

New Vice President

After 5 years of outstanding service Professor Ronald Laskey CBE FRS FMedSci, Honorary Director MRC Cancer Cell Unit, University of Cambridge stood down as the Vice President (non-clinical) of the Academy of Medical Sciences at the AGM on 22 November. His successor is Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci, Professor of Biochemistry, Vice-President and Dean in the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester.

Professor John Tooke PMedSci said, *'I am delighted that Martin has been elected as the next Vice President of the Academy of Medical Sciences.'*

'The role of Vice President is extremely important, and Martin is very well placed to engage early career researchers with the work of the Academy and to reflect the views of the life science community. I look forward to working with him over the coming years.'

Martin Humphries began his career carrying out postdoctoral research at the Howard University Cancer Center in Washington and at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda.

In 1988, he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship and returned to Manchester. In 1995, he progressed to a Principal Research Fellowship and was a co-founder of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research, which he directed for 10 years.

Martin's research aims to understand the mechanisms responsible for metazoan life - specifically the role of cell adhesion in integrating signalling with tissue environment. His main discoveries include defining ligand-binding mechanisms for integrin receptors, elucidating conformational changes that determine integrin activation state, and defining signalling networks controlled by adhesion receptors.

Martin has served on many Government funding bodies and learned society panels and committees, is an editor of several journals (including the Journal of Cell Biology) and has been Chairman of the Biochemical Society and the Wellcome Trust Basic Science Interview Committee

Martin joins the Officers group of Sir John Tooke, Sir Patrick Sissons, Professor Robert Souhami, Professor Sue Iversen and Professor Moira Whyte and will serve in post until 2017.



Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci

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November Council meeting

Council met on 22 November 2012 ahead of the AGM and Honorary Fellows Admissions Ceremony. Sir David Carter gave a compelling presentation on the outcomes of his working group looking at UK academic psychiatry. The draft report was warmly received, and approved for publication; it will be launched in February.

The Registrar reported on progress against the recommendations of the taskforces led by Professor Ron Laskey and Ros Smyth - on the Sectional Committees and women in the Fellowship respectively. Council agreed to a proposal to constitute a new Fellowship Committee that will take a more proactive role in stimulating nominations for Fellowship that are as diverse as possible with regard to gender, age, geography, ethnicity and discipline. This committee will be chaired by the Registrar and will sit outside of the election process. Further details will follow next year.

Council considered a draft [letter to the Prime Minister](#) highlighting progress against the Life Sciences Strategy ahead of the 'one year on' review, and approved a [response to the HFEA consultation on mitochondria replacement](#). There was also discussion of two reports: an evaluation of the Academy's Clinician Scientist Fellowship (CSF) scheme, run in partnership with The Health Foundation; and a survey of MRC Career Development Award fellows, to gauge their mentoring and career support. The former made a compelling case to secure



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funding for a new cohort of CSFs and the latter illustrated an exciting opportunity to expand the Academy's mentoring and support activities to biomedical scientists.

Reviewers were chosen for the [forthcoming report on Stratified Medicines](#) and work to follow up the recommendations of the 2011 regulation review was discussed at length. Attention was drawn to the [feasibility study](#) looking into centralised approval for cross-NHS studies – a central recommendation of the Academy's report and a potentially big win for the community.

The President expressed warm thanks to the six retiring Council members and to Professor Ron Laskey for their outstanding service to the Academy.

Results of 2012 Council elections

Eight candidates stood for election to the Academy's Council in the 2012 election. The ballot was conducted on 6 November overseen by Professor Roger Jones FMedSci.

The following Fellows were elected to Council:

- Sir Alasdair Breckenridge CBE FRSE FMedSci
- Professor Edwin Chilvers FMedSci
- Professor Maria Fitzgerald FMedSci
- Professor Jayne Franklyn FMedSci
- Professor Fiona Karet FMedSci
- Professor Andrew Lees FMedSci

We warmly thank those stepping down from Council for their great contribution to the work of the Academy:

- Dr Richard Horton FMedSci
- Professor Kay Tee Khaw CBE FMedSci
- Professor Nicholas Lemoine FMedSci
- Professor Ian McConnell FRSE FMedSci
- Professor Caroline Savage FMedSci
- Professor Susan Wray FMedSci



New Council Member Professor Fiona Karet FMedSci

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Report of annual Fellows Meeting 2012

