

Image: #MedSciLife participant, Professor Andrea Brand FRS FMedSci, with members of her research group

# HELIX

## Newsletter

2017

### A vital Academy for modern times

**It is a tribute to members of the Helix Group that the Academy has had its most productive year in our two decade history.**

We have provided more funding and career support to medical scientists than ever before, and have had a significant influence on policy in the UK and internationally.

**Thank you to our Helix Group members for your support.**

Helix donations provide the essential funding that allows us to address major health challenges and support talented researchers to excel in their science.

We need your support now more than ever to ensure the voice of biomedical and health research is heard in negotiations to secure the UK's position as a global leader in research and innovation.

The Academy has earned the trust of senior figures in Government, academia, the research community, healthcare and industry. Our advice and support is much requested and we have an essential and distinctive remit in supporting medical science. Without contributions from Helix group members we could not respond to all of these requests.

You can join the Helix group by making a regular donation of £250 or more each year to the Academy. Please sign up online at [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate) or complete the donation form included in this newsletter. If you are already a member we invite you to review your current donation, or consider leaving a legacy in your will.

**With thanks for your continued support,**



**Professor Sir Robert Lechler PMedSci**  
President

## Developing talented researchers



**“We need to attract and retain the greatest minds to biomedical and health research if we are to address the most pressing health challenges facing society.”**

**Professor Sir Robert Lechler PMedSci,**  
President of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Developing talented researchers in the UK and internationally is a key component of our new strategic plan. We achieve this through our innovative programme of grants funding, mentoring, training and networking for researchers at critical stages in their career.

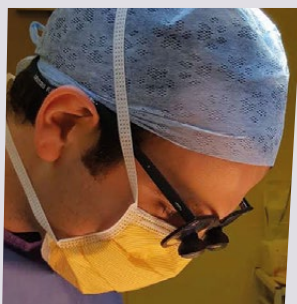
**Funding from Helix Group members has helped us to nurture talented early career researchers, helping them take important steps towards becoming established independent researchers.**

**Dr Sian Henson, Senior Lecturer at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, is a SUSTAIN participant and Springboard award holder.**

Our SUSTAIN programme supports women to thrive in their independent research careers with tailored mentoring and leadership development training. Springboard awards provide funding and a personalised package of career support to help newly independent biomedical scientists launch their research careers.

“I took time out and deviated from the traditional career path and then fell foul of the time constraints of numerous grants.”

**“The Springboard scheme run by The Academy recognised my potential and has allowed me to set up my own group, it was the only scheme of its type that didn’t come with any restrictions. The Academy has had a massive influence on my career.”**



**Dr Athanasios Saratzis, Academic Clinical Lecturer in Vascular Surgery at Leicester University and the NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre, is a Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers award holder and Academy mentee.**

Academy Starter Grants support Clinical Lecturers looking to develop and strengthen their research careers, giving them the opportunity to gather data to strengthen bids for longer-term fellowships and funding.

“It would have been impossible for me to complete a randomised controlled trial independently as a junior academic. The Academy provides access to funding for early career academics that is almost impossible to find elsewhere. That translates to being able to make the important step to independent research more easily.”

**“The mentorship provided by the Academy has been life and career changing for me. Crucially it has helped me find senior academic surgeons who understand my research challenges.”**

You can find out more about our early career researchers and their work by visiting:  
[www.acmedsci.ac.uk/helix2017](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/helix2017)



## Policy

# Confronting research and health challenges



“We will only succeed in making the most of the tremendous strides in medical science if we are also able to share knowledge effectively with patients to allow them to make the best decisions about medicines.”

**Professor Sir John Tooke FMedSci,**  
Chair of the Academy report ‘**How can we all best use scientific evidence?**’

**In June 2017 we launched our biggest policy project yet, to investigate how we can all better use evidence to judge the harms and benefits of medicines.**

The recommendations were wide ranging and incorporated improved communication of research

to the public, a move to ‘intelligent openness’ within the research community, improvements to patient information leaflets and online information about medicines. Work to instigate recommendations has already begun in many key areas.

Visit [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/evidence](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/evidence) to find out more.



“The health of the public shouldn’t just be at the heart of Department of Health policies – it should be at the heart of all government policies.”

**Dame Anne Johnson FMedSci,**  
Chair of the Academy report ‘**Improving the health of the public by 2040**’

Our report recommended a radical upgrade to health of the public research and detailed the significant research effort needed to address the major health challenges we will face in the next 25 years. The report’s recommendations are already being implemented, including the establishment of a new UK Strategic Coordinating Body for Health of the Public Research.

Our new Springboard - Health of the Public 2040 grants scheme supports the report’s recommendations by providing funding for researchers in social sciences and humanities to work on projects that will help to address the health challenges we will face in 2040 and beyond.

Visit [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/2040](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/2040) to find out more.

# Impacts this year

We have achieved a tremendous amount over the last year thanks to the support of our Helix Group members, donors and funders, to whom we are most grateful.

