

Annex 1 (online supplement). Consultation and evidence gathering

Call for written evidence

The Academy issued an open call for evidence to inform the study. The call for evidence was open for eight weeks from 27 July to 21 September 2015. Those who submitted written evidence are listed below. The responses to the call for written evidence (for which permission to publish was received) are available on the Academy's website.¹

Individuals

Professor Sheila Bird OBE FRSE FMedSci, Programme Leader, MRC Biostatistics Unit and Visiting Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Strathclyde University
Professor Dame Nicky Cullum DBE FMedSci, Head of School and Professor of Nursing, University of Manchester
Mr Wayne Douglas
Dr Brian Edwards, Consultant Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety and Chair, Pharmaceutical Human Factors and Ergonomic Group
Dr Ben Goldacre, Senior Clinical Research Fellow, Centre for Evidence Based Medicine, Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford
Professor Sir John Grimley Evans FMedSci, Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford
Mr Barry Haslam
Mr Gordon Jarvis
Dr Huw Llewelyn, Honorary Departmental Fellow, Aberystwyth University
Professor Pascal McKeown, Director Medical Education, Queen's University Belfast
Mr Nigel Mellor
Mr John Perrott
Professor Lawrence Phillips, Emeritus Professor of Decision Sciences, London School of Economics & Political Science
Professor Ian Roberts, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Co-director of the Clinical Trials Unit, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Professor Ian Russell, Former Senior Research Leader, Health & Care Research Wales
Sir Richard Thompson KCVO, Former President, Royal College of Physicians
Mr David Tovey, Editor in Chief, The Cochrane Collaboration
Dr Andrew Tressider, Sessional GP, Somerset NHS
Professor John Urquhart, Senior Medical Advisor, AARDEX-MWV Healthcare and Adjunct Professor; UC San Francisco

Organisations

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Breast Cancer Now
British Heart Foundation
British Pharmacological Society
Cancer Research UK
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
Health Technology Assessment International

¹ <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/how-can-we-all-best-use-evidence/evidence-repository>

Healthcare Improvement Scotland - Evidence Directorate
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Medical Research Council
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
MRC Network of Hubs for Trials Methodology Research and Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research
National Institute of Health and Care Excellence
Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford
Royal College of Physicians of London
University College London - Department of Science and Technology Studies
University College London - Evaluating Evidence in Medicine project team
University College London - School of Pharmacy
Wellcome Trust

Evidence-gathering workshops

We hosted four workshops to supplement the written input and explore key areas in further detail:

- A workshop in partnership with the Wellcome Trust on 'Evaluating evidence in health', chaired by Sir Michael Rutter CBE FRS FBA, on 21 October 2015.²
- A workshop on 'Conflicts of interest', chaired by Baroness Onora O'Neill of Bengarve CH CBE HonFRS FBA FMedSci, on 27 November 2015.³
- A workshop in partnership with the Science Media Centre on 'Communicating evidence in the media', chaired by Tom Sheldon, on 8 April 2016.⁴
- A workshop on 'Communicating evidence about medicines', chaired by Professor Theresa Marteau FMedSci, on 6 June 2016.⁵

Reports of these workshops, including details of meeting attendees, are available on the Academy's website.⁶

Oral evidence provided to the oversight group

We hosted three oral evidence sessions to explore particular topics of interest. The following individuals provided oral evidence to the oversight group:

- Thursday 28 April 2016: Professor Sir Rory Collins FRS FMedSci, British Heart Foundation Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford
- Tuesday 12 July 2016: Fiona Fox OBE, Chief Executive, Science Media Centre
- Tuesday 12 July 2016: Dr Ron Zimmern, Chairman, PHG Foundation

Public, patient and healthcare professional engagement

Literature review of existing research on how evidence is used by the public to judge the potential benefits and harms of medicines

At the start of the project, we commissioned a literature review to gain further insights into the existing research exploring how evidence is used by the public to judge the potential benefits and harms of medicines, and how evidence has been talked about in previous dialogue exercises and in the science communication literature. The review was put together in

² <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/more/events/evaluating-evidence-in-health>

³ <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/more/news/exploring-conflicts-of-interest>

⁴ <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/41534-57a30aa387107.pdf>

⁵ <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/communicating-evidence-workshop>

⁶ <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/how-can-we-all-best-use-evidence/evidence-repository>

September 2015 by Melanie Smallman at ThinkLab Ltd and is available on the Academy's website.⁷

Quantitative survey of GPs and the general public

To supplement the deliberative dialogue and test whether the concerns that precipitated the report were indeed expressed by GPs and the wider public, we commissioned ComRes to undertake a quantitative survey to explore:

- Levels of trust in evidence about medicines.
- Drivers of and barriers to trust in evidence, industry funding and perceived methodological robustness.
- Levels of trust in doctors and clinical scientists to produce and use evidence effectively, including perceptions of conflicts of interest (the survey did not include overall trust in these professions as this information is collected in other publically-available surveys).
- Perceptions around over-medication on both a societal and an individual level.

