

2020

Annual Fellows' Meeting

3 December 2020

Session one

14.30 Annual General Meeting

14.50 Review of 2020

A series of short talks will highlight key activities this year.

- Professor Sir Robert Lechler, President
- Simon Denegri, Executive Director
- Dr Rachel Quinn, Director of Medical Science Policy and Professor Guy Thwaites FMedSci, Professor of Infectious Diseases & Director of Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), Vietnam.
- Dr Virginia Newcombe, AMS Clinician Scientist Fellow; Consultant in Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, and Royal College of Emergency Medicine Associate Professor.
- Nick Hillier, Director Of Communications and Mandy Rudczenko, Patient and carer reference group co-Chair, AMS winter project
- Professor Paul Stewart FMedSci, Vice President (Clinical)

16.00 Break

Fellows are invited to stay online during the break between sessions. Breakout spaces will allow Fellows to connect informally and move about freely to catch-up with colleagues and friends.

Session two

16:30 Handover to next Academy President

- Sir Patrick Vallance: Reflections on Sir Robert Lechler's Presidency
- Professor Sir Robert Lechler
- Professor Dame Anne Johnson

17.00 The Jean Shanks Lecture

Palliative care for the 21st century

Professor Irene Higginson OBE FMedSci
Professor of Palliative Care and Policy and Director, Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

18:00 End

Agenda for the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Academy of Medical Sciences Incorporated by Royal Charter RC000905

1. President's welcome

2. Minutes

Resolution 1

Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 3 December 2019

3. Honorary Fellows

Resolution 2

Proposal to elect as Honorary Fellows of the Academy

- *Sir Bruce Keogh*
- *Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser*
- *Professor Lucio Luzzatto*

4. Council election 2020

5. Fellowship election report 2019-20

6. Treasurer's report

Resolution 3

Adoption of the [audited accounts for 2019-20](#)

Resolution 4

Appointment of auditors for 2020-21

Resolution 5

Approval of Fellowship subscription rates 2021-22

7. Next Academy President

8. Any other business

9. Review of the Year

Next year's Annual Fellows' Meeting will take place on 7 December 2021.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Held on 3 December 2019

at the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regents Park London NW1 4LE.

Present:

Professor Sir Robert Lechler PMedSci, President

Professor Dame Anne Johnson FMedSci, Vice President (International)

Professor Philippa Saunders FMedSci, Registrar

Professor Paul Stewart FMedSci, Vice President (Clinical)

Professor Michael Malim FRS FMedSci, Vice President (Non-Clinical)

Some 50 Fellows of the Academy

In attendance:

Simon Denegri OBE, Executive Director

Dr Susie Candy, Director of Biomedical Grants and Policy

Mr Nick Hillier, Director of Communications

Dr Rachel Quinn, Director of Medical Science Policy

Mrs Chris Straw, Director of Finance and Resources

Staff of the Academy

1. President's welcome

The President welcomed the Fellowship and guests to the Inaugural AGM of the Academy under Royal Charter status, which was noted as a mark of the Academy's stature. The President noted the recent growth of the Academy, with a doubling of staff numbers in the last four years. It was noted that the Academy is currently in a good position financially, but that looking to the future, it will be an objective to build a £30 million endowment. The President expressed his gratitude to Dennis and Mireille Gilling's for their pledge of £1 million as a starter gift, on the condition that the Academy matches it.

It was noted that the Academy has achieved a remarkable amount in a relatively short space of time, and that Royal Charter status will be an important staging post in the Academy's evolution. The impact of the Academy's policy reports *Multimorbidity: a priority for global health research* and *Our data driven future in healthcare*, were offered special commendation.

The President emphasised the importance of becoming an Academy of the 21st century, not weighed down by the burden of tradition. It was noted that whilst excellence must remain a guiding principle, we should be doing all we can to ensure the Academy becomes more agile, diverse and inclusive.

Progress was acknowledged on the gender diversity front, with newly elected Fellows consistently comprising over one third women, which is encouraging when it's considered that there is a Professoriate of approximately 20% women. The Academy's work supporting female leadership through its SUSTAIN programme was referenced.

