

Nominations for Academy of Medical Sciences Council election 2024

About Council

Council plays a fundamental role in the governance and decision-making of the Academy, overseeing our strategic plan and guiding the organisation on how it should respond to key issues and events.

The fact that the majority of Council members are elected by our current Fellows gives Council the mandate to speak on behalf of the Fellowship and the Academy is therefore keen to ensure that Council reflects the full breadth and diversity of its Fellowship. We strive to ensure that no individual or group is treated more or less favourably than others on the grounds of ethnicity, age, disability, sex, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Our definition of diversity expands beyond protected characteristics to include geography, research subject and sector, clinical and non-clinical specialties, career stage, and socio-economic background.

Further points to note about Council include:

- Council are the Trustees of the Academy as a registered charity
- Council is collectively responsible for the management of the Academy in accordance with charity legislation.
- Council directs the policy of the Academy and manages all matters concerning Academy business, delegating the management of such business to the Officers, employees or external advisers, as it sees fit.
- Council members serve the Academy in a personal capacity and not as representatives of their affiliated institutions.
- In order to promote transparency, it is Academy policy to collect, maintain and publish a Register of Interests for its Trustees. Council members are required to complete an annual Declaration of Interests form and update this as necessary during their term of office.
- The Academy records diversity data for all its main decision-making committees and is committed to publishing this openly each year on our website. A current breakdown of diversity data for Council is provided below.
- Council meets 5 times a year.
- As part of the Academy's current governance review project, formal Terms of Reference for main governance bodies (including the Academy Council) are in development.
- For further information about any aspect of the Council's role and functions, Fellows are invited to contact Simon Denegri the Executive Director (simon.denegri@acmedsci.ac.uk).

The 2024 election

Eligibility and nomination requirements

- All Ordinary Fellows of the Academy are eligible to stand for election to the Academy's Council provided that - should they have previously served on Council - at least one calendar year must have passed since they ceased to hold office.
- Nominations for Council must be supported by **three Fellows** and accompanied by a personal statement from the candidate in support of the nomination. Guidance on completing the candidate statement is provided below.
- Electronic signatures are acceptable.

- Currently serving Academy Honorary Officers and the Ordinary members of Council being replaced through the current election **are not eligible to support nominations**.
- Self-nomination is accepted provided that the nomination is supported by the requisite three supporting signatures.
- Nominees must be aware of their nomination, have been approached by nominators and must have expressed a willingness and ability to serve on Council if elected. They must be aware that, if elected, they will take on the responsibilities of Trustees of the Academy under charity legislation.

Vacancies for 2024 and candidate criteria

- Four new Council Members will be appointed via this year's election.
- **With Council's approval, this year one vacancy is reserved for a non-clinical candidate¹**
- Candidates are required to self-identify (via a tickbox on the nomination form) whether they are eligible for this reserved vacancy.
- Voting materials will include photos and the candidate statements submitted on nomination forms - and will be circulated to the Fellowship in early October.
- **The closing date for receipt of nominations is 17.00 on Monday 9 September 2024.**

Period of service on Council and induction

- Ordinary Council Members serve for a period of three years.
- Incoming Council members will be provided with an induction session following the February 2025 Council meeting (dates provided below).

The 2024 election timetable

- Candidate nominations must be received by **17.00 on Monday 9 September**.
- The election will take place online through a ballot platform administered by Civica Election Services. Fellows will receive their voting instructions by email.
- Voting will open on **Wednesday 2 October 2024**.
- The deadline for voting will be **17:00 on Thursday 7 November 2024**.
- The single transferable voting system will be used to determine the outcome of the election and the ballot will be counted on **Friday 8 November 2024**.
- The results of the election will be announced at the AGM on **3 December 2024**.

Guidance on what to include in the candidate statement

Candidates are requested to use this statement to emphasise how they might contribute to the Academy if elected and to outline any experience or expertise which might be of particular relevance to the role, providing evidence or examples as appropriate.

¹ Colleagues working in discovery and lab-based disciplines, as well as areas such as data science, mathematical sciences, nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions, pharma, biotech, medical engineering, diagnostics, or other related disciplines. *Please note that this is not a fully comprehensive list but provided for illustration only.*

Background information about the Academy Council

Meeting dates for 2025

Thursday 13 February 2025
Thursday 10 April 2025
Thursday 19 June 2025
Thursday 16 October 2025
Wednesday 3 December 2025

Meetings start at 10.30am unless otherwise notified and last approximately 3 hours.

Meetings from 2025 onwards will take place mainly on an 'in-person' basis at the Academy offices in Portland Place - with one meeting a year to be held at a regional location.

Current Council membership

Academy Officers and Ordinary members of Council retiring at the Annual Fellows' Meeting in December 2024 are shown in bold.

Honorary Officers

- Professor Andrew Morris CBE FRSE PMedSci (President)
- Professor Tom Solomon CBE FMedSci (Vice-President, International)
- Professor James Naismith FRS FRSE FMedSci (Vice President, Non-Clinical)
- Professor David Adams FMedSci (Registrar)
- Professor Rosalind Smyth CBE FMedSci (Vice-President, Clinical)
- Professor Mike Hanna FMedSci (Treasurer)

Ordinary Members

- **Professor Wiebke Arlt FMedSci**
- Professor David Burn FMedSci
- **Professor Safaf Farooqi FMedSci**
- Professor Kathryn Maitland OBE FMedSci
- Professor Helen McShane FMedSci
- **Professor Sir Andrew Pollard FMedSci**
- Professor Jugnoo Rahi FMedSci
- Professor Ijeoma Uchegbu FMedSci
- **Professor Paula Williamson FMedSci**

Co-opted Members

- Professor Franklin Aigbirhio FMedSci
- Dr Felicity Gabbay FMedSci

Emerging Research Leader members

- Dr Eneko Larrañeta
- Dr Maria Secrier

Patient Observers

- Lynne Laidlaw
- Nanik Pursani

Diversity

There are currently 21 members of Council, of which a maximum of 17 will remain for 2025.

Gender:

- Currently: 9 men, 11 women, 1 prefer not to say,
- Of which remaining in role for 2025: 8 men, 8 women, 1 prefer not to say

Ethnicity:

- Currently: 12 White/European, 2 Asian, 2 African, 4 not known, 1 prefer not to say
- Of which remaining in role for 2025: 10 White/European, 2 Asian, 2 African, 2 not known, 1 prefer not to say

Disability:

- Currently: 16 with no disability declared, 5 with disability
- Of which remaining in role for 2025: 13 with no disability declared, 4 with disability

Clinical/non-clinical (Fellows only):

- Currently: 12 clinical, 5 non-clinical,
- Of which remaining in role for 2025: 9 clinical, 4 non-clinical

Regional representation:

