

**From the President**  
**Professor Sir Robert Lechler**  
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14 September 2016

Dear Fellows,

### **Appointment of Vice-President (clinical) – call for nominations**

You may be aware that Professor Chris Day has recently been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, with effect from January 2017. Given the demands of this prestigious appointment, Professor Day will be stepping down from the role of Academy Vice-President (clinical) at New Fellows Admissions Day 2017.

I write now on behalf of Council to seek your suggestions for the appointment of his successor.

#### **Eligibility and process**

The post is open to all clinical Ordinary Fellows of the Academy.

- Nominations may be made by any Academy Fellow for any other clinical Academy Fellow, providing that they have agreed to be nominated.
- The nomination must be supported by three Fellows.
- Members of Council will elect the next Vice-President (clinical) from amongst those nominated.

In accordance with the Academy's Standing Orders, a Search Committee has been convened to oversee this process and make recommendations to Council. The committee comprises the remaining Honorary Officers and two representatives from Council: Sir Michael Owen FMedSci and Dr Jim Smith FRS FMedSci.

The deadline for nominations is **14 December 2016** and Council will elect the new Vice-President at its meeting on 9 February 2017, in light of the deliberations and recommendations of the Search Committee.

[Nominations forms are available on the Academy website](#). Informal suggestions and expressions of interest should be sent to me, in confidence, at [robert.lechler@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:robert.lechler@kcl.ac.uk). Any Fellow who wishes to discuss the role further should contact me at the earliest opportunity.

All nominated candidates will be asked to attend an interview with the Search Committee on **16 January 2017** to discuss what they could bring to the role.

Candidates are asked to countersign the nomination form to indicate their willingness to be nominated and to include a 300 word statement outlining their background and how they would contribute to the Academy and its future. These statements will be circulated to Council, along with a copy of the candidate's CV

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Further information about the term of office, duties of the post and the qualities sought in a potential Vice-President are outlined below.

### **Term of office**

The new Vice-President (clinical) will formally take up his/her position with effect from New Fellows Admission Day on **28 June 2017**.

Honorary Officers of the Academy normally serve for four years.

### **Honorary Officers – general information**

The Standing Orders governing the Election of Honorary Officers of the Academy state that *‘Candidates should demonstrate high academic standing, a significant track record of achievement, the ability to represent the different constituencies within the Academy, and the ability to commit sufficient time and energy to the role’*

The Vice-President (clinical) is a member of the Honorary Officers group which meets approximately six times a year. As part of this group the Vice-President plays a key role in developing Academy policy, including issues relating to academic careers and training.

The six Honorary Officers are currently:

Professor Sir Robert Lechler PMedSci, President  
Professor Christopher Day FMedSci, Vice-President (clinical)  
Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci, Vice-President (non-clinical)  
Professor Philippa Saunders FMedSci, Registrar  
Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS FMedSci, Treasurer  
Professor George Griffin FMedSci, Foreign Secretary

### **Capacity**

In addition to the five Council meetings per year (in February, April, June, October and December), the Honorary Officers meet a further 6 times (in January, March, May, July, September, November/December). Officers are also required to attend New Fellows Admissions Day in June and the Annual General Meeting in December.

We estimate that the post requires a commitment of approximately half a day a week, and ready accessibility for electronic and telephone consultation with the Academy office.

### **Vice-President (clinical) - the role**

As the title suggests, the Vice-President (clinical) has particular responsibility for clinical biomedical science. In addition to distinction in the medical sciences, the role of Vice-President (clinical) requires excellent communication and leadership skills and the ability to engage with key UK organisations and policy leaders at high level.

The Vice-President (clinical) is expected to:

- Oversee the Academy’s work around clinical research and careers, liaising with the Academic Careers Committee, Council and working groups as necessary.

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- Provide approval and sign-off for activities and outputs relevant to our clinical academic portfolio and other areas as designated by Council.
- Build and enhance relationships with key organisations, including the research funders, universities and medical schools, Royal Colleges, GMC, BMA, Medical Schools Council, various NHS groups and agencies, commercial organisations, and others.
- Engage with the clinical Fellows and broader clinical academic community, to ensure the Academy is aware of prevailing issues, challenges and opportunities
- As necessary - lead the review of Academy policy reports; chair workshops, symposia, roundtable meetings, discussion dinners etc; help to identify relevant Fellows and external contacts as projects dictate.
- Represent the Academy at meetings with key external contacts, and on selected external committees.
- As part of the Officers group - guide the strategic direction of the Academy's work; advise on specific projects and initiatives; and oversee delivery of successful Academy outputs.

### **Next steps**

I hope you will give careful consideration to suitable candidates for this important post at the Academy, and I invite you to contact me as soon as possible with confidential expressions of interest or suggestions of potential candidates.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,



### **Search Committee**

President, Sir Robert Lechler PMedSci (Chair)

Vice-President (Non-clinical), Professor Martin Humphries FMedSci

Registrar, Professor Philippa Saunders FMedSci

Foreign Secretary, Professor George Griffin FMedSci

Treasurer, Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS FMedSci

Council member, Sir Michael Owen FMedSci

Council member, Dr Jim Smith FRS FMedSci

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