The President reported that the Academy's Council is close to 50% women and while all five candidates in this year's Council election were white males, this has been a situation

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

which the Academy prefers not to repeat, thus challenging the Fellowship to help ensure that future nominees put forward for Council should better reflect a diverse and inclusive Academy.

The President expressed a desire for more researchers with industrial backgrounds and non-biomedical scientists to be elected to Council. The work of the Academy's FLIER programme in developing future leaders was noted, and the President emphasised the need for greater cross-sectoral mobility of researchers between academia, the NHS and industry. The President expressed an ambition to bring early career researchers onto Council, further ensuring a 21st century Academy.

It was noted that the Academy is privileged to work in an unprecedented time of medical research and discovery. The UK's terrific assets, including many of the world's top universities and research institutes, a strong biotech sector, smart regulators and single healthcare system were all acknowledged.

The President highlighted current political instability and uncertainty around the kind of government, economy or Brexit the UK will have going forward. It was also noted that the NHS is currently going through such intense pressure that it struggles to be a partner for research. It was considered that in this context, there has never been such an important time for the Academy to exist, and ensure that the assets described can be translated into patient benefit.

The President concluded by highlighting the Academy's working group project around enhancing the NHS-Academia interface. It was noted that while not a new idea, it will be necessary to build on previous work in this area to ensure research is translated into patient benefit. The President referenced a 'vision' document to be published in January 2020 containing recommendations aimed at the NHS, GMC and medical Deans to ensure that the interface works. Fellows were encouraged to look out for this report and to help ensure that it gains traction within the community.

The President ended by thanking Academy staff, and those in attendance.

2. Council election 2019

The President highlighted that five candidates were nominated by the Fellowship, competing for two places in the 2019 Council election. Voting was conducted by the single transferable voting system and the procedure overseen by Professor Elizabeth Simpson OBE FRS FMedSci.

359 votes were cast. There were 4 spoiled papers.

The following Fellows were announced as new members of Council for 2020:

- Professor Michael Hanna FMedSci, University College London
- Professor David Webb FMedSci, University of Edinburgh

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The following retiring Ordinary Council members were warmly thanked for their service:

- Professor Sir Doug Turnbull FRS FMedSci, Newcastle University
- Professor Elizabeth Fisher FMedSci, Imperial College London

3. Fellowship election report

2020 Fellowship election

62 candidates had 'lapsed' after the 2019 election. 299 existing eligible candidates are entering the 2020 election. 116 new nominations had been received by September 2019.

A total of 415 candidates will be reviewed for the 2020 election. 50 new Fellows will be elected in April 2020.

The 2019/2020 Sectional Committee chairs were announced by the President, and thanked for their hard work. These are available on the [Academy website](#). The timetable for 2020 was announced, and the admission day of 25 June 2020 was highlighted to the Fellows in attendance.

4. Election of Honorary Fellows

The President proposed that the following individuals be elected as Honorary Fellows and admitted into the Academy at a future AGM:

- Professor Garret FitzGerald
- Dr Margaret (Peggy) Hamburg
- Lord Kakkar

Resolution 1:

It was agreed that Honorary Fellowships of the Academy would be offered to these individuals.

It was highlighted that the following Honorary Fellows, elected at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, were to be formally admitted to the Academy during the evening proceedings:

- Professor Dame Anne Glover
- Lord Drayson

5. Treasurer's report

Resolution 2:

The re-appointment of auditors PKF Littlejohn for 2018/19 was approved.

Resolution 3:

The Treasurer's recommendation that Fellows' subscription rates for 2020/21 should rise by 2% was approved.

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6. Executive Director's Forward View

The Academy's Executive Director, Simon Denegri OBE, welcomed the Academy's President, Council Members, Fellows, and guests. He expressed his delight in speaking as the Academy's new Executive Director and to have the opportunity to spend a few moments looking ahead at how the Academy will build on the prestigious milestone of Royal Charter status. He paid tribute to his predecessor, Helen Munn, and mentioned how in his previous roles at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), Helen had been a valued colleague and friend.