The Academy's Annual Fellows meeting took place on Thursday 22 November and included the AGM, Admission of Honorary Fellows and Jean Shanks Lecture.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was attended by over 70 Fellows. Presentations were given by the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Director. Formal items of business were as follows:

- The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 24 November 2011 were approved.
- It was agreed to invite Sir Tim Berners-Lee OM KBE FRS FEng to become an Honorary Fellow of the Academy in 2013
- It was agreed to establish a new category of Royal Fellowship and to invite HRH the Princess Royal to be admitted in 2013
- The results of the 2012 Council election were announced
- The audited accounts for 2011/12 were agreed and PKF (UK) LLP were appointed as auditors for 2012/13
- It was agreed that there would be no increase in Fellows' subscription rates for 2013/14

[View pictures from the Annual Fellows Meeting 22 November 2012](#)

[Download Presidents update slides from the AGM](#)

[Download Treasurers report slides](#)

[Download Executive Director's Review of the Year](#)

Admission of Honorary Fellows

In a ceremony involving captivating and inspiring citations, the following individuals were admitted as Honorary Fellows:

- Sir Andrew Witty FMedSci, Chief Executive Officer, GlaxoSmithKline plc. Citation delivered by Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford



Honorary Fellows admitted in 2012

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- Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi FMedSci, Head of Unit, Regulation of Retroviral Infections, Institut Pasteur. Citation delivered by Professor Robin A Weiss FRS FMedSci, Senior Research Fellow, Division of Infection and Immunity, University College London
- Lord Rees of Ludlow OM FRS FMedSci, Former President of the Royal Society and Emeritus Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics, University of Cambridge. Citation delivered by Sir Peter Lachmann FRS FMedSci, Emeritus Professor of Immunology, Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge
- Baroness Warnock DBO FBA FMedSci, House of Lords. Citation delivered by Baroness Onora O'Neill CBE HonFRS FBA FMedSci, Chair, Equality and Human Rights Commission

[Full citations for all Honorary Fellows are available on the Academy's website.](#)

Fellowship election 2013

This year 350 candidates were entered for the election cycle and of these, 118 have been shortlisted to go to peer review. We will be approaching peer reviewers in January and thank Fellows in advance for their time and efforts in providing referee reports.

[Find out more about the 2013 election process on our website.](#)

[View information on the sectional committees](#)



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President writes to Prime Minister

Life Sciences Strategy: One year on

The Academy's President, Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci, has written a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) in light of the anniversary of his speech that launched the [Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences](#) and the Department of Health's report [Innovation Health and Wealth: Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion in the NHS](#).

Reflecting on discussions that the Academy has had with representatives of the public, private and charitable funders of life sciences research, the letter highlights the Biomedical Catalyst Fund, the Patent Box and the amended R&D tax credits as initiatives that are widely seen as successful. Work to improve the regulation and governance of health research and the establishment of Academic Health Science Networks are also welcomed, whilst recognising that it is too early to be complacent about their effectiveness. Our letter notes, however, that adoption and diffusion of innovation in the NHS remains a challenge. There is a desire to: see more progress on developing an approach to adaptive forms of licensing; ensure that flexibility is built in to value based pricing of medicines so that prices can go up or down post-launch of a drug; and ongoing support to develop a robust health informatics system. The letter stresses that there is unanimous agreement that continued government investment in a strong science base - as well as ongoing efforts to promote effective collaboration between academia, industry and the NHS - are essential for delivering the Government's vision for UK Life Sciences. These messages will be reinforced at a forthcoming dinner of the President with the Secretary of State for Health, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP.



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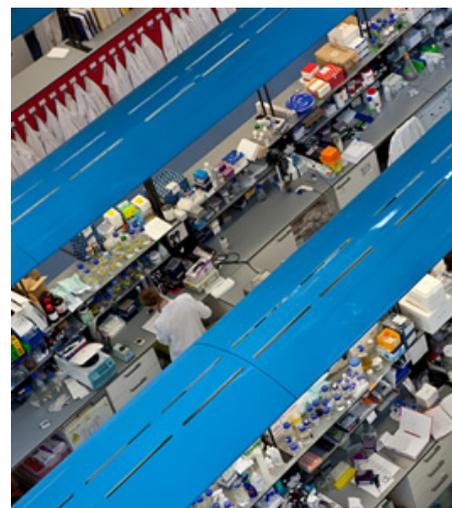
Views needed on enabling team

science

Trans-disciplinary teams bring together researchers with diverse skills and expertise to solve complex problems. They are essential to address major public health challenges and to translate research into health and wealth benefits. While these teams are common in industry and healthcare, they are less so in academia where there are cultural and funding barriers to their success and a lack of training in team science skills for researchers.