ComRes interviewed 2,041 members of the British public online between 18 and 20 March 2016 in the UK, and 1,013 GPs online between 16 and 26 March 2016. General public data were weighted to be nationally representative of all British adults aged 18+, by age, gender, region and socioeconomic group. GP data were representative by former Strategic Health Authority (SHA) region. A summary of the results are available on the Academy's website.⁸ Full data tables are available on the ComRes Global website.⁹ ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.¹⁰

Deliberative dialogue

Following a competitive tendering process, we commissioned Ipsos MORI to deliver a programme of deliberative public and patient dialogue, which explored how individuals perceive and interpret medical scientific evidence. In May and June 2016, workshops took place in Glasgow, Leeds and London involving over 100 recruited members of the public, patients with single and multiple conditions, GPs, nurses, pharmacists, hospital consultants and midwives. The process was informed by a literature review (see below), a stakeholder roundtable on 21 April 2016 and by the Oversight Group. A report of the dialogue activities is available on the Academy's website.¹¹

Stakeholder meetings

To help frame the remit of the study and the work of the wider workstream, stakeholder meetings were held with a wide range of stakeholders from May to September 2015. As the project drew to a close, the Chair met with key decision-makers in Government, professional bodies, medical research charities, journals, patient groups, and the wider research funding community. These meetings focused on discussing and honing the report's conclusions and recommendations. A list of whom the Chair met with is provided below.

Initial meetings in May to September 2015

Professor Dame Sue Bailey DBE, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Professor Sir Rory Collins FRS FMedSci, British Heart Foundation Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford

Professor David Haslam CBE, Chair, National Institute of health and Care Excellence

Professor Gillian Leng CBE, Deputy Chief Executive, National Institute of health and Care Excellence

Dr Dean Marshall, General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association

Dr Imran Rafi, Chair of Clinical Innovation and Research, Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr June Raine CBE, Director of Vigilance and Risk Management of Medicines, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci, Chair, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Sir John Savill FRS FRSE FMedSci, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council

⁷ <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/viewFile/57023cd7c5e98.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/evidence/survey>

⁹ <http://www.comresglobal.com>

¹⁰ <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/evidence/survey>

¹¹ <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/evidence/public-dialogue>

Dr Iain Simpson, President of the British Cardiovascular Society and the Joint Specialty Committee for Cardiology, Royal College of Physicians

Professor Tom Walley CBE, Director of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme, National Institute of Health Research

Professor Peter Weissberg CBE FMedSci, Medical Director, British Heart Foundation

Meetings between Chair and key decision-makers (September 2016 – January 2017)

Professor Dame Sally Davies DBE FRS FMedSci, Chief Medical Officer and Professor Christopher Whitty CB FMedSci, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health

Sir John Savill FRS FRSE FMedSci, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council

Lord John Sharkey (Chair), Aisling Burnand MBE (Chief Executive), and Dr Liz Philpots (Head of Research), Association of Medical Research Charities

Professor Maureen Baker CBE (Chair of RCGP Council) and Dr Imran Rafi (Chair of the Clinical Innovation and Research Centre), Royal College of General Practitioners

Professor Peter Weissberg CBE FMedSci (Medical Director), Catherine Kelly (Director of Prevention, Survival & Support), and Dr Mike Knapton (Associate Medical Director), British Heart Foundation

Professor Dame Sue Bailey DBE, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Don Redding, Director of Policy, National Voices

Dr Fiona Godlee, Editor in Chief, BMJ

Professor Sara Marshall, Head of Clinical and Physiological Sciences, Wellcome Trust

John de Pury, Director of Policy, Universities UK

Other input

In addition to the Review Group, informal input was provided on the case studies and other specific sections of the report by the following individuals. They were not asked to endorse the report or its findings.

Dr Virginia Acha, Executive Director Research, Medical and Innovation, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Professor Jeffrey Almond FMedSci, Oxford Martin Visiting Fellow, Oxford Martin Programme on Vaccines, University of Oxford

Professor Helen Bedford, Professor of Children's Health, Faculty of Population Health Sciences, University College London

Professor David Crossman, Dean and Head of School of Medicine, University of St Andrews

Professor George Davey Smith FMedSci, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, University of Bristol

Bill Davidson, Joint Head of Policy, Health Research Authority

Dr Karen Facey, Honorary Research Fellow, Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, University of Edinburgh

Professor Mark Haggard CBE FMedSci, Emeritus Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge

Professor Harry Hemingway, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, University College London and Director, Farr Institute London

Amanda Hunn, Joint Head of Policy, Health Research Authority

Dr Rebecca Lumsden, Head of Science Policy, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Professor Andrew Morris FRSE FMedSci, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics and Vice-Principal Data Science, University of Edinburgh

Dr June Raine CBE, Director of Vigilance and Risk Management of Medicines, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Professor Philippa Saunders FMedSci, Professor of Reproductive Steroids and Director of Postgraduate Research, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh

Dr Jacintha Sivarajah, Head of Medical Affairs, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Professor David Webb FMedSci, Christison Professor of Therapeutics and Pharmacology, University of Edinburgh

We are very grateful to all those who have contributed information to the study and apologise to anyone that we have inadvertently omitted from this list.