Rachel Quinn, the leadership team and all other Academy staff were thanked, and described as expert, approachable and highly effective and it was noted that thanks to them - supported by the President, Officers and Council - the Academy has been able to deliver another impressive portfolio of programmes, grants, events and activities during the year.

The Executive Director explained that one of his principal reasons for wishing to join the Academy was the chance to lead an organisation so focused on people; in particular on supporting the next generation of world-leading medical scientists – inspiring scientists doing inspiring science - through the Academy's funding and the support and development opportunities at critical points in their careers. He noted that by making a difference to their careers, the Academy also makes a difference to the lives of patients, carers, the public and wider society, now and in the future.

The Executive Director referenced Dr Helena Lee, a children's eye doctor and scientist working in Southampton - who has benefited from Academy support, being both a grant awardee and having taken part in the Academy's innovative career development program for women - SUSTAIN. She has also taken part in the Academy's mentoring and media training schemes and was selected as a speaker in the Academy's first ever Ted-style event, AMS Live. It was noted that her experiences show how Academy support can make a real difference to early career researchers.

The Executive Director reflected on how he had gained a true sense of the difference the Academy is making to scientists' careers in November when he joined over 80 of the Academy's Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowship awardees in Cyprus for their second alumni conference. This was the Academy's first international grant scheme and continues to be a pioneering one, promoting scientific interchange and international understanding between the UK, Israel and the Middle East.

Looking ahead to the early part of 2020, it was noted that much staff time would be dedicated to understanding the new political landscape; the importance of working with the other Academies and our partners to ensure the new Government and Parliament develops policies that reflect the interests and priorities of medical science.

It was highlighted that the Academy would be publishing the report on NHS and Academia early in the New Year and begin working on chronobiology and holding FORUM events on healthy ageing, multi-morbidity, chronic pain and public involvement in

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

research. The Executive Director also noted that Council had approved a future programme of Global Challenges Research Fund workshops. These will be themed around the topic of 'Achieving Universal Health Coverage' with events in Argentina, Nigeria and Egypt as well as additional workshops in Thailand on Antimicrobial Resistance, in Peru on Nutritional Health in Peru and in Ethiopia on Maternal and Newborn Health. Also referenced was November's Academy and The Lancet International Lecture by Peru's former Health Minister, Professor Patty Garcia on Corruption in Global Health, which attracted a record attendance and included a live link with colleagues in Peru.

The Executive Director talked about the success of the Academy's current grant schemes and programmes, which are much in demand. He noted that over the next year the Academy will be providing a further round of SUSTAIN, as well as continuing to deliver our other career support programmes such as Future Leaders in Innovation, Enterprise and Research (FLIER) which has got off to a flying start with a second cohort beginning in the New Year. Also referenced was the success of the INSPIRE programme of small grants to support activities to inform and excite undergraduate medical, dental and veterinary students about the opportunities and potential of a career in research, and the Academy's new AMS Professorships scheme and Springboard awards. Fellows were also welcomed to join the Academy's next scientific meeting, the Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC), in Bristol on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

The Executive Director expressed his desire to strengthen the Academy's existing relationships with major funders as well as to explore new avenues for funding. This will mean growing existing schemes to meet increasing demand against the backdrop of an ever more challenging funding environment and also taking forward new ideas such as plans for a Transdisciplinary Fellowship scheme in the Health of the Public and work that will emerge from our recent Task Force on mobility which will report shortly.

The importance of strengthening the Academy's lively and open organisational culture so that it can continue to recruit and retain talented and committed people throughout the organisation was also noted.

The Executive Director welcomed Fellows' thoughts on how to develop the Academy in the future, given that the coming year will also be when we begin to think about our strategic plan for 2021-2026. He expressed his excitement about the innovations that might emerge, but also the opportunity it will provide to focus on issues fundamental to our future growth and sustainability. Building upon the President's comments, he outlined ambitions to examine how the Academy can strengthen its work in the regions, and with the devolved administrations, as well as diversify the partners with whom we work. It was noted that our approaches needed to be reflective of the many ways in which biomedical and health research is changing.