This was the conclusion of a small roundtable discussion convened at the Academy in March 2012. The issues raised at that meeting, relevant background information and perspectives raised by the Academy's Fellows during the consultation for our new strategy, have been combined and [published in a discussion paper](#). The proposals outlined in the paper aim to encourage a culture that is more supportive of trans-disciplinary teams and to ensure that researchers have the skills and resources required to support functional team-working. The Academy is inviting views from the biomedical community and representatives of other disciplines and sectors on the proposals contained in the paper and Council will discuss the feedback received. The Academy will be looking to feature successful trans-disciplinary teams that involve its Fellows on its new website.

The implications of a more prevalent team science approach are relevant to how the Academy: recognises excellence; supports the next generation of biomedical scientists; links academia, industry and the NHS; bridges the clinical/non-clinical divide; and our ability to interface more effectively with those disciplines that are increasingly important to medicine, such as engineering. Furthermore, it provides a means to increase the impact of research without necessarily increasing cost. These are all [key objectives in the Academy's 5 year strategy](#). For more information and to submit your thoughts or examples of successful trans-disciplinary teams please contact Rachel Quinn.



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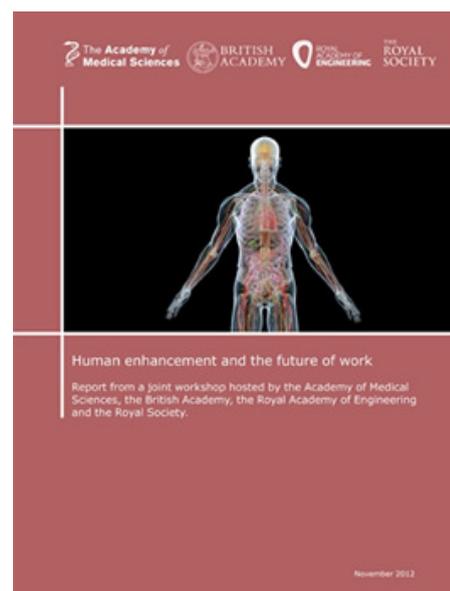
Report launch: Human enhancement and the future of work

We were delighted with the response to the recent launch of '[Human enhancement and the future of work](#)' – a report of a workshop held in March 2012 jointly hosted by the Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society.

This is the first example of four Academies combining expertise to consider the policy implications of developments in a diverse range of research fields. The report, for which the Academy of Medical Sciences acted as lead secretariat, captures the themes and questions that emerged from the workshop - exploring how, although human enhancement technologies might aid society, their use could raise serious ethical, philosophical, regulatory and economic issues that will need further consideration.

Coverage of the report appeared in a wide range of newspapers, from the [Financial Times](#) to the [Daily Mail](#), as well as several online news sources, including [BBC News Online](#), [Reuters](#), [Nature Blogs](#) and the [BMJ](#).

Professor Genevra Richardson CBE FBA and Professor Barbara Sahakian FMedSci, Chair and member of the report's steering committee respectively, were also invited to give interviews on both television and radio: the report was discussed on [BBC Radio 4 Today](#) and on [BBC Look East](#).

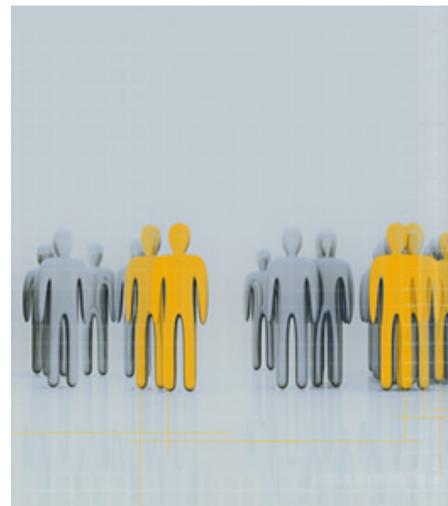


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Stratified medicine and value based pricing

The Academy hosted a successful international symposium on stratified medicine in October 2012, bringing together stakeholders from across the life sciences sector. The meeting focused on the ongoing regulatory, economic, and infrastructure requirements for the adoption of stratified medicine approaches in the UK and will help to maximise the value of Government's investment in this area. We are currently pulling together the outcomes of the discussions, with a view to launching a policy report in spring 2013. We are also exploring ways to feed the emerging recommendations into developments around the EU Medical

devices regulation and in vitro diagnostic medical devices regulation, as well as current negotiations on Value Based Pricing for medicines.



