

September 2010

The autumn hails a new era for the Academy as by 4 October we will have completed our relocation to our first headquarters at 41 Portland Place. The support and generosity of the Fellowship have been key to the success of the project and we very much look forward to welcoming many of you to the AGM and Fellows' soiree on 18 November. Please note that our new headquarters has a dedicated Fellows' room; we hope you will find this useful.

It's business as usual in the office; the Council election is in full swing so please return nominations by 5 October, ballot papers will be sent out shortly thereafter. We have a packed programme of lectures and events this season, which kicked off on 22 September when the University of Dundee kindly hosted the Academy leg of The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Lecture; Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS FMedSci gave a first class lecture, which was followed by an excellent dinner.

Our policy work continues to exert influence at the highest levels. We have been heavily engaged in the discussions on the spending review and our review of the regulation and governance of medical research, commissioned by Government, is due to report by the end of the year.

I am also delighted to report that we are helping to grow capacity in medical science policy; our policy internship scheme, run in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust, has been so successful that it has been extended by a further three years.

We look forward to seeing you in our new headquarters soon, please do let us know if you're interested in using our new venue facilities for meetings, receptions or dinners. The conference team will be pleased to assist you.

Suzanne Candy

Academy submission to the spending review

Following requests for advice from the Science Minister, David Willetts, and the Director General of Science and Research, Professor Adrian Smith, the Academy published its advice to Government on the spending review in early September. A key message was that government funding for medical research leverages rather than displaces investment by industry and charities. Without continued public funding there is a serious danger that increasingly mobile researchers, companies and charities will undertake their valuable research abroad. It is clear from feedback that the President has received, from Ministers and senior officials, that the Academy's advice is having an increasing influence on policymakers.

The launch of the Academy's advice was particularly timely because it coincided with Secretary of State, Vince Cable's, first speech on science where he acknowledged the vital importance of research to the UK's economic future, but emphasised the significant financial constraints that the UK is now facing. This was followed the next day by a speech by David Willetts on the future of universities. Subsequent articles and discussion in the national media and blogosphere picked up not only our recommendations on the spending review but also our previous report with the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust on the economic value of medical research.

The Academy has been engaging with Ministers, Select Committees and senior civil servants to reduce the impact on

medical research of the spending review, which is expected on 20 October. In these meetings we have been emphasising the global competitive advantage offered by the UK's superior medical research base (second only in the world to the US); our co-coordinated landscape of private, public and charity funders; and the research potential of the NHS. Retaining and harnessing this competitive advantage is reliant on Government's continued commitment to the publicly funded science base.

To ensure science remains a pillar of the UK's rebalanced knowledge economy we believe that Government should publish a new long-term strategy that outlines its commitment to the UK's science base. At a time of uncertainty, this will help to reassure increasingly mobile researchers and industries about the future of the UK science base in the face of strong long-term investment from our overseas competitors over and above short-term stimulus packages.

The Academy's advice on the spending review is available at

<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/index.php?pid=118&pressid=70>



The new headquarters of the Academy of Medical Sciences



41 Portland Place
Reception



Exhibition Area

The builders finished working at 41 Portland Place at the end of August and handed possession of the building back to the Academy on 1 September. Final fit out and furnishing took place during September and we are due to move into our new headquarters on 4 October. Opening our first headquarters is an incredible achievement for our young Academy and it would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone on our project team and the incredible generosity of our Fellowship.

Fellows' appeal raises over half a million

Thanks to the generosity of the Fellows our fundraising has progressed significantly over the summer. To date almost 400 Fellows have contributed a total of £520,000 towards our £5million fundraising target. We are extremely grateful for this generosity and will list over 280 individuals who have made personal contributions of £1,000 or more on the donors' board that will hang in our new headquarters.

Having raised a massive £4.92million since the appeal was launched in 2008 we are now just £80,000 short of our target and are working hard to raise the remaining funds.

Donations can still be made to the Fellows' Appeal and will be acknowledged on the donors' board.

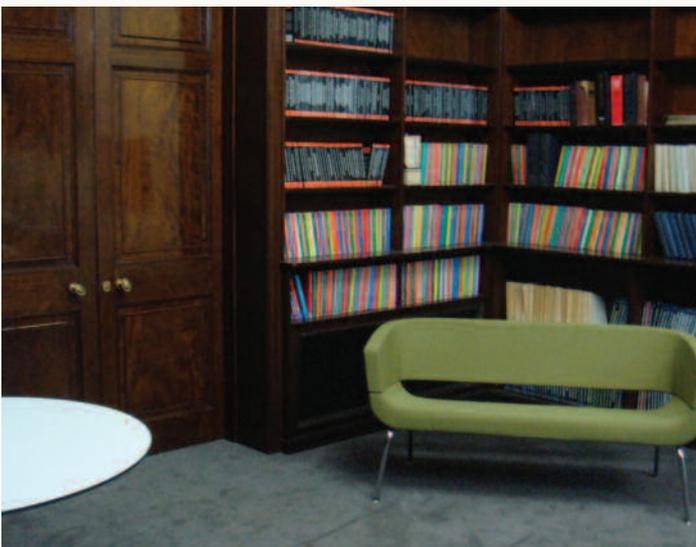
The Academy has also been fortunate to receive generous donations from a number of charitable trusts, pharmaceutical companies and individuals:

