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Three Clinician Scientist Fellowships awarded

Three of the UK's brightest clinician researchers have been awarded fellowships by the independent health care charity the Health Foundation, working with the Academy of Medical Sciences. The Fellowships support translational research that will make a long-term difference to the quality of patient care.

The research funded by these Fellowships spans brain injury, genetics, psychiatric care, health service provision and oncology.

The three clinical academics will receive leadership training provided by the Health Foundation, and mentoring support from the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Traumatic brain injury, commonly caused by car accidents, falls and assaults, affects up to one million people in the UK each year. Dr Virginia Newcombe's work will help clinicians treat these patients, and identify those most likely to have long lasting issues after their injury. This will have important implications for the provision of appropriate early information to patients and their families.

Dr Jayati Das-Munshi will investigate why patients with severe mental illnesses have a reduced life expectancy if they come from ethnic minority backgrounds. The project will use patient information from multiple sources to address important questions around quality of clinical care, in a large-scale study which has not been previously been possible.

An earlier study by Dr David Church identified a new category of cancers, most often occurring in the bowel and the womb, which are far less accurate than others in reproducing their own DNA, and seemingly lead to a much better outcome for patients undergoing treatment. The Fellowship will allow Dr Church

and his team to study hundreds of tumour samples and confirm these findings, which in the next five years could spare many patients from undergoing unnecessary treatments, or lead to more accurate therapies for those diagnosed with proofreading-deficient tumours.

Helen Crisp, Assistant Director of Research at the Health Foundation, said: "The Health Foundation is delighted to be supporting researchers whose work has the potential to make a lasting difference to care of patients."

Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, said: "These awardees are outstanding researchers who will greatly add to the future of clinical science, and I am delighted that we can support them on this journey."

The Clinician Scientist Fellowship programme was established in 2001. An evaluation of previous cohorts in this scheme has shown that just under 300 significant publications and at least 37 prestigious prizes have been produced as a result so far. It also shows that together, previous awardees have reported leveraging over £49M in additional research funding, which represents a return of £4.45 for each £1 invested in the scheme.

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For further information and copies of the report, please contact:

Holly Rogers, Communications Officer, Academy of Medical Sciences
020 3176 2183, holly.rogers@acmedsci.ac.uk

Mike Findlay, Media Manager, The Health Foundation
020 7257 8047, mike.findlay@health.org.uk

Notes for Editors

The Health Foundation

The Health Foundation is an independent charity working to improve the quality of healthcare in the UK. We are here to inspire and create the space for people to make lasting improvements to health services. We conduct research and evaluation, put ideas into practice through our improvement programmes, support and develop leaders and share evidence to drive wider change.

www.health.org.uk

Academy of Medical Sciences

The Academy of Medical Sciences is the independent body in the UK representing the diversity of medical science. Our mission is to promote medical science and its translation into benefits for society. The Academy's elected Fellows are the United Kingdom's leading medical scientists from hospitals, academia, industry and the public service. We work with them to promote excellence, influence policy to improve health and wealth, nurture the next generation of medical researchers, link academia, industry and the NHS, seize international opportunities and encourage dialogue about the medical sciences.

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