

## New Fellows Admissions Day 2012

Forty six new Fellows were admitted to the Academy at a ceremony on 27 June. As well the prestigious admission ceremony itself, the day included presentations on: 'The voices in our heads' by Professor Sophie Scott FMedSci, 'Imaging metabolism - watching tumours gasp and die with hyperpolarized MRI' by Professor Kevin Brindle FMedSci and 'Frugal healthcare innovation - a global research priority' by Professor Stephen MacMahon FMedSci

The keynote lecture, 'Neonatal diabetes: from ion channel to disease' was given by Professor Frances Ashcroft FRS FMedSci, Royal Society GlaxoSmithKline Research Professor, Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, University of Oxford.

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.

The badge of FMedSci is much sought after, with only 44 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 2013 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](#)



New Academy Fellows 2012

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## Fellowship elections 2013: call for nominations

Fellows are reminded to [submit nominations for new candidates](#) to be considered for election to the Fellowship in 2013.

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 also reminded to update their candidates' papers for this year's election.

The deadline for all nominations is Friday 28 September 2012.



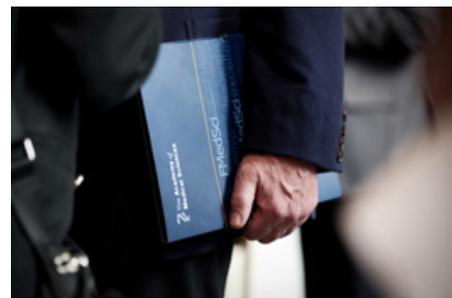
Women Fellows elected in 2012

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## Update from June Council meeting

Council met on 21 June and the meeting included a presentation from Professor Rosalind Smyth FMedSci, Chair of the Task Force for Women in the Fellowship. Council welcomed the report and the finding that the Academy showed no bias against women in the election process, while noting that improvements could be made to the numbers of applications. Further information from this taskforce will be sent to the Fellowship in the Autumn and Professor Smyth will be speaking on the Task Force at an [event in Liverpool on 4 December](#).

A second presentation was given by Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci, Chair of the [Task Force for engagement of early career researchers](#) across biomedicine.



This group had elicited the views of over 100 early career researchers, in regional groupings and noted a significant consensus on problems and solutions, most notably how to progress a research career. In response the Task Force proposed initiatives including inter-disciplinary symposia attached to existing conferences, an extension of the existing mentoring scheme to post-doctoral non-clinicians and providing a framework of non-clinical career progression which could be undertaken by a revived Careers Committee. The recommendations were approved in principle for development of a practical costed plan.

Council also discussed an initial paper from the [working group on Academic Psychiatry](#), a report from the [Joint Academies Meeting on Human Enhancement, Stratified medicines](#) activities and ongoing work on the [use of animals in research](#).

The next council meeting takes place on 18 October 2012.

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

## Annual report and accounts

The Treasurer, Professor Sue Iverson CBE FMedSci presented the audited Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12 to Council on 21 June and reported that the auditors PKF LLP had given an unqualified audit report. The Treasurer reported that while the Academy's balance sheet was strong, the challenge for the future was to increase the amount of annual income that was not restricted to specific programmes or projects.

[View the Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12](#)



Professor Sue Iverson CBE FMedSci

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## Research integrity concordat

The Academy is a supporter of a new concordat on research integrity that was published on 11 July 2012. Developed in collaboration with the funding and research councils, the Wellcome Trust and various government departments, the concordat will:

- Provide better coordination of existing approaches to research integrity.
- Enable more effective communication of efforts to ensure that the highest standards of rigour and integrity continue to underpin all our research.
- Encourage greater transparency and accountability at both institutional and sector levels.
- Stimulate reflection on current practices to identify where improvements can be made.

It is intended that the concordat will provide assurances to government, the wider public and the international community that research in the UK continues to be underpinned by the highest standards of rigour and integrity.

