

For immediate release 19 January 2012

In response to announcements regarding mitochondrial diseases from the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Health, Professor Sir John Tooke, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, said: *"We warmly welcome news that research to understand, and address the impacts of, mitochondrial disease will continue to be undertaken by scientists in the UK, and that views of the public on this exciting area of research are to be sought.*

New techniques to prevent the hereditary transmission of mitochondrial disease could be of clinical benefit in the near future. The views of the public and patients should be taken into account, alongside scientific evidence and expert ethical opinion, when deciding whether new techniques such as these should be permitted. We appreciate the Government's approach and look forward to hearing the outcomes of this important public dialogue."

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Notes for Editors

The independent Academy of Medical Sciences promotes advances in medical science and campaigns to ensure these are translated into benefits for patients. The Academy's Fellows are the United Kingdom's leading medical scientists and scholars from hospitals, academia, industry and the public service.

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