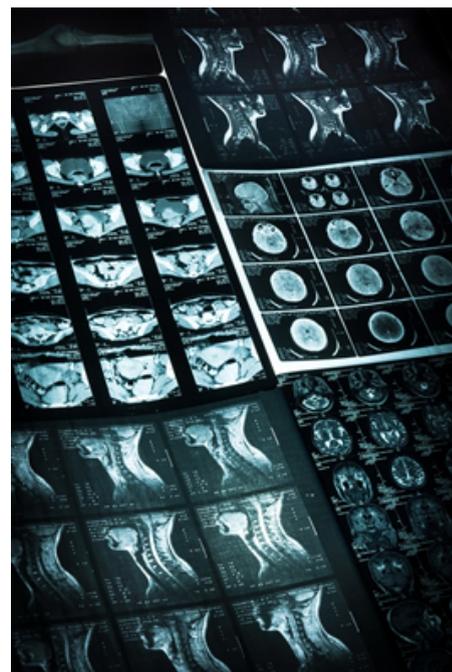
For further information please contact [laura.boothman@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:laura.boothman@acmedsci.ac.uk)

to inform ongoing debate. The membership organisation '[Understanding Animal Research](#)' (UAR) chaired by Professor Frances Balkwill OBE FMedSci, is leading a range of public affairs and communications activities. UAR are currently coordinating a series of visits from parliamentarians to University and industry-based research facilities to encourage openness and promote greater understanding of animal research. **We welcome Fellows' suggestions of research facilities which may be able to host a visit. Fellows' support in hosting visits would also be welcome.**

## Academy endorses pan-European statement on the Physical Agents Directive

In November the Academy endorsed the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) [statement on the European Physical Agents Directive](#) (PAD). The statement welcomes a revised version of the Directive that will benefit research by providing an exemption for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) from exposure limits to electromagnetic fields. It goes on to call on Members of the European Parliament and Council of Ministers to approve the revised Directive and resonates with the messages of a similar statement from some major UK research funders.

The Directive was published by the European Commission in 2004 and set minimum requirements to protect workers from exposure to electromagnetic fields. However, there was concern that the field limits set would impede researchers and those in clinical practice from using MRI, with little benefit to the health and safety of workers. The revised Directive seeks to tackle this challenge and is now expected to be considered by the Council of Ministers in December and MEPs in the New Year. The UK Government supports the revised Directive so the Academy and FEAM are working with our sister academies abroad to draw this issue to the attention of their national governments, particularly in those countries that are currently opposed or undecided about the revised Directive.



For further information please contact [laurie.smith@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:laurie.smith@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Engaging with the UK's Global Science and Innovation Network (SIN)

At the suggestion of the Chief Scientific Advisor for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Professor David Clary FRS, the Academy would like to draw the attention of its Fellows to the UK's Global [Science and Innovation Network](#) (SIN).

The SIN consists of around 90 staff, based in 40 British embassies, high commissions and consulates, across 25 countries around the world. SIN's objectives are to ensure:

- Science and innovation policies of governments, businesses and academia are influenced to benefit the UK through lobbying and deployment of robust scientific evidence.
- UK policy development is informed through identifying good practice internationally.
- International science collaboration of 'best with best' is facilitated to the benefit of the UK.
- International innovation collaboration is facilitated to augment UK capabilities.

When visiting countries covered by the SIN we encourage Fellows to contact the relevant science attaché who is often well placed to arrange additional activities,



events and visits. Further details, including the contact details and locations of attaches, are available from <http://www.bis.gov.uk/sin>

**For further information please contact**  
[laurie.smith@amcmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:laurie.smith@amcmedsci.ac.uk)

## £1M to inspire medical students with research

The Wellcome Trust has invited the Academy to lead a £1M, five year programme of activity to encourage medical students into research. This investment recognises the Academy's efforts to inspire medical students and Foundation Year doctors with the possibilities of an academic career. In particular, the Academy's Clinical Research Champions scheme, supported by the Medical Research Society (MRS), appears to be having a positive impact.