The importance of the Academy's talented and successful communications and engagement team - who have made great strides towards raising the Academy's profile not just with our immediate partners and colleagues, but more widely too, in the last year, with The Departure Lounge - was also highlighted and the Executive Director also noted that it will be important in the Academy's communications and engagement

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

activities, not just to highlight what the Academy stands for – excellence, independence, and voice – but also to demonstrate how, as a charity, the Academy serves the public interest, bringing science to citizens and citizens into science.

The Executive Director concluded by thanking those in attendance for listening, and with the comment that he looks forward to working with Academy staff and Fellows.

7. Any other business

There were no further items of business.

The President closed the meeting and thanked Government, Wellcome and UKRI for their continued funding, and members of the [Academy's Helix group](#) and the [Academy's FORUM](#) for their support during the year.

The President invited new members to join the Helix group, who comprise roughly 10% of the current fellowship.

The Academy's Fellowship and staff were also thanked for their efforts.

Date of next meeting:

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 3 December 2020.

Biographical information for proposed Honorary Fellows

Sir Bruce Keogh

Sir Bruce Keogh is current Chair of the Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust. Prior to this he was Medical Director of the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England) between 2013-2018, following a previous appointment within the NHS from 2007. As Medical Director of the NHS he was a Director General in the Department of Health where he led the Medical Directorate with oversight of clinical policy and strategy in the NHS. He was responsible for the quality framework, clinical policy and strategy and postgraduate education of doctors, dentists and pharmacists and postgraduate training of clinical scientists and also for the medicines supply chain in the UK, including policy around the pharmaceutical industry, drug pricing, prescriptions and the role of pharmacy. He oversaw the work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). He was also responsible for establishing the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) a joint venture between the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Royal College of Nursing to develop and run the national clinical audits.

Before his NHS roles, Keogh had a distinguished career in cardiac surgery. He trained in general surgery at Charing Cross Medical School and Sheffield University before undertaking specialised training in cardiac, pulmonary and oesophageal surgery at St Georges and Harefield – eventually progressing to senior roles at the Hammersmith Hospital and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. He is noted for his work promoting the measurement, analysis and public disclosure of clinical outcomes and was responsible for establishing the National Adult Cardiac Surgical Database, bringing the national registries on adult and paediatric cardiac surgery, myocardial infarction, coronary angioplasty and pacemakers into a new National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles on coronary artery vasomotor tone, the effect of cardiopulmonary bypass on gut blood flow and function, myocardial protection during surgery, surgery for patients with poor ventricular function and the effects of social deprivation on cardiac surgical outcomes. His work has helped transform surgery for heart failure worldwide: he performed the first successful transabdominal, off pump gastroepiploic artery bypass graft to the heart in the UK and was among the first to adopt minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass surgery; thoracoscopic mitral valve surgery and warm blood cardioplegia for myocardial protection.

Keogh is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the American College of Surgeons and the British Society of Interventional Radiology. He is an elected member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology. He has also served on the Civil Aviation Authority Medical Advisory Panel and the advisory board for the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Outcome and Deaths. He is a former President of the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland; former Secretary General of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery and former President of the Cardiothoracic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. He has also served on the boards of the Picker Institute; the Commission for Health Improvement and the Healthcare Commission. Keogh has contributed to the editorial boards of *Heart* and the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* and has served on Council for the British Heart Foundation, where he also served on the Foundation's Research Grants Committee. He has also been a visiting professor at universities in Japan, China and North America.

Sir Bruce Keogh was knighted for services to medicine in 2003.