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Report prompts HRA feasibility study

The Academy's highly influential 2011 [report on the regulation and governance of health research](#) identified delays and duplications inherent in receiving permission for research from NHS Trusts as the biggest challenge. [The Academy has therefore warmly welcomed](#) the Health Research Authority's (HRA) [recent announcement that it will carry out a feasibility study](#) to explore whether it can provide the study-wide checks relating to health research that are currently carried out by each NHS Trust.

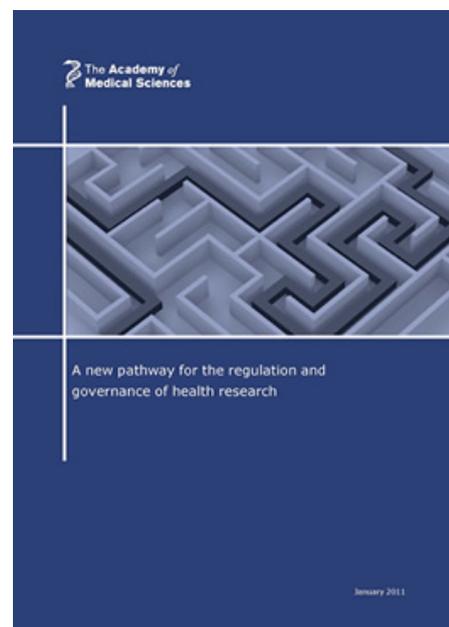
'We are delighted to hear that this feasibility project will explore whether the Health Research Authority can support NHS Trusts by providing them with a simplified, streamlined and quality assured assessment for all research in the NHS. Improvements to the complex process of obtaining research permissions will mean patients get faster access to medicines and devices, and the UK will continue to be an attractive place for investment in health research.'

Professor Sir John Tooke, President, Academy of Medical Sciences

The feasibility study will report in Spring 2013 and be followed by a pilot study. It is hoped that NHS Trusts will take advantage of a simplified, streamlined and quality assured assessment for all research in the NHS. As recommended in the Academy's report, Trusts would still undertake local checks to assess feasibility and to confirm their willingness to participate in research. If the pilot is implemented more widely, it will fulfil one of the most significant recommendations of the Academy's report.

The HRA has established a Collaboration and Development Steering Group to oversee the pilot of this HRA-wide assessment and other workstreams. The Steering Group met for the first time on 12 November and the Academy was represented by Dr Rachel Quinn, Medical Science Policy Director.

The HRA will be established in primary legislation as part of the Care and Support Bill. The same Bill will establish [Health Education England](#) that will oversee education, training, and workforce development. The [joint parliamentary committee that will scrutinise the Bill has just been established](#). The committee, which is expected to report in March, has also asked for copies of the responses to the Department of Health's consultation about the Bill. The [Academy responded to this consultation](#) and will respond to the consultation from the joint parliamentary committee.



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Concordat to encourage openness about animals in research

In October the Academy supported a [declaration on openness on the use of animals in research](#). It was signed by over 50 organisations including the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), GlaxoSmithKline, Oxford University, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

The declaration was launched at a press conference on 19 November 2012 at the Science Media Centre, and gave rise to a substantial amount of media coverage, with items in the [Guardian](#), [Financial Times](#), [Times](#), [Times Higher Education](#) and the [Nature news blog](#).

'This declaration provides a strong signal to the biomedical community that we must create more opportunities for scientists to engage in dialogue with the public to discuss the role of animals in research. The commitment from so many organisations to improve openness is very welcome and an important first step towards changing the culture of how we communicate when and why animals are used in research.'