At the end of 2010, the Wellcome Trust convened a workshop entitled 'How do we engage medical undergraduates with research?' A number of local initiatives designed to introduce medical students to research were showcased. Professor Moira Whyte FMedSci, one of the Academy's Champions based in Sheffield, was an invited speaker. An outcome of the workshop was that the Trust decided to invite the Academy to take a lead in this area.

This support will allow the Academy to:

- Build on and develop the good work already being done by the AMS/MRS Clinical Research Champions, complemented by the Visiting Lecturer scheme and regional outreach events.
- Raise the Academy's profile regionally and foster engagement with wider academic networks.

Given the scale of the funding, the Academy has convened a scoping group, chaired by Professor Whyte, to develop a plan as to how the £1M fund might best be used. The group is scoping current activity in the field and engaging with a range of stakeholders to draw on their expertise. The Academy and Wellcome Trust are keen that the funding is used to catalyse new activity, delivered through a range of organisations. Any Fellows who would like to contribute to the scoping study are welcome to contact Dr Nigel Eady in the Academy office.



Retiring Council member Professor Chris Day FMedSci

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

## Review of 2011 mentoring and outreach events

In 2011, Mentoring and Outreach events were attended by over 300 people, of whom about 240 were clinical academic trainees or medical students. The other 60 attendees were Fellows and representatives from a range of funding bodies and other stakeholder organisations. Feedback reveals that attendees found the events useful for building professional networks and increasing their understanding of clinical academic careers. An overwhelming majority of attendees would like to participate in another Academy event. This suggests that the current approach and scope of the events is appropriate.

The Academy held a 'Supper Club' for early career clinical academics on 15 November 2011. This informal dinner was hosted by Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci and Professor Patrick Maxwell FMedSci. The Academy's current programme of Mentoring and Outreach activities does not offer support schemes for trainees beyond Clinician Scientist Fellow level. However, it is important for the

Academy to continue to engage with clinical academics in the early stages of an independent research career. Supper Clubs will help to ensure that the Fellows of tomorrow continue their strong relationship with the Academy and remain involved in our activities.

The 2012 schedule of Mentoring and Outreach events is being planned and will include events in Newcastle and Dundee.

The first AMS/MRS/RCP Meeting for Clinician Scientists in Training since the merger of the Medical Research Society with the Academy will be held on 29 February 2012. The Academy is very grateful to Dr Afzal Chaudhry, previous Academic Secretary of the MRS, for his support in delivering this event.



For further information please contact [colby.benari@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:colby.benari@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Foulkes Medal Winner

Professor Patrick Chinnery FMedSci has been awarded the 2011 [Foulkes Foundation Medal](#). The medal is awarded every two years to a biomedical scientist who has shown outstanding achievement in research in the fifteen years since their PhD. Professor Chinnery was presented with his medal at the Academy's Annual General Meeting on 24 November.

Reading the citation, Lord Walton of Detchant FMedSci paid tribute to Professor Chinnery as a most fitting winner of the medal: 'Patrick has made a major contribution to the emerging field of neurogenetics, and in particular mitochondrial disorders. Patrick successfully developed the first evidence-based treatment for a mitochondrial disease, following on from the design and delivery of the first randomised controlled clinical trial for a mitochondrial disorder. This unique work resulted from his research into the environmental factors in cases of inherited blindness, in particular the role of smoking in exacerbating the condition. Already



(L-R) Lord Walton, Patrick Chinnery, Maureen Foulkes

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

at the forefront of his field, he has demonstrated outstanding achievements in a research career still in its infancy. He is a true inspiration to others contemplating and pursuing a career in biomedical research.'

On winning the medal, Professor Chinnery said: 'It is a great honour to be awarded the Foulkes Foundation Medal. I am indebted to the many excellent scientists who have worked with me throughout my career, and who made this possible.'

A Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow since 2003, Professor Chinnery continues to study the inheritance and expression of mitochondrial disorders both in the clinic and in the molecular laboratory, running several clinical trials in rare genetic diseases. Professor Chinnery was appointed Professor of Neurogenetics in 2004, studying mitochondrial mechanisms in late-onset multi-factorial diseases including stroke and Parkinson's disease. He became an NIHR Senior Investigator in 2010 and was recently appointed Director of Newcastle University's [Institute of Genetic Medicine](#). He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2009.

