

**Embargoed until 00.01 (BST) Monday 15 September 2014**

**Academy to explore the role of team science in research career progression**

The opportunities and challenges faced by biomedical researchers participating in team-based collaborations will be explored in a new project by the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Large collaborative studies are becoming increasingly common across all of research. Multidisciplinary teams are often needed to tackle many current research questions effectively.

The project aims to identify the benefits and challenges of working collaboratively, and how to better reward and recognise researchers working this way. Particular focus will be given to how team contributions could better be used for individual career progression, and how past experiences influence researchers' desire to take part in future collaborations.

The project will seek to improve the future working environment for researchers involved in team science by understanding and influencing the behaviour of researchers themselves, as well as the policy and practice in publishers, employers and funders – including those funders undertaking research assessment exercises such as the REF.

Academy Fellow Professor Anne Ridley FMedSci, Kings College London, who will chair the working group producing the report said, *'Science has always been a team endeavour, but this is more common now than ever before. This project aims to examine how to better nurture collaborative research and ensure that researchers feel well supported and encouraged to work in interdisciplinary teams.'*

Early scoping for the project was carried out through conversations with current researchers using social media. The discussion showed that early career researchers feel different disciplines are often unevenly credited in interdisciplinary project outputs, and that too often current authorship protocols do not accurately represent contributions to research papers.

The project is now seeking written evidence from all interested parties to share their own perspectives on the benefits of participation in team science and how to overcome the challenges in recognising individual researchers' contributions. Written evidence can be submitted online at [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/teamscience](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/teamscience) or sent directly to [teamscience@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:teamscience@acmedsci.ac.uk). The submission period will close at midnight on Friday 7 November. Engagement is specifically desired from individual researchers, organisations representing researchers, research employers, research publishers and research funders – including those undertaking research assessment exercises.

A Twitter competition to find the best “team science” image will also open on 15 September. Researchers are encouraged to share a picture that best represents their team using the hashtag #MyTeamScience for a chance to win a £1,000 team-building experience. More details on how to enter are available on the Academy's website: <http://ow.ly/AYo8L>

The final report will be published in early 2016.

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For further information, please contact:

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## Notes for Editors

### Working group members

- Professor Anne Ridley FMedSci, Professor of Cell Biology at King's College London (Chair of the Working Group)
- Dr Mark Bass, Research Fellow at the University of Bristol
- Professor Buzz Baum, Professor of Cell Biology at University College London
- Professor Robert Burgoyne FMedSci, Professor of Physiology at the University of Liverpool
- Professor David Dunger FMedSci, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Cambridge
- Professor John Fisher CBE FREng FMedSci, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Institute of Medical & Biological Engineering at the University of Leeds

- Dr Amy Foulkes, MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow at the University of Manchester
- Professor Philippa Saunders FMedSci, Dean of Postgraduate Research in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh
- Professor Caroline Savage FMedSci, VP and Head Experimental Medicine Unit, Immuno-Inflammation Therapeutic Area, GlaxoSmithKline
- Professor Eleftheria Zeggini, Group leader - Analytical genomics of complex traits, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge

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