Professor Sir John Tooke, President, Academy of Medical Sciences

The Academy will work alongside organisations including Understanding Animal Research, Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council and the AMRC to establish a Concordat that will develop principles of openness, practical steps and measurable objectives which will underpin a more transparent approach to the use of animals in research.

A small meeting was held in November to discuss the next steps and more information will be available shortly.

Since the last newsletter, which highlighted that the UK law governing the use of animals in scientific research is being revised this autumn to ensure its consistency with the European Directive 2010/63/EU, [the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012](#) have been laid in Parliament. The regulations were unanimously agreed by a committee of MPs after a short debate on the 3 December. They were subsequently passed after a debate in the House of Lords on December 13. Home Office Minister Lord Taylor of Holbeach is now expected to sign the regulations into law before the end of December, and the provisions in the regulations to come into force from 1 January 2013. The Home Office is preparing guidance and codes of practice that lay out in detail how the system will work in practice.

Academy supports retaining the HFEA and the HTA

In September, the Academy responded to the Department of Health [consultation on the future of the independent regulators the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority \(HFEA\) and Human Tissue Authority \(HTA\)](#). The consultation presented three options, including the transfer of most of the functions of the HFEA and the HTA to the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#) and the research functions to the new [Health Research Authority \(HRA\)](#).

The [Academy's response](#), based on extensive consultation with Fellows, supported retaining both the HFEA and the HTA, on the condition that they work closely with the other regulators to streamline the regulation, inspection and governance process for patient and public benefit. Fellows had expressed concern about the competence of the CQC to take on these important areas of regulation and there was a preference that the HRA should be able to give priority to its work in supporting the [National Institute for Health Research](#) in its efforts to improve research governance in the NHS – a priority for the Fellowship.

The Department of Health has not reported on the outcomes of the consultation yet, but is expected to shortly.



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Public event informs response on mitochondria replacement techniques

In November, the Academy responded to a [consultation](#) held by the HFEA on new IVF-based techniques designed to prevent inherited forms of mitochondrial DNA disorders. These techniques are not permitted for treatment under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act 1990 (as amended), because each alters the mitochondrial DNA of the egg or embryo. In April 2012 the [Academy and partner organisations wrote to the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP](#), then Secretary of State for Health, calling for the introduction of regulations to enable the research techniques to be used in clinical practice, if sufficient pre-clinical evidence is obtained.

To inform our response, and ensure we are delivering our strategic objective to encourage dialogue about medical science, we partnered with [Science London](#) to run an [informal public discussion on mitochondrial DNA](#) at 41 Portland Place on 19 November. [Dr Geoff Watts FMedSci](#), [Professor Mary Herbert](#) and [Professor Michael Duchon](#) gave presentations and responded to questions from the audience and via Twitter. The presentations are available on the Academy's [YouTube](#) channel.

In [the Academy's response to the consultation](#), we restated our previous position, and highlighted the need for the HFEA scientific review on the safety and efficacy of the techniques to be updated, including a detailed consideration of whether non-human primate research should remain a prerequisite for the introduction of the techniques in humans, as specified by the original HFEA scientific review. Given the novel nature of these procedures, we recommended that it should be a condition of licensing for these techniques that the clinic is required to regularly report data on safety and efficacy of treatments to the HFEA. Further, due to the imperative for evaluation of the impact of these techniques in the long-term, we also strongly recommend that a process is undertaken to identify the optimal methods for ensuring follow-up takes place and to define the standards that are to be met.

The HFEA will report the findings of the consultation to the Department of Health in early 2013 and it is expected that Parliament will debate the approval of regulation-making powers in the HFE Act 1990 (as amended) in spring 2013 to decide whether to enable the techniques to be offered as treatments.

Visit from the President of the Institute of Medicine

The Academy was pleased to host Professor Harvey Fineberg, President of the [Institute of Medicine](#) (IOM), at our Honorary Fellows Admission Day lunch in November this year. Following the lunch, Professor Fineberg met with Academy President, Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci, and Academy Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, to discuss how our two academies can work more closely together in the future. Improving our relationship with the Institute of Medicine was identified as a priority by Fellows during the development of the Academy's 2012-2016 strategic plan and a number of Academy Fellows are also Fellows of the IOM. Professor Fineberg has been President of the IOM since 2002, prior to which he was Provost of Harvard University and Dean of Harvard School of Public Health.



