

Embargoed until 00.01 GMT Tuesday 25 November 2014

Academy to explore challenges and opportunities to the health of the public in 2040

A new project by the Academy of Medical Sciences aims to identify the main health challenges the UK population will face by 2040, and the opportunities to address them.

Many of these challenges, such as potential pandemics, rising obesity and an ageing population, can only be fully addressed through measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the population as a whole, and by preventing disease before it reaches the clinic.

The project offers an opportunity to introduce new thinking in this area, and to ensure that by 2040 multidisciplinary research underpins interventions to improve the health of the public, with highly skilled research workforce and strong links between evidence, policy development and service delivery.

Professor Dame Anne Johnson DBE FMedSci, Chair of the Population and Lifelong Health domain, UCL and chair of the working group producing the report, said: "We face new social, environmental and economic challenges which will impact the health and wellbeing of a growing, diverse and ageing population. We need to rethink how to prevent disease, promote good health and harness new technologies to secure the health of the public. New research partnerships, methods and tools are critical in making this vision a reality."

The working group will consider opportunities and challenges, and factors affecting future trajectories across a range of fields (including economics, technology, demography and the environment), to develop a vision for the health of the public in 2040. This will inform recommendations - in terms of

research evidence, research capacity, research infrastructure and the mechanisms for translating research into practice - within population health and related areas.

The project's terms of reference are as follows:

1. To recommend to relevant decision-makers the requirements for supporting the health of the UK population in 2040 – in terms of research evidence, research capacity, research infrastructure and the mechanisms for translating research into practice. Specifically, the project will consider how to:
 - a. Capitalise on the opportunities created by advances in all areas of science and technology.
 - b. Bring together and ensure necessary research capacity across the full range of disciplines required to address future challenges.
 - c. Ensure an appropriate interface between researchers, policymakers and practitioners.
2. In pursuit of this aim, to address the following questions in the context of the future health of the UK population:
 - a. What are expected to be the main challenges by 2040, and what are the opportunities to address them?
 - b. What are the research and research infrastructure requirements to address these challenges and realise these opportunities?
 - c. How can we effectively train and link researchers and practitioners?
 - d. How can we ensure that the development of public policy and practice is informed by evidence (including from evaluation)?

The final report will be aimed at policymakers, funders, researchers (including trainees), professional and regulatory bodies, public health service providers, and the public. It will be published in Summer 2016.

- ENDS -

For further information, please contact:

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

Notes for Editors

Working group members

- Professor Dame Anne Johnson DBE FMedSci [Chair of the Working Group]
Chair of the Population and Lifelong Health Domain, and Vice Dean for External Relations, Faculty of Population Health Sciences UCL
- Professor Carol Brayne FMedSci
Director of the Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge
- Professor Rachel Cooper
Professor of Design Management, University of Lancaster
- Dr Yvonne Doyle
Regional Director for London, Public Health England
- Professor David Ford
Professor of Health Informatics and Chair of the College of Medicine, Swansea University
- Professor Sarah Harper
Director, Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford
- Dr Vittal Katikireddi
Clinical Lecturer in Public Health, MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow
- Professor Catherine Law
Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, UCL Institute of Child Health
- Professor Paul Little
Professor of Primary Care Research, University of Southampton
- Professor Dame Sally Macintyre DBE FMedSci
Director of the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow
- Professor Johan Mackenbach
Chair of the Department of Public Health at Erasmus MC, University Medical Centre, Rotterdam
- Professor Theresa Marteau FMedSci
Director of the Behaviour and Health Research Unit, University of Cambridge

- Councillor Jonathan McShane
Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Culture, London Borough of Hackney
- Dr Geoff Mulgan CBE
Chief Executive of the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (Nesta)
- Baron Peter Piot CMG FMedSci
Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Professor Jules Pretty OBE FSB FRSA
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Environment and Society, University of Essex
- Professor David Stuckler
Professor of Political Economy and Sociology, University of Oxford

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.

www.acmedsci.ac.uk