

From the President
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Dear Tracy,

The Academy has followed the development of your AllTrials campaign with much interest and it was discussed at a recent Council meeting on 14 February.

The Academy welcomes the contribution the campaign has made to the debate on, and efforts to, improve transparency in clinical and health research. We believe the occurrence, methods and results of clinical and health research involving patients - whether positive or negative - should be made swiftly available for patient, social and scientific benefit.

The Academy also believes that the results of clinical and health research should be placed in the public domain through peer-reviewed media such as journals. Validated research summary reports and clinical study reports, without patient level data, should be posted on a public web-based database, after regulatory approval where relevant. Further consideration must be given to mechanisms that allow access to more detailed data, given the need to protect patient confidentiality and to ensure that data is intelligible, assessable, reliable and usable.

The Academy's full position on clinical trials and data disclosure is outlined in our response to the current House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee's inquiry. This response will be made public as soon as we receive permission from the Committee.

The Academy supports the principles underpinning the Alltrials petition. Our long-standing policy, recently affirmed by Council, is that as a Fellowship organisation, we cannot sign up to campaigns or petitions on behalf of all Fellows. Given the importance of transparency of clinical research we have drawn our 1000+ Fellows' attention to the petition via our newsletter and on our website.

Yours sincerely