***Fellows are encouraged to consider the implications of the concordat and bring it to the attention of colleagues.***

[View the concordat and a list of signatories and supporters.](#)



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## Parliamentary dialogue on data

On 11 July 2012 the All Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research (APPG MR), which is supported by the Academy, held its summer reception at the Houses of Parliament. The theme was '*How data saves lives: unlocking the research potential of information*'. Speakers at the event included:

- Earl Howe (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Health)
- Lord Willis of Knaresborough
- Lord Turnberg of Cheadle
- Professor Nic Jones FMedSci (Chief Scientist, Cancer Research UK)
- Anthony Cox (a person with Parkinson's disease)
- Professor Sir John Savill FMedSci (Chief Executive, Medical Research Council).

A series of posters illustrated the value of patient data and of research data to attendees. Parliamentarians received a short booklet describing the research shown in the posters and explaining how they can facilitate the use of data in research. The APPG MR also holds roundtables with Parliamentarians on issues such as the use of animals in research and provides briefings to support debates, particularly on the medical research aspects of legislation going through Parliament



Baroness Thornton: Former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health at the event (Image credit: Wellcome Library, London)

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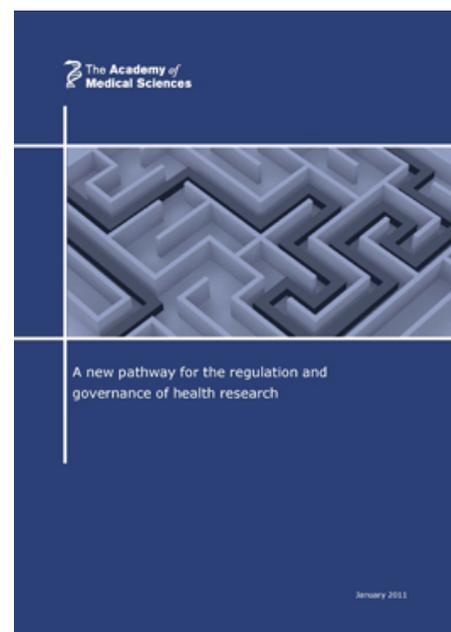
## Regulation and governance of health research

The Academy has recently undertaken a number of activities to follow-up its influential report on the regulation and governance of health research that was published in 2011.

In May we published the [findings of a stakeholder meeting](#) held to review progress in implementing the recommendations of the report. Participants at the meeting (hosted by the Academy, Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust) were optimistic about the progress to date but identified the need for leadership and collaboration in the research community so that the new Health Research Agency can become an influential body.

On 5 July the Academy joined the National Institute for Health Research and the NHS Confederation in bringing together NHS R&D Directors from throughout England to discuss how to overcome barriers to research in the NHS. The aim was to ensure that R&D Directors were aware of the importance of research, the tools that are available to support them and the new timelines for clinical trials that they will have to meet. The President spoke about the key role of R&D Directors in maximising the health and wealth potential of medical research. Most of the issues identified by the Academy's original regulation and governance review were reflected in the comments from R&D Directors at the meeting, such as the problems of duplication and reinterpretation of checks and the need for governance that is proportionate to risk. On a more positive note the participants heard that 99% of Trusts are now entering patients into clinical trials.

The Academy is also continuing its work with UK policymakers and through the Federation of European Academies of Medicine to inform changes to the EU Clinical Trials Directive. In its new strategy the Academy has committed to following up its major reports and statements within two years of publication.



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## New NHS Commissioning Board

In July the Department of Health published a [draft mandate for the NHS Commissioning board](#) detailing its roles and responsibilities for consultation. The NHS Commissioning Board was created in October 2011 and will take on full statutory responsibilities in April 2013. It will be responsible for the commissioning of primary care health services as well as some nationally-based functions currently undertaken by the Department of Health. It will work with an annual budget of £80bn.

The Academy and others have been successful in ensuring that supporting, and using the outcomes of, research was a key part of its responsibilities when the board was established in the Health & Social Care Act. The Board now has a statutory duty to protect and promote innovation and health research. The Academy will be responding to the consultation to stress the importance of research remaining high on the agenda of the Board. **Fellows may like to respond themselves or contribute to the Academy's response by mid August.**



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## The future of the HFEA and HTA

The Department of Health launched its [consultation on the future of the independent regulators the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority \(HFEA\) and Human Tissue Authority \(HTA\)](#) on 28 June 2012. The HFEA and HTA have a role in regulating research involving human embryos and human tissue respectively.

The consultation stems from concerns raised after the government proposed to abolish the HFEA and HTA and transfer their research and non-research regulatory functions to separate bodies during the review of arms-length bodies (ALBs) in July 2010.

The consultation runs until 28 September 2012 and is seeking views on whether:

- All functions should transfer to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) except the HFEA functions relating to research that would pass to the Health Research Authority (HRA); and the HFEA and HTA be abolished.
- All functions should transfer, as set out above, but a limited number of functions would transfer to organisations other than the CQC.
- The HFEA and HTA should retain their functions but deliver further efficiency savings.

The Academy recommended the creation of the HRA in the 2011 report '[A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research](#)' and considered whether the research functions of HFEA and HTA could be incorporated within this if the Government intended to transfer these functions elsewhere.

The Academy will be responding to the consultation please contact the office if you would like to contribute to this consultation.



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## Stratified medicines symposium

Following our successful symposium and 2007 report '[Optimizing stratified medicine R&D: addressing scientific and economic issues](#)', the Academy is continuing our work to facilitate progress in stratified medicines research and development, and its implementation in healthcare services.

Increasing interest in stratified medicines has led to a range of recent initiatives in the biosciences sector. In the UK, the Government's *Strategy for UK Life Sciences*



announced £130m for the area, building on existing investments by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Technology Strategy Board (TSB). Our work, chaired by Professor Sir John Bell FRS HonFREng FMedSci, will help maximise the value of this investment.

An international symposium for invited delegates will take place 10 - 11 October 2012, bringing together experts from the pharmaceutical and diagnostic industries, health economists, medicines regulators, health service providers, clinical researchers and policy makers. Discussion will focus on identifying solutions to the ongoing regulatory, economic and infrastructure challenges, in part through the definition of pilot activities to accelerate implementation.

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## Vince Cable speaks at joint UK Academies event

On the 12 July the Academy jointly hosted a successful discussion event entitled '*UK research: building bridges, building prosperity*' involving the Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Professor Sir Paul Nurse PRS FMedSci, President of the Royal Society, and Royland Aurich, Chief Executive of Siemens. The subsequent question and answer session was chaired by the Academy's President Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci.

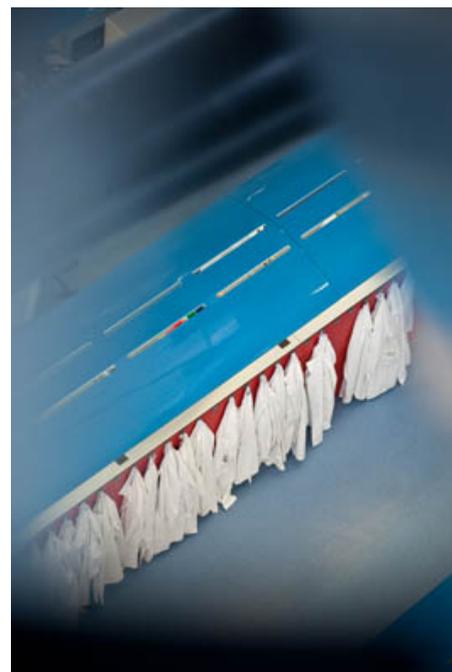
This event was jointly organized by the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society and involved the Presidents or Vice-Presidents of all four organisations, which together cover the full spectrum of contemporary science and research.

The event provided a platform for discussing important issues that may impact the future of UK research, including worldwide mobility of talent, openness of data and freedom of speech. There was a focus on how UK research will drive future prosperity and maintain its global standing in research and innovation.

Alongside the discussion there were exhibits demonstrating cutting edge UK research, including one by Academy of Medical Sciences/Health Foundation Clinician Scientist Fellow Damian Mole.