Biographical information for proposed Honorary Fellows

Dame Ottoline Leyser

Currently Chief Executive UKRI, Dame Ottoline Leyser was formerly Professor of Plant Development and Director of the Sainsbury Laboratory at Cambridge. She received her PhD (1990) in Genetics from the University of Cambridge and after post-doctoral research at Indiana University and Cambridge, she took up a lectureship at the University of York, where she worked from 1994-2010. Among her honours are the Society of Experimental Biology's President's Medal (2000); the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award (2007); the International Plant Growth Substance Association's Silver Medal (2010); the UK Genetics Society Medal (2016); the EMBO Women in Science Award (2017) and the British Society for Developmental Biology's Waddington Medal (2020).

Ottoline Leyser is a Fellow of the Royal Society, an International Member of the US National Academy of Sciences and a Member of both the European Molecular Biology Organisation and the Leopoldina. She is also a Fellow of Clare College and a member of the British Society for Developmental Biology, the Genetics Society and the Royal Society of Biology. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Crick Institute and currently chairs the Royal Society's Science Policy Expert Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Council for Science and Technology and serves on the Science and Technology Honours Committee. She is also an active contributor to the editorial advisory boards of various academic journals

Ottoline Leyser was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the 2017 New Year Honours list, for services to plant science; science in society and equality and diversity in science.

Professor Lucio Luzzatto

Professor Luzzatto is an eminent Professor of Haematology, currently affiliated to Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar-es-Salaam. He qualified in medicine from the University of Genova and trained in haematology in Pavia, and at Columbia University, New York. From 1974-1981 he directed the International Institute of Genetics and Biophysics, CNR, Italy before his appointment as Professor of Haematology and Director of the Haematology Department at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith. Between 1981-1993 he was also Honorary Director of the MRC/LRF Leukemia Department of Human Genetics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics, Cornell University Medical College and New National Institute for Cancer Research, Genova, Italy.

His research has centred on the understanding of human disease at the molecular level and he has combined scientific work and clinical work throughout his career. His research has concentrated on the genetic basis of blood disorders resulting in main contributions on molecular genetics, where he collaborated in work on glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) - the first human enzyme to be molecularly cloned in 1986 - and on the genetics of haemoglobinopathies and inherited susceptibility to malaria, where his group helped elucidate the mechanism whereby genes expressed in red cells confer relative resistance against lethality of *Plasmodium falciparum*. In 2000 his work with Sadelain enabled the correction of thalassaemia by gene therapy in a pre-clinical mouse model. A further area of focus has been the pathogenesis, molecular basis and clinical aspects of paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) with Professor Luzzatto and his collaborators evidencing this to be a clonal disorder and subsequently his group identified the underlying biochemical abnormality and contributed to modelling to explain the expansion of PNH clones.