Wellcome Trust
The Welton Foundation
The Wolfson Foundation
Laurie Landeau
GlaxoSmithKline
AstraZeneca
Pfizer
The Jean Shanks Foundation
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust

The University Hospitals Association
Sanofi Aventis
Sanofi Pasteur
The Rayne Foundation
The Kohn Foundation
The de Laszlo Foundation
The Dana Foundation
The Foundation for Liver Research

We have received a number of anonymous donations via Justgiving online. We would like to be able to acknowledge these donations so please contact us if you would like your name to be included on the donor board.

For further information contact sarah.porter@acmedsci.ac.uk



Fellows' Room at 41 Portland Place

Fellows' open house

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home and will be hosting a series of 'open house' afternoons for Fellows and a guest to visit the building for a tour and seasonal refreshments.

These events will take place from 15.30-18.00 on 3, 10 and 17 December. For information or to book a place contact ellie.williams@acmedsci.ac.uk

Host your event at 41 Portland Place

41 Portland Place will provide a range of first class meeting and conference rooms open to customers across the charitable, commercial and public sectors.

Arranged over three floors, the rooms combine high specification facilities with period elegance. Rooms and facilities include a purpose built lecture theatre, contemporary exhibition space and a range of period and modern rooms accommodating between 8 and 80 people.

We hope you will support the Academy by using 41 Portland Place for your meetings and conferences.

Bookings are now being taken from October onwards – please contact enquiries@41portlandplace.com or visit www.41portlandplace.com



ACADEMY OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES
41 Portland Place

Fellows' soirée to celebrate our new headquarters

Fellows are warmly invited to an evening soiree to celebrate the opening of the Academy of Medical Sciences' new headquarters at 41 Portland Place, London from 18.00-21.00 on Tuesday 18 November.

Fellows are also encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will take place from 15.30-16.30 that day, also at 41 Portland Place. Look out for your invitations in the post. For further information contact ellie.williams@acmedsci.ac.uk

New address details

From 4 October our address will be: Academy of Medical Sciences 41 Portland Place London W1B 1QH 020 7631 0200. Please update your records.

Contact information for all staff will be available at <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/p40.html>



John Newsom-Davis Council Chamber



The Ann Rylands Terrace Room

Public dialogue findings: animals containing human material

The public's views on the use of animals containing human material have been described in 'Exploring the boundaries: public dialogue on animals containing human material', the findings of a dialogue programme delivered by an Ipsos MORI-led consortium. Commissioned to inform an Academy working group study, the dialogue included a series of workshops, discussion groups, and interviews involving 74 public participants and scientists, together with a wider national poll.

The dialogue found conditional support for research involving animals that contain human cells or human-like genetic material, with most participants finding such research acceptable when conducted for the purpose of improving human health or curing disease. Many participants viewed this research as an extension of similar, more familiar science.

However a minority, particularly those with strong views on the use of animals in any form of medical research, felt such research was not acceptable.

Concerns and caveats expressed by participants often related to animal welfare, rather than to specific issues arising from 'mixing' different species at either genetic or cellular level. For many, there was concern around research that might affect the external appearance of an animal, with less concern expressed about experiments involving internal organs such as the liver or heart. Research affecting the reproductive system, and the brain, was considered particularly sensitive.

Further information on the project can be viewed at <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/index.php?pid=47&prid=77>

Research Excellence Framework panel members



The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is due to take place in 2013-14. The new framework will assess institutions based on the quality of their research, the wider impact of the work and the vitality of the research environment. The government has delayed the process by one year while the options for assessing impact are further explored. The REF will be led by four main panels, who will oversee the assessment process carried out by 36 sub-panels (Units of Assessment). Main panel A (life sciences) will have six sub-panels covering the following topics: Clinical Medicine; Public Health; Health Services and Primary Care; Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy; Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience; Biological Sciences; Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are requesting nominations for main panel members, sub-panel members and additional sub-panel assessors. If you are considering putting yourself forward for one of these roles, we would be interested to hear from you. Please contact catherine.luckin@acmedsci.ac.uk

Dates for your diary

Developing Mentoring Skills, a workshop for mentors and mentees

8 November 2010, 41 Portland Place

This training workshop is aimed at Academy mentors and mentees, as well as those involved in external mentoring schemes. mentoring@acmedsci.ac.uk

International Health Lecture 2010

11 November, Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place

Dr Kevin DeCock, Director of the US Centre for Disease Control, Center for Global Health

Grant deadlines

Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme

The third round of funding for the Daniel Turnberg UK/Middle East Travel Fellowship Scheme will close on 17 January 2011.

Further details of the awards can be found at

<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/p227.html>

Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers

Details of the awards made through this scheme can now be found at <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/p176.html>. The fourth round of funding is now closed to applications. The deadline for receipt of applications for the fifth round of funding will be in March 2011.