The event clearly demonstrated the economic and social value that UK researchers contribute to our country and how the UK's pre-eminence in research continues to transform the way we live.

[View the Secretary of State's speech](#)



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## Strengthening academic psychiatry

The Academy has recently convened a high-level short life working group, chaired by Sir David Carter FRSE FMedSci, to help strengthen academic psychiatry in the UK. The objective of this group is to provide advice to further improve training in this area, work across traditional scientific and clinical disciplinary boundaries and draw upon best practice from other countries. The working group is now in the process of consulting with leading figures in academic psychiatry from the UK and abroad, as well as funders and regulators of clinical academic training.

[View information on the Strengthening academic psychiatry working group.](#)



Professor Simon Wessely FMedSci, member, Strengthening academic psychiatry working group

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## Pan-European statement on data protection

Following the proposals for a new European Data Protection Regulation, the Academy of Medical Science's Foreign Secretary, Professor Robert Souhami CBE FMedSci, has led a collaborative effort with the Federation of European Academies of Medicines (FEAM) to publish a [statement to help ensure that the Regulation facilitates medical research](#).

As an Officer at FEAM, the umbrella body for national academies of medical science across Europe, Professor Souhami is engaging at the European level to ensure that this new Regulation facilitates research while providing appropriate and proportionate safeguards for the use of patient data.

The Regulation will replace the current EU Data Protection Directive, which in some EU states is a hindrance to epidemiological research in particular. Patient records provide an essential resource in clinical research, and there is a concern that a regulation protecting data might inadvertently impinge on researcher's ability to use this valuable resource for public benefit.

Currently, the new Regulation has sections that facilitate research; it is vital that these are retained as the Regulation goes through the European legislative process, and this is one aim of the FEAM statement. The FEAM statement has also advised for amendments to the Regulation to clarify on issues such as use of pseudonymised data, as well as recommending alterations to further clarify and strengthen the research provisions to ensure they achieve their intended purpose.

One priority for the Academy and FEAM is to ensure that European policy makers are aware of the implications of the Regulation on medical research as much attention will be focussed on other issues such as social media and commercial marketing.

The FEAM statement was endorsed by the national academies of seventeen European states, along with the Committee of European Medical Research Councils. The Academy's collaboration in this activity is ensuring this Regulation supports medical research across Europe in the future.



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## Getting my next job

### *Task Force on engaging earlier career researchers*

A Task Force on engaging with earlier career researchers, chaired by Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci, was set up in April to consider how the Academy might establish greater engagement of earlier career researchers across the spectrum of medical science.

Task Force members used a variety of methods including focus groups and an online survey to identify the problems that earlier career researchers face and their proposed solutions, and to receive feedback on initial models for conferences and networking. A total of around 100 responses were generated, which consistently indicated that the most salient problem for earlier career researchers was a lack of consistent and high-quality career support and guidance. A desire for greater opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration and the need for the Academy to work harder to meet the needs of basic biomedical researchers were also found to be key issues.

Professor Humphries presented the findings of the Task Force to Council in June, who were enthusiastically in favour of taking the recommendations forward. Over the summer, Academy staff will be scoping out the proposed solutions, such as a wiki toolkit for career support and guidance, inter-disciplinary symposia attached onto existing conferences, and the extension of the existing mentoring scheme to non-clinicians; this work will inform funding proposals and approaches necessary to underpin any new initiatives.



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## Starter grants for Clinical Lecturers

The Academy's [grant scheme to provide essential start-up funds for research active Clinical Lecturers](#) will support another 25 Clinical Lecturers through the seventh round of funding with awards totalling £715,278. This latest round brings the total grant funding awarded since the scheme's inception to £4.4M, supporting 155 Clinical Lecturers to further develop their research.

The deadline for the next round of funding is Monday 3 September 2012; please do encourage Clinical Lecturers within your institutions to apply.

Further details of the scheme can be found on our website [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/starter](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/starter)

The Starter grants for Clinical Lecturers scheme is run by the Academy with the support of the Wellcome Trust, the British Heart Foundation and Arthritis Research UK.