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Dr Harvey Fineberg and Executive Director, Dr Helen Munn

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Ensuring European legislation facilitates clinical trials

Following the publication of proposals in July for a new Clinical Trials Regulation to replace the Clinical Trials Directive, the Academy has been at the forefront of activity to ensure that the new Regulation facilitates medical research. In September we held a successful meeting in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust where academics and funders shared their views on the Regulation with the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Subsequently, the Academy has been invited to participate in an MHRA reference group to inform the UK Government's negotiating position on the Regulation and will be submitting a response to the current MHRA consultation on this topic. We have also endorsed a [joint statement on the Regulation](#) led by Cancer Research UK which has been supported by over 25 UK and European medical organisations from the charitable, academic and commercial sectors. Over the coming months we will continue to engage with European policymakers around this issue in collaboration with UK



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and European partners.

Capacity building evidence in HOC report

Oral evidence from the Academy's Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, featured in a recent [report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on building scientific capacity for development](#). Professor Souhami stressed that capacity building is a long term endeavor and emphasised the value of existing programmes such as the Wellcome Trust African Institutions Initiative. He went on to note recent improvements in scientific capacity within DFID, the need for DFID to supply some smaller grants and the challenges of monitoring and evaluating capacity building initiatives.

Many of the issues considered by [the Academy's written evidence to this enquiry](#) are covered in a report of [a meeting on global health partnerships and capacity building](#) that was undertaken by the Academy in partnership with the Royal College of Physicians, Wellcome Trust, Universities UK and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



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31 medical schools bid for INSPIRE grants

The Academy is delighted to announce that all 31 UK medical schools have put in a bid for an INSPIRE grant, following a very successful launch event on 3 October 2012.

The launch meeting saw over 80 people at 41 Portland Place including Academy Fellows, INSPIRE leads (academics spearheading the scheme locally), medical students, Deans of medical schools and other stakeholders from 30 UK medical schools. The event was chaired by Professor Peter Mathieson FMedSci, who will also be chairing the award panel that will allocate the INSPIRE grants. The day provided an opportunity to hear about existing schemes which inspire students with research. It also gave potential applicants to the scheme a chance to share their early ideas for INSPIRE projects with like-minded people. The feedback we have received about this day has been overwhelmingly positive; in particular, the attendees thought that the strong student presence at the event was a valuable element.

INSPIRE is a five year scheme to engage medical and dental students with research supported by a £1 million award from the Wellcome Trust. The intention is to run two rounds of funding, in 2012 and 2014. There is also a 'special project' fund to support activities which are particularly innovative and effective, or to roll out successful activities on a regional or national scale. Towards the end of each funding round the Academy will host a conference at which medical schools can share learning, discuss ideas and develop best practice.

Although we are sure there will be some common themes amongst the applications, we expect that each one will be different, and tailored to meet the needs of the local student population. Another key element of the initiative is that it draws on the experience and knowledge of senior academics but also the enthusiasm of students.

The INSPIRE award panel will meet in December 2012. We will announce the first round of successful bids in January 2013.



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£4.5M to help doctors kick start

research careers

For the past four years, the Academy has been working in partnership with the Wellcome Trust, the British Heart Foundation and Arthritis Research UK to award grants to research-active Clinical Lecturers. We are pleased to announce that the scheme will continue for at least a further four years. This is thanks to the continuing support of the existing consortium, as well as funding from our new partners: Medical Research Council and Prostate Cancer UK.

[Our Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers](#) have supported over 150 researchers through seven rounds of funding, with grants totalling nearly £4.5 million. The scheme provides modest 'starter' funds to enable Clinical Lecturers to pursue their research work. Many of the grant holders use the award to gather preliminary data to support applications for longer-term fellowships and funding.

From January 2013 to December 2016, we will distribute about £4.5 million, through two funding rounds each year. The next deadline will be in March 2013, for a decision in June, followed by a further deadline in September 2013, for a decision in December.



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Opportunities for international travel

[The Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme](#) provides opportunities for biomedical researchers to travel between the UK and the Middle East (specifically Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories). The next deadline for applications is 18 January 2013.

The scheme provides funding for travel to allow researchers to undertake short-term visits of up to four weeks to further their research experience and learn new techniques. The aim of the scheme is to help establish research links and develop ongoing scientific collaborations.

We would welcome applications from clinical and non-clinical researchers, from the UK or one of the relevant Middle Eastern countries, whose research falls within the broad scope of medical or bioscience research.



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What is involved in being an Academy mentor?

The Academy office is indebted to the two hundred or so Academy Fellows who act as mentors on our mentoring scheme. But what do Academy mentors actually do? And is it just the mentee who benefits? [A suite of short films about the Academy's mentoring scheme](#) aims to answer these questions and more.

The Academy's mentoring scheme had its tenth birthday this year. One way in which we celebrated this milestone was to produce an [Academy mentoring booklet](#). The booklet outlines our experiences of designing and establishing a mentoring scheme. It also seeks to draw out some principles about setting up mentoring schemes, which we hope will be useful to anyone thinking about how to support researchers in developing their careers.

As part of the launch of the booklet, at a Mentoring and Outreach event in Newcastle in March this year, we made a [short film](#) to celebrate and introduce the scheme and explain what it hopes to achieve.

We've followed this introductory film with two further films which focus on mentors and mentees. Our experience is that many trainees only join our mentoring scheme once they've been persuaded of the benefits of mentoring, either by one of their peers or perhaps by a Fellow, often at one of our regional Mentoring and Outreach events. We hope these films will provide a similar sort of introduction, with both mentors and mentees talking about what they've gained from mentoring and how it has had a positive impact on their careers.

We're now working on a fourth and final film which aims to encourage other organisations and institutions to adopt and adapt the Academy's model of mentoring to provide the very best support for junior researchers. Professor Charles Pusey FMedSci, did just that at Imperial College London and, with colleagues, he features in this final film.

We are very grateful to all the Fellows and mentors who agreed to be filmed for this piece of work. We are actively promoting the films, for example, there is now a guest post by Professor David Adams FMedSci, Chair of the Academy's Mentoring Advisory Group, in Nature's soapbox science blog. Any suggestions of other ways to promote the mentoring scheme would be gratefully received.



Academy mentors, Professor Roger Jones FMedSci, Professor Masud Husein FMedSci and mentee Dr Siobhan Burns.

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Engaging tomorrow's research leaders

In February, the Academy will be running the annual 'Spring Meeting for Clinician Scientists in Training'. This research conference is a high quality, cross-specialty event for clinical academic trainees at all career stages. It will take place on Wednesday 27 February 2013, from 9.45 am to 6.00 pm at the Royal College of Physicians in London. Academy Fellows are warmly invited to attend this event.

Training the next generation

The Spring Meeting is a great opportunity for trainees to cut their teeth academically. It is a chance to present their own research and get feedback from Academy Fellows and other senior clinicians and biomedical scientists. The best research will be recognised through a number of prizes for the posters and the plenary talks.

The closing date for submissions to the competitions has now passed, but we would still encourage all trainees to attend and take advantage of the excellent networking opportunities that the meeting offers.

The meeting includes a full day of talks, poster viewing and discussions, and it will conclude with a drinks reception, where the prizes will be awarded. The reception will provide a great opportunity for Fellows and trainees to meet and network. It is also a chance for potential and current mentoring pairs to meet informally.

Support from The Lancet

The Academy is delighted to announce that The Lancet has generously offered to publish the meeting abstract booklet and fund a prestigious prize. The journal has committed to support the meeting for four years.

'The Academy of Medical Sciences is the pre-eminent meeting point for the science and practice of medicine in the UK. Their annual research conference is an opportunity to showcase the best of Britain's research talent. At The Lancet, we are delighted to be supporting both the Academy and UK biomedical science, on which the future of improved patient care depends.'

Dr Richard Horton FMedSci, Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet

The Spring Meeting was established by the Medical Research Society, which merged with the Academy in 2011.

For more details or to register to attend please contact



Academy mentee Dr Alex Shortt

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Reforming the structure of postgraduate medical training

Professor David Greenaway has been asked to consider the future of postgraduate medical training in the UK. His 'Shape of Training' review will consider what changes are needed to training to make sure it continues to meet the needs of patients and health services in the future. This includes looking at the balance of the workforce between specialists and generalists, options to support greater training and workforce flexibility, and how to address the tensions between training and service delivery.

A call for evidence was opened in November and closes on 8 February 2013, after which the review team will develop possible models, for consultation via oral evidence sessions. The final report is expected to be published in summer 2013.

