

**Professor Sir Patrick Sissons FMedSci, Vice President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, said:**

The Academy of Medical Sciences welcomes the publication of the Shape of Training report and its emphasis on recognising the changing needs of patients, flexibility in training and competency based assessment.

A medical workforce that is "research aware", supported by strong academic leadership, is vital to placing research at the heart of the NHS and delivering the government's commitments to life sciences. The Academy thus particularly welcomes the report's recognition that doctors trained in research are key to building innovation and continuous improvement into medicine and patient care, and that flexibility of training structures is needed to accommodate their research training.

Developing research skills is an important part of clinical training and we believe that prudent implementation of the report's recommendations will help reinforce this culture as the norm. The conclusions of the report indicate that now is the time to act. The Academy looks forward to working with the Delivery Group to implement these recommendations, and ensure that the benefits of research training are maximised for the Health Service and all its patients.