

The President of the Academy Medical Sciences

The role

The President provides leadership and strategic direction to the Academy of Medical Sciences, working with Council to set the vision, objectives and policies of the organisation and providing oversight for the entirety of the Academy's work. The Academy's current 5-year strategic plan is effective until the end of 2021 after which it will be refreshed.

The role is supported by five [Honorary Officers](#) who take responsibility for specific areas of Academy work, as well as 9 elected and up to 5 co-opted [Council members](#), in addition to an experienced and effective [staff secretariat](#), led by the Executive Director. The Academy will ensure that a successful Presidential candidate from anywhere in the UK will be fully supported.

The formal time commitment of the role is an average of one day per week although this can be more as priorities dictate. It includes participation in London-based meetings and events held across the UK through our regional programme and ready accessibility for electronic/telephone consultation with the Academy office, being the public face of the Academy and providing the voice of biomedical and health research in the media. The Academy will offer full executive support for its future President - ensuring we encourage a diverse range of applications from Fellows based across all of the United Kingdom. We will also provide media training and support for all press interviews.

The President chairs meetings of the Academy Council and Honorary Officers. In addition to the five Council meetings per year (in February, April, June, October and December), Honorary Officers meet a further 6 times (in January, March, May, July, September, November). The President is also required to attend New Fellows Admissions Day in late June and the Annual General Meeting in early December each year.

Term of office

The new President will take up his/her position with effect from the AGM on 3 December 2020. The term of office is four years.

Key attributes

The Academy's Regulations governing the election of Honorary Officers of the Academy set out that suitable candidates should demonstrate *'high academic standing and a significant track record of achievement; have the ability to represent the different constituencies within the Academy and the ability to commit sufficient time and energy to the role and will have regard to the Academy's commitment to equality and diversity'*.

In addition to distinction in the medical sciences, the role of President requires:

- Experience of leadership at the highest level.
- Integrity, strategic vision and sound judgement.
- A track record of high-level engagement with Government and stakeholders, and the authority, influence and experience to deliver the Academy's mission.
- A proven commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity that befits a modern and progressive Academy.
- An ability to engage with and influence key UK organisations, experts and policy leaders at the highest level.
- Excellent communications skills and a demonstrable ability to engage, inspire and inform expert and public audiences in person and through the media.
- A collaborative leadership style including commitment to the Academy's values and culture.

Main responsibilities:

- To chair Council and Officers meetings, guiding the strategic direction of the Academy's work, advising on specific projects and activities, and overseeing successful delivery of Academy outputs.
- To build and enhance high-level relationships with key organisations, including Government, UKRI, research funders, universities, medical schools and learned societies, medical research charities, pharma, biotech and other related industry, regulators, NHS groups and agencies, and others.
- To represent the Academy at meetings with key external contacts, and on a selected number of external committees, including the Prime Minister's Council for Science & Technology.
- To engage the Academy Fellows and the broader medical science community, ensuring dialogue with the Academy around prevailing issues, challenges and opportunities.
- To act as a spokesperson for the Academy, and more broadly as the authoritative voice of biomedical and health research, engaging pro-actively and reactively with the media, and speaking to expert, public and patient audiences.
- To oversee the Academy's fundraising activities and our work to secure external income including meeting, developing relationships with, and asking for support from existing and potential donors and funders.
- To liaise with the Executive Director to oversee and support the Academy's operational affairs.

Eligibility and process:

- A nomination form is available on the Academy [website](#).
- The post is open to all Ordinary Fellows of the Academy.
- Nominations may be made by any Academy Fellow for any other Academy Fellow, providing that they have agreed to be nominated.
- The nomination must be signed by three supporting Fellows.
- Candidates are asked to countersign the nomination form to indicate their willingness to be nominated and to include a 300 word statement outlining their background and how they would contribute to the Academy and its future. These statements will be circulated to Council, along with a copy of the candidate's CV.
- A copy of the candidate's CV must be submitted with the nomination form.
- Candidates will be invited to interview with the Search Committee on **18 May 2020**.
- Members of Council will elect the next President from amongst those nominated.

In accordance with the [Academy's Regulations](#), a Search Committee has been convened to oversee the process of identifying the next President. The Committee draws on expertise from current serving Officers and Council members (excluding the current President).

Suggestions and expressions of interest are welcome from any area of the Fellowship and should be sent in confidence, to the Chair of the Search Committee, Professor Paul Stewart FMedSci at p.m.stewart@leeds.ac.uk. Any Fellow who wishes to discuss the role further should contact Professor Stewart at the earliest opportunity.

The deadline for receipt of completed nominations is **30 April 2020**. Council will elect the next President at its meeting in **June 2020** informed by the deliberations and recommendations of the Search Committee.

Professor Paul Stewart FMedSci
Vice-President (Clinical), Academy of Medical Sciences and Search Committee Chair