

From the President
Professor Sir Robert Lechler
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15 July 2020

Dear Fellows,

Call for nominations to Academy Council for 2021

This is your opportunity to help shape decision-making across the Academy by either serving on Council or nominating a colleague to do so.

The Academy Council plays a pivotal role across all our work and a healthy, modern Academy relies upon our governing body to fully represent the breadth of the Fellowship, reflecting our broad mix of basic, clinical and population-based medical sciences, but also the full diversity of our Fellowship as it relates to geographical location, gender and ethnicity.

The composition of Council depends on you – Fellows who either stand for election themselves or who encourage and support other nominations. We can only elect Fellows named on the ballot and it is therefore crucial that we secure a wide selection of nominations as a starting point.

I am therefore writing to ask all Fellows to identify candidates for this year's election to Council and to actively encourage you to submit nominations. When we asked Fellows last year what we could do to support more diverse nominations the number one solution was for Fellows to actively encourage others. Many excellent people have said they would be ready to serve on Council, but need support and encouragement from others to put themselves forward.

It is also clear that people from underrepresented groups are often faced with requests which place significant extra burdens on their time. I urge Fellows to actively support these colleagues by acknowledging the important roles people may take on alongside their research and by helping them find time to participate. I can assure that they will be well-supported by fellow Council members and our excellent staff group.

Council members due to stand down in December after completing their three year term of office are: Professor Dame Jessica Corner FMedSci, Professor Hilary Critchley FRSE FMedSci and Professor Julie Williams CBE FMedSci FLSW.

This year's election process will be overseen and supported by a nominations committee accountable to Council. Further [guidance notes](#) including the current composition of Council, tentative dates for next year's Council meetings and a [nomination form](#) are available on the [Academy website](#).

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Those wishing to informally discuss the role of Council member and how the Academy's Council operates more broadly are encouraged to contact our Executive Director, Simon Denegri (simon.denegri@acmedsci.ac.uk).


Fellows interested in standing for election are asked to complete the nomination form and return it to the Executive Director (c/o Alison Rojo at alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk) by 17:00 on Monday 14 September 2020.

This year's Council election will be held digitally for the first time. In early October all Fellows will receive election materials and voting instructions by email. The ballot will be counted on 10 November and the results of the election will be announced at the AGM in December 2020.

To Fellows considering whether it is worth standing, I hope I can encourage you by emphasising that Council is the Academy's foremost decision-making body. It has significant control and influence over all our work, from policy to career support to grant funding and to public engagement. Its views have a considerable bearing on the status of the Academy across biomedical and health research in the UK and globally.

The Academy looks forward to receiving your nominations.

Yours sincerely,



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