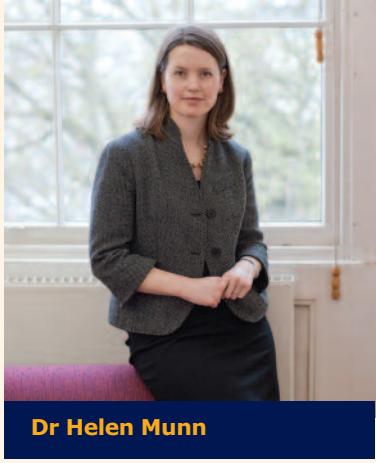


# **April: new Fellows and new beginnings**



Dr Helen Munn

It was with enormous pleasure that I started in post as Executive Director on 1 April. After five years in the policy team at the Academy, I take over the role at a very exciting time, with ambitious plans for our new headquarters at 41 Portland Place underway, important policy projects on the horizon, and several successful grants schemes in full flow.

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our 40 new Fellows, who were formally elected to the Academy at our Council meeting on 16 April. Our Fellows are at the heart of everything we do here at the Academy, and the election of new Fellows is therefore one of the most important events in our annual calendar. We are very grateful to all the Fellows who provided nominations, citations, reviews and referee reports, particularly to the Sectional Committee Chairs and members who have ensured we have one of the best cohorts of new Fellows on record. A full list is provided overleaf. We look forward to meeting our new Fellows at Admission Day on 24 June and hope they will soon be involved, as so many of you are, in the day to day business of the Academy.

Helen Munro

# 41 Portland Place open day

Fellows are invited to join the President, Professor Sir John Bell FRS PMedSci, and the relocation project team for a tour of the new headquarters at 41 Portland Place on 21 May. The afternoon will include a tour of the building prior to its refurbishment and drinks on the roof terrace.

The visit will give Fellows the opportunity to hear the fascinating history of the building and of the Novartis Foundation. We will

also be sharing our exciting plans for the building's refurbishment and use as the Academy's new headquarters.

This will be an informal event running throughout the afternoon and early evening and the building will be open between 15.00 and 20.00.

If you would like to join us please E-mail  
[joanna.heywood@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.heywood@acmedsci.ac.uk)



Building our future: a headquarters for the Academy of Medical Sciences

# Fellows Elected 2009

40 of the United Kingdom's leading doctors and medical researchers have been recognised for excellence in medical science with their election to the Academy Fellowship. The new Fellows will be formally admitted to the Academy at a ceremony on Wednesday 24 June. A full programme and booking details will be sent separately.

**Professor Stephan Beck**  
University College London

**Professor Marina Botto**  
Imperial College London

**Professor Neil Burgess**  
University College London

**Professor Andrew Carr**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Keith Channon**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Patrick Chinnery**  
Newcastle University

**Professor Hilary Critchley**  
University of Edinburgh

**Professor Michael Curtis**  
Barts and the London

**Professor Jenny Donovan**  
University of Bristol

**Dr Julian Downward**  
Cancer Research UK,  
London Research Institute

**Professor William Earnshaw**  
University of Edinburgh

**Professor Edzard Ernst**  
Peninsula Medical School

**Dr Francois Guillemot**  
National Institute for Medical Research

**Professor Richard Hayes**  
London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine

**Professor V Craig Jordan**  
Fox Chase Cancer Center

**Professor Shitij Kapur**  
King's College London

**Professor Michael Kopelman**  
King's College London

**Professor Andrew Lees**  
University College London

**Professor John Marshall**  
King's College London

**Professor Irwin McLean**  
University of Dundee

**Professor Matthias Merkenschlager**  
MRC Clinical Sciences Centre

**Professor Anne Mills**  
London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine

**Professor Andrew Morris**  
University of Dundee

**Professor Kim Nasmyth**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Julian Parkhill**  
The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

**Professor Vikram Patel**  
London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine

**Professor Andrew Pickles**  
University of Manchester

**Professor Lucilla Poston**  
King's College London

**Professor Neil Poulter**  
Imperial College London

**Professor Elio Riboli**  
Imperial College London

**Professor Carol Robinson**  
University of Cambridge

**Professor Helen Saibil**  
Birkbeck College

**Professor Jack Satsangi**  
University of Edinburgh

**Professor Michael Schneider**  
Imperial College London

**Professor Morgan Sheng**  
Genentech

**Professor Peter St George-Hyslop**  
University of Cambridge

**Professor Simon Tavaré**  
University of Cambridge

**Professor Ian Tomlinson**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Colin Watts**  
University of Dundee

**Professor John Wood**  
University College London

# Global health diagnostics: research, development and regulation



To date, efforts to address the burden of infectious diseases in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) have largely focused on the development and delivery of vaccines and therapeutic interventions, whilst the importance of diagnostics has been comparatively neglected. As a result, current diagnostic methodologies are often inappropriate to needs and contexts of LMIC, and there remain a number of barriers to the development and delivery of safe, effective and affordable diagnostics. Yet, diagnostics guide the majority of healthcare decisions and the advent

of rapid point-of-care diagnostics holds significant promise for addressing the health burden in LMIC.

The Academy has now published the report of a workshop held on this topic in December 2008. The report highlights challenges and opportunities to research, development and regulation of diagnostics pertinent to LMIC, with a focus on rapid diagnostic tests for infectious diseases. In particular, the report considers: the design and development of diagnostic tests; access to diagnostics; use of diagnostics in practice; regulation and evaluation of diagnostic tests; and challenges and opportunities for the diagnostics industry.