The Academy will submit a response to this call for evidence. It will stress the importance of academic training, and will draw attention to the critical role that education and training can play in embedding a research culture throughout the NHS. Professor Christopher Day FMedSci is leading this response, which will be developed in consultation with academic trainees.

[View more information about the review and this call for evidence](#)



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FORUM lecture 2013

The Academy's annual FORUM lecture brings together researchers and decision makers from across the life sciences sector and provides an opportunity to hear from international leaders in biomedical science. The 2013 lecture will be given by [Dr Ruth McKernan](#): Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Pfizer Neusentis on 20 March 2013, 2:00pm at the Academy Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH.

This is an invitation only event.



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Fellows discussion dinners 2013

We are delighted to announce the first two speakers in the 2013 series of Fellows discussion dinners:

Monday 11 March 2013

The measurement of subjective mental states

Professor Semir Zeki FMedSci, Professor of Neuroaesthetics, Laboratory of Neurobiology, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, University College London

Monday 29 April

Cholesterol modification and risk: past, present and future.

Professor Rory Collins, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of Oxford

These events provide an opportunity to hear talks given by Academy Fellows and enjoy discussion over a dinner and drinks.

Tickets cost £55 per person and include a three course meal with drinks. Fellows may book one additional place for a guest. Events begin with drinks in the Fellows' Room from 17:30. The talk commences at 18:00 and discussion will take



For further information contact alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk

place over dinner, served at 19:00 in the Laurie Landeau Room.

Further discussion dinners will be announced shortly.

Mentoring and outreach events

Birmingham supper club

Tuesday 15 January 2013

Hosts:

- Professor David Adams FMedSci, Professor of Hepatology, University of Birmingham
- Professor Eric Jenkinson FMedSci, Professor of Experimental Medicine, University of Birmingham
- Professor Alan Rickinson FRS FMedSci, Professor of Cancer Studies, University of Birmingham

Spring meeting for clinician scientists in training

Wednesday 27 February 2013

Royal College of Physicians, London

Keynote speakers: Professor Patrick Vallance FMedSci, President, Pharmaceutical R&D, GSK and Professor Anne Johnson FMedSci, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, University College London



For further information contact colby.benari@acmedsci.ac.uk

Private entertaining packages for Academy Fellows

The Academy's headquarters at 41 Portland Place is the perfect venue for Fellows to hold professional meetings, seminars and workshops, but also events for friends and family. The beautiful period rooms provide a wonderful backdrop for any special event. With weekend and evening booking options now available we hope you will make 41 Portland Place the venue for your next celebration. Our fantastic events team will ensure every aspect of your party goes to plan and that your guests are treated to the finest catering.

As well as roundtable meetings and small symposia, rooms at 41 Portland Place are ideal for:

- Private dining
- Birthday parties
- Anniversary celebrations
- Retirement parties
- Family dinners
- Wedding receptions and dinners
- Summer parties

To make booking simple and affordable we have developed three packages available exclusively to Fellows.

Drinks and canapé reception package £37pp

- Evening room hire of the Laurie Landeau room
- A selection of 6 canapés
- Half a bottle of house wine per person
- Still and sparkling water and fruit juice
- (Minimum numbers of 30)

Drinks and dinner package £65pp

- 30 mins drinks reception followed by sit down dinner/wedding breakfast in the John Newsom Davis Reception Room and Council Chamber
- Half a bottle of house wine per person
- Still and sparkling water
- A selection of bites and nibbles
- 3 course dinner from the Fellow's menu
- (Minimum numbers of 40)

Family dinner package £50pp

- Private dinner for 8 to 12 guests in the Ann Rylands Room
- 3 course dinner from the Fellow's menu or Christmas menu
- Half a bottle of house wine per person
- Still and sparkling Water
- (Minimum numbers of 8)

Prices do not include VAT



For further information contact ali.blows@acmedsci.ac.uk

To take advantage of these offers contact Ali Blows on 020 3176 2177 or ali.blows@acmedsci.ac.uk

These offers are only available to Academy Fellows. A Fellow must make the booking and attend the event. Profits generated through venue hire of 41 Portland Place are used to fund activities run by the Academy of Medical Science to ensure research is rapidly translated into benefits for patients.

Erratum:

The printed information Fellows received on these offers should have included a note that prices excluded VAT.



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