

**From the President**  
**Professor Dame Anne Johnson**  
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020 3141 3200

15 July 2022

Dear Fellows

I am writing to ask you to consider candidates for this year's ballot for Academy Council and to encourage you to submit nominations. Council roles are open to all Academy Fellows - including those most recently elected.

There are two vacancies to be filled through this year's election. Council Members completing their terms of office at the AGM in December are Professor Michael Hanna FMedSci and Professor David Webb CBE FRSE FMedSci. Our thanks to them for their service to the Academy over the last three years.

### **The role of Council**

Council is the Academy's foremost decision-making body with significant influence over all our work, from policy to career support, grant funding and our public involvement. Its views have a considerable bearing on the status of the Academy across biomedical and health research in the UK and globally. Never has its counsel been more important than now, as we begin to implement our 10-year Vision and Strategy 'Making medical science work for everyone.' Council members – our trustees – also fulfil an important role in ensuring the Academy fulfils its legal responsibilities as a charity.

### **A multi-disciplinary Council**

It is vital that Council represents our diverse Fellowship including voices and expertise from all corners of the UK and balance in terms of gender and ethnicity as befits a modern Academy. We must also ensure that it reflects the Fellowship's broad constituency of clinical and non-clinical medical and health sciences that we serve. Council currently has a significant majority of clinical members, and I would therefore like to especially encourage non-clinical Fellows from all disciplines to step forwards and consider standing for this year's election.

Our experience is that the most effective way for us to secure a diverse ballot slate is for Fellows to encourage colleagues to stand for election. We know that many excellent people would be well-placed and ready to serve on Council but need support and encouragement from others. Fellows interested in the role should not, however, wait to be approached by others - self-nomination to stand in the Council election is perfectly acceptable provided that it is supported by the requisite three signatures from other Fellows.

This is your opportunity to help shape decision-making across the Academy so please give some thought to standing for Council yourself or nominating a colleague to do so. If you wish to informally discuss the role of Council members, or how the Academy's Council operates more broadly, please do contact me or our Executive Director, Simon Denegri ([simon.denegri@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:simon.denegri@acmedsci.ac.uk)).

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### **Council election process**

Our Council election is now held digitally. In early October all Fellows will be emailed election materials and voting instructions by our election provider. Voting online will open on 4 October. Votes will be counted on 9 November and the results of the election will be announced at the AGM on 6 December 2022.

The election is overseen and supported by the Academy's [Nominations Committee](#). Further [guidance notes](#) including the current composition of Council, tentative dates for next year's Council meetings and the [nomination form](#) are provided on the [Academy website](#).

Fellows interested in standing in this year's 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](mailto:alison.rojo@acmedsci.ac.uk)) **by 17:00 on Friday 9 September 2022**.

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Rojo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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