Bringing these themes together, the report highlights the need for capacity strengthening in research and development, a greater focus on the priorities and contexts of LMIC during the design of diagnostics, and a tightening of regulatory requirements - potentially through a World Health Assembly resolution. The report also highlights scope for the development of a single body, involving academia, industry and relevant stakeholders, which could provide leadership and guidance to the diagnostics community, and contribute to the implementation of appropriate regulatory policy.

For further information, or to request additional copies of the report, please contact [georgie.macarthur@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:georgie.macarthur@acmedsci.ac.uk)

*'This report addresses an issue which has all too often been neglected by policymakers, research funding bodies and researchers compared with drugs and vaccines. As effective drugs become more widely available to low income populations the need for accurate diagnosis becomes even more paramount to ensure that vital medicines are not used inappropriately resulting in drug resistance, wasted resources and unnecessary side effects.'*

Professor Andy Haines FMedSci  
Chair, Global health diagnostics meeting

# Building clinical academic capacity



UK clinical research is currently benefiting from significant additional investment from Government and other research funders. A challenge for funders and institutions is to allocate resources across the range of clinical academic specialties, to most effectively pursue research and its translation into improved healthcare.

The Academy's Clinical Academic Careers Committee, chaired by Professor Patrick Sissons FMedSci, has published a report providing guidance on how funding and resource

should best be used to support clinical academic specialties.

The report sets out the factors that should be taken into account when allocating resources across clinical academic specialties. Its recommendations, aimed at facilitating a more co-ordinated approach to building clinical academic research and workforce capacity, are presented as guidelines for funding bodies and

Higher Education Institutes to utilise when allocating programmatic research funding and fellowships.

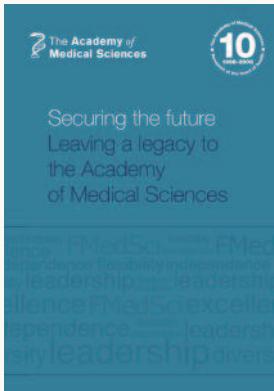
The report serves as the basis for a wider UK debate on the strategies necessary to meet current and future clinical research capacity needs.

For further information, or to request additional copies of the report, please contact [suzanne.candy@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:suzanne.candy@acmedsci.ac.uk)

*'The paper and its guidelines are a contribution to a UK-wide debate on strategies for resource allocation. Given the changing landscape of postgraduate medical education and clinical research, and the important funding decisions which are currently being made, we consider it a particularly appropriate time to share our conclusions.'*

Professor Patrick Sissons FMedSci

## Remembering the Academy in your Will



'Remember a Charity' is a national campaign that encourages more people to name charities in their Wills, it is backed by a large consortium of UK charities including the Academy of Medical Sciences.

When asked, 35% of the UK population say they would happily leave a charitable gift in their will, once family and friends had been provided for; however only 7% actually do. The campaign aims to raise the figure of legacy donors to 11% of the population in order to create an additional £1 billion for charities in the UK every year.

The campaign will give the Academy access to a collective media, PR and support package worth over £1 million targeting charity supporters and professional advisors, and a focused strategy with the Will writing profession.

The 'Remember a Charity' media campaign was launched throughout the UK on 1 April. The official website for the campaign is [www.rememberacharity.org.uk](http://www.rememberacharity.org.uk)

If you have any questions about leaving a legacy to the Academy please contact Joanna Heywood, Fundraising Manager, on 020 7969 5209 or [joanna.heywood@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.heywood@acmedsci.ac.uk)

*'I am delighted with the progress the Academy of Medical Sciences has made and I would like to see it prosper further in the future. This will certainly need money and I have therefore included the Academy in my Will.'*

Sir Peter Lachmann FRS FMedSci  
Founder President, Academy of Medical Sciences

## Foulkes Foundation Medal



Nominations are now open for the 2009 Foulkes Foundation Medal.

Awarded every two years, the Foulkes Foundation Medal brings recognition to an individual for excellence in research in the biomedical sciences and seeks to inspire others to pursue a career in biomedical research.

The winner will receive a medal and prize of £1,000, and be invited to give a lecture at an Academy of Medical Sciences event.

Nominations of biomedical scientists showing outstanding achievement in research during the first 15 years of their career, should be made via a letter to the Academy summarising the nominee's principal achievements, their significance and impact. Please see [www.acmedsci.ac.uk](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk) for more details.

The closing date for nominations is 18 September 2009.  
For further information contact [emlyn.samuel@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:emlyn.samuel@acmedsci.ac.uk)

## Middle East Travel Awards

In October 2008 the Academy launched The Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme, designed to encourage collaboration between medical researchers in the UK and the Middle East. The scheme provides short-term fellowships to early and mid career clinical academics and bioscientists, offering them the opportunity to gain additional research experience, learn new techniques and develop their collaborative links.

Following the selection meeting in March, the Academy is pleased to announce that out of 43 applications considered, 20 successful applicants were chosen to receive a travel fellowship award.

The geographical spread of awards ranges across all regions eligible for the scheme, with seven awardees from Israel, five from the Palestinian territories, two from Egypt, three from the UK, two from Jordan and one from Lebanon.

The awards are funded by the Daniel Turnberg Trust with generous support from the Wellcome Trust, Royal College of Physicians and The Wolfson Foundation. The Academy extends its congratulations to these successful candidates. Full details of the fellowships awarded are available at [www.acmedsci.ac.uk](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk)