

**Embargoed until 00.01 (GMT) Thursday 28 June 2013**

**Following an announcement by the Chief Medical Officer regarding innovative genetic treatment to prevent mitochondrial disease, Professor Sir John Tooke PMedSci, President Academy of Medical Sciences said,**

“The Academy is delighted that the Department of Health is taking steps to ensure that techniques which could reduce the number of children born with rare mitochondrial diseases can move closer to being used in the clinic.

Introducing regulations now will ensure that there is no avoidable delay in these treatments reaching affected families once there is sufficient evidence of safety and efficacy.

It is also a positive step towards ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of cutting edge research in this area.”

**- ENDS -**

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**Notes for Editors**

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.

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