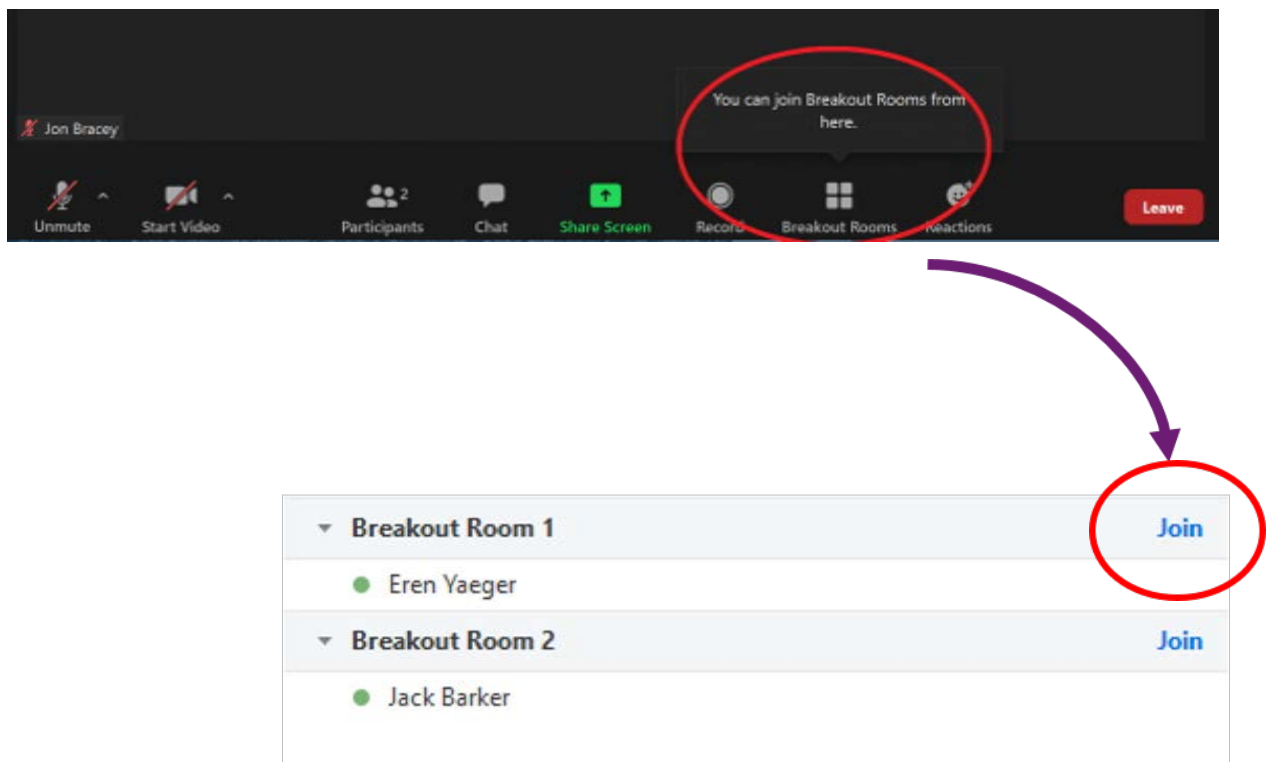
Professor Luzzatto's work has been recognised through several awards, including the William Dameshek Medal (1975), the Pius XI Medal (1976) and Jose Carreras Medal (2002). In 2004 he

Biographical information for proposed Honorary Fellows

was elected a Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds an honorary degree in Pharmacy from the University of Urbino and an honorary DSc from the University of Ibadan. He is an honorary member of the American Society of Haematology, and was Founding President of the Nigerian Society for Haematology; former President of the Italian Association of Genetics and a former Chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Society for Gene Therapy. A member of EMBO since 1979 and of the Human Genome Organisation since 1990, he has authored over 300 publications in learned journals and several chapters in major textbooks.

Accessing breakout spaces during the mid-afternoon interval

1. Join a breakout room of your choice using the 'Breakout Rooms' button in your menu bar
2. Clicking on the 'Breakout Rooms' button will bring up a window where you can view who is in each room
3. Click 'Join' to pick which room you would like to join
4. To change room, click 'Breakout Rooms' again and select 'Join' to switch between rooms



The 2020 Jean Shanks Lecture

History of the Jean Shanks Lecture

Dr Jean Shanks was for many years the director of one of the UK's most successful independent pathology laboratories. She established the Jean Shanks Foundation, which has been a generous benefactor to medical science. Dr Shanks died in 2000 and her trustees endowed an annual lecture at the Academy in her memory. Awardees are chosen on the basis of their outstanding contributions to medical science.

Previous Jean Shanks Lecture speakers have included:

2019: Professor Sarah Tabrizi FMedSci and Professor Gillian Bates FRS FMedSci

2018: Professor Janet Rossant FRS

2017: Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier

2016: Professor Uta Frith Hon DBE FRS FBA FMedSci

2015: Professor Jeffery Errington FRS FMedSci

A full list of previous lecture speakers can be viewed on the Academy website at:
<https://acmedsci.ac.uk/about/objectives/promoting-excellence/shanks>.