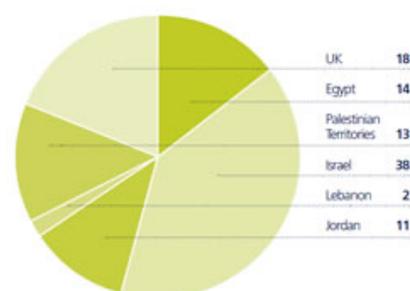
For further information contact [dan.nicholls@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:dan.nicholls@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship scheme

We are delighted to announce the release of the latest [Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship](#) newsletter. This travel fellowship scheme facilitates the development of ongoing research collaborations, providing opportunities for early career biomedical researchers to travel between the UK and the Middle East, spending up to one month visiting a research institution of their choice.

The [newsletter](#) provides examples of the scheme's successes over the past few years, highlighting some of the collaborations developed as a result of the awards.

Geographic spread of 96 awards, by home country



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## INSPIRE - engaging medical students with research

How can we best help medical students to understand what research is and its value to the NHS? What approaches are effective at introducing the benefits of a clinical academic career? Many medical schools have already been wrestling with these issues for some time. Over the next five years, coordinated by the Academy, a new Wellcome Trust-funded initiative called INSPIRE, will help to bolster this activity and ensure a UK-wide conversation about best practice in this area.

The central element of INSPIRE is a small grant scheme. There will be two funding rounds over the next five years. Medical schools will be able to apply for a grant of up to £15,000 to design and deliver new activities or to expand and develop current initiatives in this area. An Academy selection panel, chaired by Professor Peter Mathieson FMedSci, Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Bristol, will assess applications.

Medical schools will need to appoint a member of faculty as their 'INSPIRE lead' to coordinate their bid and subsequent implementation. We hope to see significant student involvement throughout the process. The Academy is already well connected to the developing networks of medical student research groups (for example, [www.nsamr.org](http://www.nsamr.org)).

**Any Academy Fellows who would like to take on the 'INSPIRE lead' role in their medical school should start by contacting their school's representative on the Medical Schools Council.**

INSPIRE will be officially launched on 3 October 2012 at 41 Portland Place. The event will primarily be an opportunity for potential 'INSPIRE leads' from the



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medical schools to understand the scheme better and develop innovative ideas for their grant application. Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci and Sir Mark Walport FRS FMedSci will both speak at the launch. Case studies of current activities in this area will be incorporated throughout the day to encourage sharing of current learning in this area.

## New Academic Careers Committee

The Academy will be establishing a new academic careers committee, which will take a holistic approach across training and career structures. The committee will support the Academy's work to nurture the next generation of medical researchers by shaping the agenda in careers policy, across the spectrum of clinical and biomedical research. It will provide support, advice and recommendations to the Academy's Council and Officers, and will consider where the Academy can add particular strategic value and lead the agenda in this sphere.

The Academy previously hosted two careers committees, which separately covered clinical and non-clinical careers. Since then, new issues have emerged, for example relating to immigration and reforms to NHS workforce education and training, and the range of committees working in this area has also evolved. It is timely to reflect on this new landscape and the role a new Academy committee should play within it. The Academy's Officers have therefore agreed that there will be a scoping exercise in the autumn, to ensure that the committee is established as expert and valuable in the long-term. During this phase, this small initial membership will consider the committee's remit, terms of reference, structure, membership and potential projects, before the full committee is established in early 2013.



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## Stem cell research: past, present and future - discussion dinner

There are still places left for the Fellows discussion dinner on 15 October. Dr Robin Lovell-Badge, Head of Division of Developmental Genetics, MRC National Institute for Medical Research will give a talk on Stem cell research: past, present and future.

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

Tickets for the dinner cost £55 per person and include a three course meal with drinks.

Fellows may book one additional place for a guest.