- Informing discussions on **safeguarding biomedical research** after Brexit, including as part of Government's High Level Group on Brexit and research.
- Awarding £6million of **grants funding** to 126 biomedical and clinical researchers at critical points in their career through four major grants schemes.
- Launching a second round of **SUSTAIN** to support 20 women researchers as they establish their independent research careers.
- Pairing over 120 early career researchers with Academy Fellows in our **mentoring scheme**, bringing the total mentoring pairs to over 700.
- Holding a record seven **FORUM** meetings in 2016/17, to link academia, industry and the NHS, covering a diverse range of topics from health economics and stratified medicines to regulation and governance of health research.
- Connecting over 70 alumni of the **Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowship Scheme** at a major conference in Cyprus.
- Delivering our first **global health policy workshop**, on **multimorbidity in South Africa**.
- Engaging the public, patients & healthcare professionals in dialogue to inform our **major policy projects** on evidence, and on the health of the public.
- Securing actions based on the recommendations of our policy reports on **Team Science** and **Research Reproducibility**.
- Through the Newton Fund and Global Challenges Research Fund, we are delivering **ODA-supported schemes** that reach out to our international community, and have attracted applications from 47 DAC-listed countries.
- Launching our **#medscilife** campaign to celebrate the diversity in medical science and share real life experiences of researchers, visit: [www.medscilife.org](http://www.medscilife.org)

**#MedSciLife**

## Looking ahead

Helix group support will enable us to develop the following exciting new initiatives:

1

### Leadership programme

A new leadership programme for the life sciences that capitalises on the Academy's convening power, Fellowship and wide-ranging partnerships. It will equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to drive the sector forward in a changing environment.

2

### Horizon scanning

Establish a programme of horizon scanning where Fellows and other experts identify future developments, scientific opportunities and health challenges to inform policymakers, funders and healthcare providers.

3

### Scientific discourse

Developing ways to increase scientific discourse throughout all our programmes, including new initiatives around the developing brain, antimicrobial resistance and Artificial Intelligence and healthcare.

For more information on our plans for the future, view our new strategic plan for 2017-21: [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/strategy2017-21](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/strategy2017-21)

# How to support the Academy

We now have over 130 Helix Group members who are enabling the Academy to engage in vital policy projects and support early career researchers such as Dr Henson and Dr Saratzis. We want to expand our capacity to meet the demand for our unique expertise and to continue supporting the next generation of medical researchers, but we can only do this with your support.

**Helix Group members donate £250 or more each year to the Academy.**

Members are recognised on the Helix Group donor board in our Fellows room at 41 Portland Place, invited to the annual Helix Group Reception and listed on the website and in the Annual Review. A Helix Group donation could only cost you £187.50, but be worth £312.50 to the Academy, if you are a higher rate tax payer, thanks to Gift Aid and the tax you could reclaim on your donation of £250.

**There are three ways you can directly support the Academy of Medical Sciences:**



## Join the Helix Group today

You can join us as a new Helix member, review your existing donation arrangements, or find out more about leaving a legacy by:

- Visiting [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate) to join the Helix Group online
- Completing the form on the back of the newsletter and posting to: Yasmin Shand, Fundraising Officer, Academy of Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH or by email to the below address
- Contacting Yasmin Shand, Fundraising Officer at [yasmin.shand@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:yasmin.shand@acmedsci.ac.uk) or call 020 3141 3213

With your support we can ensure independent, high quality medical science advice informs the decisions that affect society, and give more people a say in the future of health and research.

**Thank you**

Visit [www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate](http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/donate) to join the Helix Group today.

**The Academy accepts secure payments and direct debit sign-ups online via our website.**



# Donation form

Name:

Helix group members donate a minimum £250 per year, or £21 per month. I would like to donate:

Amount: £  Monthly  or annually

I am an existing Helix member and I would like to increase my monthly/annual donation to:

Amount: £

Home address:

Start date (please allow at least 2 months from today):

20  Until: Further notice:

or end date:

20

**Gift Aid**  I would like all donations I have made to the Academy in the past 4 years, and any donations I make in the future to be Gift Aided until I notify you otherwise. Gift Aid increases the value of your donation by 25%, a Helix Group donation of £250 will be worth £312.50 to the Academy. If you are a higher rate tax payer you can reclaim £62.50, so your donation would actually cost you £187.50. You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year.

**If you are interested in supporting the Academy further through leaving a gift in your will, please tick here and we will be in touch.**

## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society:

Address (including postcode):

Name(s) of account holder(s):

Bank/building society account number:

Branch sort code:

Service user number:



Reference (for office use only):

## Instructions to your bank or building society

Please pay The Academy of Medical Sciences Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with The Academy of Medical Sciences and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

Signature(s):

Date:

**Thank you for supporting the Academy of Medical Sciences, please return the signed form by scanning and emailing to: [yasmin.shand@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:yasmin.shand@acmedsci.ac.uk) or posting to: Fundraising, The Academy of Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH**

## Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the Academy will notify you (normally 10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the Academy to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the Academy or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the Academy asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify the Academy.