## Spotlight on research from the Clinician Scientist Award Scheme

In 2001 the Academy of Medical Sciences launched 'The National Clinician Scientist Award Scheme' with the aim of addressing longstanding concerns surrounding the pursuit and development of a career in academic medicine. This scheme has been successful in enabling clinical academics to develop their academic careers and establish themselves as independent researchers.

Over the past 10 years the Academy, in partnership with the Health Foundation, has supported 21 Clinician Scientist Fellows to develop their research careers. Professor Robert MacLaren, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Oxford, received a fellowship in 2006, which came to an end earlier this year. Robert describes his research, made possible through the receipt of his fellowship award, below.

As a clinical ophthalmologist, my goal is to develop new treatments for patients suffering from incurable retinal diseases, which currently account for most of the untreatable forms of blindness worldwide. I began working on the retina, focusing on gene therapy and stem cell related research, during my PhD studies at the University of Oxford 15 years ago. I always believed that these evolving technologies would have great potential for studying the retina, which has unique properties for cell based and genetic treatments. As a retinal surgeon with basic science training I believe I am in a privileged position to be able to translate exciting new developments in the laboratory into clinical trials. During my Clinician Scientist Fellowship, I led a clinical trial developing retinal pigment cell transplantation as a possible treatment for age-related macular degeneration and simultaneously in the laboratory worked on developing photoreceptor transplantation using a stem cell approach. Following on from the fellowship, I am now leading a UK multicentre gene therapy trial to treat an incurable form of retinitis pigmentosa known as choroideraemia. This is the world's first ever attempt to treat this disease and represents a novel gene therapy approach that has not been used before in the eye.

The Clinician Scientist Fellowship award has enabled me to move rapidly in both scientific and clinical domains, including moving my laboratory when it became necessary to expand. The Academy of Medical Sciences and the Health Foundation understood that academic surgeons follow a different career pathway to physicians and require different skills to succeed. The very nature of clinical trials means that surgeons will generally not get to lead interventional studies and hence gain high impact publications until relatively late in their careers. The complexities of training in surgery also limit research activity in early years. Nevertheless the personal rewards of being an academic surgeon are tremendous and I would do anything possible to encourage others to follow the same path.

Professor Robert MacLaren's most recent work has been widely recognised and is



Professor MacLaren, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Oxford AMS/THF Clinician Scientist Fellow 2006–2011

**For further information please contact**  
[ellie.estchild@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:ellie.estchild@acmedsci.ac.uk)

a great example of successful translational research. Robert comments that the trial to treat choroideraemia '*represents a major breakthrough and is highly significant for patients who are losing sight from other photoreceptor diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa. I cannot describe the excitement in thinking that we have designed a genetic treatment that could potentially stop it in its tracks with one single injection.*'

Academy/THF Clinician Scientist Fellows such as Professor MacLaren additionally benefit from expert leadership training offered by the Health Foundation and all Clinician Scientist and Intermediate Clinical Fellowship holders, irrespective of funder, are encouraged to join the Academy's mentoring scheme.

## 2012 dates for your diary

Dates of additional events will be announced periodically in the Fellows newsletter and on the Academy's website <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk>

Thursday 16 February – Council meeting

Thursday 26 April – Council meeting and launch of 2012–16 Strategy

Thursday 21 June – Council meeting

Wednesday 27 June – New Fellows Admission Day and Fellows Summer Soirée

Friday 28 September – Deadline for nominating new Fellows

Thursday 18 October – Council meeting

Thursday 22 November – Council meeting, Annual General Meeting, Fellows' Dinner

## Human bodies: animal bodies

On 28 November, the Academy and the [Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation \(ISEI\)](#) at Manchester University joined in organising '[Human bodies: animal bodies](#)', a discussion considering the opportunities and implications of biomedical research involving the combination of human and animal cells and DNA.