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## Fellows meeting and dinner - Glasgow

Professor Anna Dominiczak OBE FRSE FMedSci, Vice Principal, Regius Professor of Medicine, Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences and Professor Anton Muscatelli FRSE, Principal and Vice Chancellor at the University of Glasgow are hosting a Fellows meeting at 15.30 on 12<sup>th</sup> November at the University of Glasgow:

The meeting will provide an opportunity for Fellows to get together to hear more about the Academy's work and also to proactively identify future candidates for election in the region. We aim for a Fellowship that fully represents medical science irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, discipline, geographic location or

workplace and this meeting will provide the chance to identify new candidates that can help us achieve our goals.

As well as the Fellows meeting there will be an opportunity for you to hear a talk '*Cytokines: The Janus Messengers*' given by Professor Eddie Liew FRS FMedSci, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Glasgow at a discussion dinner.

We are most grateful to the University of Glasgow for hosting this event and thanks to their support there is no charge for attending this discussion dinner.

If you would like to register to attend, please contact [alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk) who will reserve your place. Please note, places at the dinner will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so early booking is recommended.



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

## Fellows meeting and dinner - Liverpool

Professor Sue Wray FMedSci, School of Biomedical Sciences, and Professor Ian Greer FMedSci, Executive Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Liverpool are hosting a Fellows meeting at 15.30 on 4 December at the Victoria Gallery and Museum, University of Liverpool:

The meeting will provide an opportunity for Fellows to get together to hear more about the Academy's work, including a report on the Academy's Taskforce on Women in the Fellowship which will be given by Professor Ros Smyth FMedSci.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to proactively identify future candidates for election in the region. We aim for a Fellowship that fully represents medical science irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, discipline, geographic location or workplace and this meeting will provide the chance to identify new candidates that can help us achieve our goals.

As well as the Fellows meeting there will be an opportunity for you to hear talks by Professor Sue Wray FMedSci, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Liverpool and Professor Kay Tee Khaw CBE, FMedSci, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge at a discussion dinner.

Further information on the event will be available in the Autumn.



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## Date for your diary: AGM and Jean Shanks lecture

The Academy of Medical Sciences' AGM, Admission of Honorary Fellows, Jean Shanks Lecture and Annual Fellows' Soiree will take place on Thursday 22 November 2012.

The meetings during the day will take place at The Royal Institute of British Architects.

Registration for the AGM is due to start at 14:30.

We will be admitting the following Honorary Fellows

- Francoise Barre Sinoisi

- Baroness Warnock
- Lord Rees of Ludlow
- Sir John Walker
- Sir Andrew Witty

We are delighted that Sir Adrian Bird CBE FRS FRSE FMedSci, has accepted our invitation to give the 2012 Jean Shanks Lecture, which will start at 17:00.

Further information will be circulated closer to the time, but please put the date in your diary.



Sir Andrew Witty, one of the Honorary Fellows to be admitted on 22 November

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

## Outside entertaining space for Fellows

Two packages are available for Fellows to run events on the terrace at 41 Portland Place, the home of the Academy of Medical Sciences. The space provides a perfect urban oasis for outside entertaining or team building events in the heart of London's West End.

### **Mid summer BBQ menu**

- Homemade lamb burger
- Garlic chicken & rosemary skewers
- Tandoori salmon
- Grilled aubergine with hummus
- Potato & spring onion salad
- Selection of freshly prepared salads & herbs
- Citrus tart
- Fruit salad
- A glass of Pimm's on arrival
- Half a bottle of house wine
- Still & sparkling water

Room hire of the Marylebone Terrace & Ann Rylands room

£42.50 per person (based on minimum numbers of 30)



For further information contact [nikki@41portlandplace.com](mailto:nikki@41portlandplace.com)



#### **41PP's Traditional afternoon tea**

*-Finger sandwiches: Cucumber, egg & cress, honey baked ham, Chalk Farm smoked salmon*

*-Scones with Devonshire clotted cream & England Preserves*

*-Plus a selection of freshly baked cakes & pastries*

*-A glass of house champagne*

*-Still & sparkling water*

*-Jugs of fresh fruit Juice*

Room hire of the Marylebone Terrace & Ann Rylands room

£40.00 per person (Based on minimum numbers of 20, offer available from 11am to 11pm)



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