Palliative care for the 21st century

Professor Irene Higginson OBE FMedSci



Professor Irene Higginson (OBE) is Director of the Cicely Saunders Institute, at King's College London, the world's first purpose-built Institute of palliative care, integrating research, education, clinical services and support and information. She is an NIHR Senior Investigator and was in 2013 awarded Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences, for her contribution to the field. She has several active research programmes setup and now contributes to the MSc, Diploma and Certificate in Palliative Care, supervises several hD students and is active in teaching.

The 2020 Jean Shanks Lecture

Professor Higginson is also Vice Dean for Research in the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care, King's College London, and Scientific Director for the charity Cicely Saunders International. She is well known for extending palliative care beyond cancer, and for her work in breathlessness and home care. She is dedicated to ensuring research influences and improves care and practice. She has published over 700 articles in peer-reviewed journals plus several books; her research interests and publications are in the following areas: quality of life and outcome measurements, evaluation of palliative care especially of new services and interventions, epidemiology, clinical audit, effectiveness, psychosocial care, symptom assessment, breathlessness, cachexia/anorexia, and elderly care. She plays an active role in the clinical service, including on-call, and is Assistant Medical Director at King's College Hospital.

Abstract

I am honoured to give this lecture, dedicated to Jean Shanks, born three years before Cicely Saunders, the founder of modern hospices. I will consider key facets relevant to palliative care for the 21st century, including: the changing patterns of need, illnesses and symptoms, the challenges of living with and caring in uncertainly, the role of technologies, as well as recent and likely future discoveries and advances in palliative care that could improve the lives of those affected by serious and/or progressive illnesses.

Incredible progress in public health and medical interventions during the 20th century have led to major advances in health and life expectancy. However, these will likely pale in comparison to what will happen in the 21st century. Across the globe, people are living longer. Many additional years of life are spent in good health. Nonetheless, multimorbidity is on the rise internationally; it is now the norm in most high income countries with more 50 million people affected in the European Union alone. Chronic and progressive illnesses exist alongside each other; the boundaries between curative, life extending, life enhancing, rehabilitation and palliative treatments are increasingly blurred.

In parallel, the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of palliative care has evolved such that incurable illness is no longer the primary component. Palliative care is now described as applying to "life-threatening (or sometimes serious) illness", and "applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life". This definition aims to include people at a stage in their illness when cure may be unlikely, but not impossible. In 2015, Dr Pippa Hawley in Canada coined the concept of the "Bow Tie Model" of modern palliative care for the 21st Century. There is no evidence that this modern palliative care shortens life; it evidently adds quality to the remaining life at no additional health or societal costs and may add months to some lives.

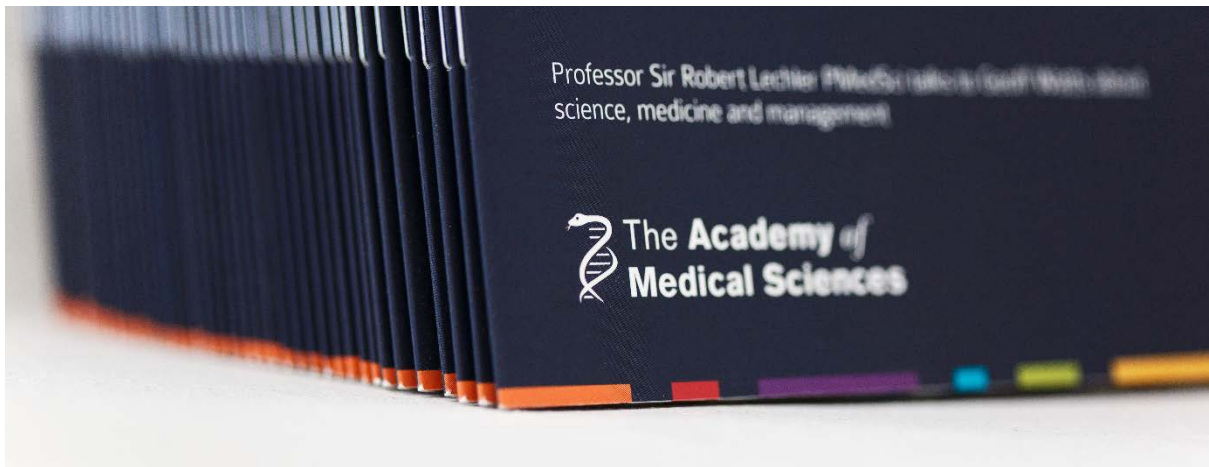
In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, health, social and palliative care have shifted again. New symptoms, new needs, new technologies, treatments and patterns of living and dying are emerging. Suddenly, clinicians in many settings, and many societies, were