Hosted by the [Manchester Museum](#), the event took place in their spectacular '[Living Worlds](#)' Gallery, and involved around 60 participants. Discussion was led by expert panel, chaired by iSEI Deputy Director Dr Sarah Chan, including:

- Professor Martin Bobrow CBE FRS FMedSci, Professor Emeritus of Medical Genetics, University of Cambridge
- Professor John Harris FMedSci, Lord Alliance Professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester & Director iSEI
- Professor Nikolas Rose, Martin White Professor of Sociology, London School of Economics
- Professor Veronica van Heyningen CBE FRS FRSE FMedSci, Joint Section Head, Medical and Developmental Genetics Section, MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh

Discussion drew on the findings of Academy's recent '[Animals containing human material](#)' report. Published in July, this working group study was informed by the '[Exploring the boundaries](#)' public dialogue, which included a nationwide survey and deliberative workshops in Newcastle and London. In bringing in-depth discussion to a new audience in Manchester, it is hoped that the joint event will contribute to an ongoing dialogue between scientists, regulators and the wider public on this innovative area of biomedical science.

iSEI's Director Professor John Harris FMedSci said '*The ISEI was honoured to co-host this event at the Manchester Museum with Academy colleagues. Wider social discussion and analysis of new areas of biomedical science is at the heart of the Institute's work, and we were delighted to include this as part of our human bodies programme.*'

The discussion was programmed as part of the [Wellcome Trust's 75th Anniversary](#), in conjunction with the iSEI's Strategic Programme on 'The Human

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



Nik Rose, Veronica van Heyningen, Sarah Chan, Martin Bobrow, John Harris

**For further information please contact** [laura.boothman@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:laura.boothman@acmedsci.ac.uk)

Body: Its Scope, Limits and Future'. The Academy is grateful to colleagues in Manchester for their support.

## Hosting Olympic events at 41 Portland Place

Our venue team have had interest from commercial companies wanting to hold events at 41 Portland Place during the 2012 Olympic Games.

Any Fellow or Forum supporter looking for a venue for meetings or events connected to the 2012 Olympics are advised to contact the 41PP team as soon as possible to secure bookings.



**For further information please contact**  
[hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Fellows offer: half day meetings for £22pp

Fellows are eligible for the following special rates for meetings and dinners at 41 Portland Place. Colleagues may book the event, but a Fellow must be in

attendance to qualify for the package.

Half day meeting

£22.00 + VAT / person\* (8am – 12pm, or 1pm – 6pm)

Includes:

- Half day room hire of meeting room (room depends on number of delegates and availability).
- Half day room hire of one catering space (for events of 50 guests and over).
- Arrival drinks: Union hand roasted coffee, classic and herbal teas with freshly baked homemade biscuits.
- Lunch: Sandwiches served with tea and coffee.
- Still and sparkling bottled water served with lunch and throughout the meeting.

\*Surcharge will apply for bookings of less than 6 guests

For meeting of over 15 £32.00 + VAT / person\* (8am – 6pm)

- Full day room hire of meeting room (room depends on number of delegates and availability).
- Full day room hire of one catering space (for events of 50 guests and over).
- Arrival drinks: Union hand roasted coffee, classic and herbal teas with mini Danish pastries.
- Lunch : Sandwiches served with tea and coffee
- Afternoon tea: Union hand roasted coffee, classic and herbal teas with freshly baked homemade biscuits
- Still and sparkling bottled water served with lunch and throughout the day

\*For meetings greater than 15 guests a £6.00 / person fork buffet upgrade is available

\*Surcharge will apply for bookings of less than 6 guests

Fellows post-meeting upgrade £12.00 + VAT / person\*

One hour's worth of nibbles and house wine to be served in the meeting room booked \*Package can only be bought in conjunction with one of the above packages



**For further information please contact**  
[hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.evans@acmedsci.ac.uk)

Fellows dinner package £35.00 + VAT / Person\*

- Evening room hire
- 3 course meal
- Bottled still and sparkling water
- Tea, coffee & petit fours

\*Package excludes alcoholic drinks

\*Surcharge will apply for bookings of less than 8 guests

Upgrades available with dinner package:

- Premium dinner options
- Amuse bouche
- Cheese course
- Flowers and other decorations
- Chair covers
- Decoration lighting



41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH

Tel: 020 3176 2150 Email: [info@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:info@acmedsci.ac.uk)