The 2020 Jean Shanks Lecture

confronted with serious illness and dying that had not been seen in their lifetime. Innovations and changes in care and services, and in research and education need now to be viewed through an evaluative lens. What can we learn, what should we keep, what should we let go of? The coronavirus pandemic has shone a light on inequities in care, including in palliative care. How can we respond?

Many of the critical future issues for health services and innovation are brought into sharper focus in the field of palliative care, which is accustomed to grapple with complex multiple needs and complex interventions. The science of palliative care puts the person, and those important to them, before their diseases; the interactive chemistry of multimorbidity is expected. By advancing palliative care measurement, evaluation and research we could also overcome some challenging aspects of health and scientific research faced today and in our tomorrows.

Join the Helix Group and protect the Academy's future



In 2020, The Academy has relied on support from the Helix Group more than ever, after facing our most financially challenging year to date. We have faced a shortfall in income, at a time when our unique position has led to a fourfold increase in media enquiries for our expertise, unprecedented demand for our expert-led policy advice and a desperate need to support early career researchers both in the clinic and laboratory.

As I step down as President of The Academy of Medical Sciences, it is necessary to ask you one final time, as a Fellow, **to join me and pledge your support to the Helix Group**. The Helix Group includes the Academy's most esteemed individual supporters who donate £250 or more each year to the Academy, providing valuable unrestricted funding. Helix Group members are publically recognised on a commemorative board in our Fellow's room, on our website and in our annual report. Members receive an annual update on Academy programmes and an invitation to the prestigious annual Helix Reception.

It is often forgotten that the Academy is a charity that relies on philanthropic support. Without such support the Academy's resilience and flexibility is severely hampered and we cannot respond rapidly to changing landscapes. Covid-19 has shown the dramatic effects that a health crisis can have on society and we must act now to ensure our sustainability through the crisis and beyond.

Please visit the Academy's [Charities Aid Foundation webpage](#) where **you can make a donation towards our work today**. Alternatively to amend your existing donation or discuss how you can further help, please contact Rosie who would be pleased to speak with you: Rosanna.Tabor@acmedsci.ac.uk.

Every gift, however large or small, will make a difference to the Academy during this challenging time.

With thanks,

Robert Lechler

We gratefully acknowledge our existing Helix donors

Our Helix Group brings together donors who give £250 or more each year to support us to deliver independent policy advice and provide crucial support for early career researchers.

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Sheila Bird	Sir Stephen Holgate	Philippa Saunders
Jenefer Blackwell	Peter Hutchinson	Jonathan Shepherd
Sir Tom Blundell	Eileen Ingham	Elizabeth Simpson
Sir Walter Bodmer	Sir Miles Irving	Jonathan Slack
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Philip Cowen	Melanie Lee	Frank Walsh
Hilary Critchley	Tak Lee	Jadwiga Wedzicha
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Dame Anna Dominiczak	Alan McGregor	Elspeth Whitby
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Charles Easmon	Helen Munn	Moira Whyte
Sir Christopher Edwards	Gillian Murphy	Andrew Wilkie
David Edwards	James Naismith	John Williams
Tim Eisen	David Neal	Roger L. Williams
Christopher Exeter	Jane Norman	Lord Robert Winston
Dame Lesley Fallowfield	Sir Stephen O'Rahilly	Roland Wolf
Sir Jeremy Farrar	Michael Orme	Sir Kent Woods
Sir Marc Feldmann	John Owen	Tadataka Yamada
Pierre Foëx	Peter Parham	



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