



Championing biomedical and health research for everyone

Your support in action

Working at the heart of biomedical research and healthcare, our vision is *'Good health for all supported by the best research and evidence'*, and our mission is to help create an open and progressive research sector to improve the health of people everywhere.

Impact report 2024-2025

A message from our President

The past year has been transformative for the Academy. Our achievements, highlighted in this report, underscore our significant influence on the new government's commitment to R&D, our national and international leadership in championing child health, and our unwavering support for cross-sector collaboration to enhance health outcomes.

We have amplified the voices of those with lived experiences to enrich healthcare through diverse patient and public engagement and have bolstered exceptional biomedical and health researchers with over £19 million in funding.

We have adeptly navigated shifting economic, social and geopolitical landscapes amidst a period of profound change within the UK and globally. These challenges have spurred us to think innovatively, act decisively and stay firmly anchored in our core values.

This impact report not only highlights our progress but also sets the stage for an ambitious and forward-looking journey ahead.

During the year, I have spoken to many of our Fellows, supporters and stakeholders, and these conversations have helped to highlight critical areas for us to focus on, including your impact on:

- strengthening policy, ensuring action
- building connections to improve healthcare
- strengthening research
- working globally.

Your support is vital to our work, and it was an honour to welcome our Royal Fellow, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, to our 2025 Helix Reception. The event highlighted a decade of support from Helix donors, with 43 supporters surpassing 10



years of regular giving, many of whom are Fellows. These unrestricted, regular contributions are crucial, enabling us to remain independent and responsive to the sector's changing needs.

Looking ahead, we are committed to establishing an endowment to secure the Academy's future and uphold our role as the independent, expert voice of biomedical and health research.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Morris".

Professor Andrew Morris CBE FRSE PMedSci
President, Academy of Medical Sciences



Cover image

Participants from our SUSTAIN programme for women in research.

Thank you for supporting medical science and the people who make it happen



It is thanks to the generosity of all our donors and funding partners that we can champion biomedical and health research to improve lives. Whilst support from government underpins much of our work, it is the donations from individuals, including our Fellows, companies, trusts and foundations, that ensure our independence and unique role in the medical and health research landscape.

We are especially grateful for the contributions from some of our long-standing and committed donors and supporters: the Dollery family, The Foulkes Foundation, the Dennis and Mireille Gillings Foundation, The Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation, The Jean Shanks Foundation, The Lancet, The Wolfson Foundation, The Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation, The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, The Haskel Family Foundation and donors to the Daniel Turnberg Memorial Fund, our Fellows, Helix donors and members of our FORUM.

This year, we received our largest legacy gift of nearly £45,000. We are deeply honoured when individuals choose to include the Academy in their will, and these generous gifts help ensure that our work in advancing medical science continues to benefit future generations. Thank you to everyone who has chosen to leave a legacy gift and make a lasting difference.

To expand our impact on health, we partner with other organisations to achieve our mission faster. Our thanks to our funding partners, the Department for Science,

Innovation and Technology (DSIT), the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the National Institute for Health and Care Research, and Wellcome.

We would also like to thank those who have joined our consortia to fund our grant schemes and career development programmes, including: the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the British Heart Foundation; Diabetes UK; The Health Foundation; Kidney Research UK; the Medical Research Council; the Medical Research Foundation; Prostate Cancer UK; the Royal Academy of Engineering; the Royal Society; Versus Arthritis; and the Vivensa Foundation.

As an independent charity we are grateful that your generosity allows us to invest in the next generation of research leaders and deliver leading policy advice. Together, we can change the future of healthcare with science.

“

I donate to Helix because I believe in the importance of the Academy's work in supporting and encouraging the considerable talent of young people who are ambitious in their aims for advancement of medicine and medical sciences.

Professor Angela Vincent FRS FMedSci

Impacts at a glance

This year, your support has helped shape the future of healthcare by driving policy change, advancing research and empowering researchers.

**£19
million**



in innovative funding
for researchers

£12.70 further
funding secured
for each **£1**
awarded in
Starter Grants
for Clinical
Lecturers¹



45



Starter Grants for
Clinical lecturers to
boost research careers

62



Springboard awards for
biomedical and health
researchers

19



future leaders
supported through
FLIER Cohort 3

04



Academy Professorships
enabling researchers to
establish careers in UK

47



women in research
empowered through
SUSTAIN

55



Networking grants
to forge international
collaborations

12



Cross-Sector Experience
Awards to breakdown
barriers to collaboration

161



new mentor pairings
driving career progress

Topics covered
by regional
networking
events this
year include:



Cancer innovation
and early diagnosis
in Wales



Cardiometabolic
research in
Northern Ireland

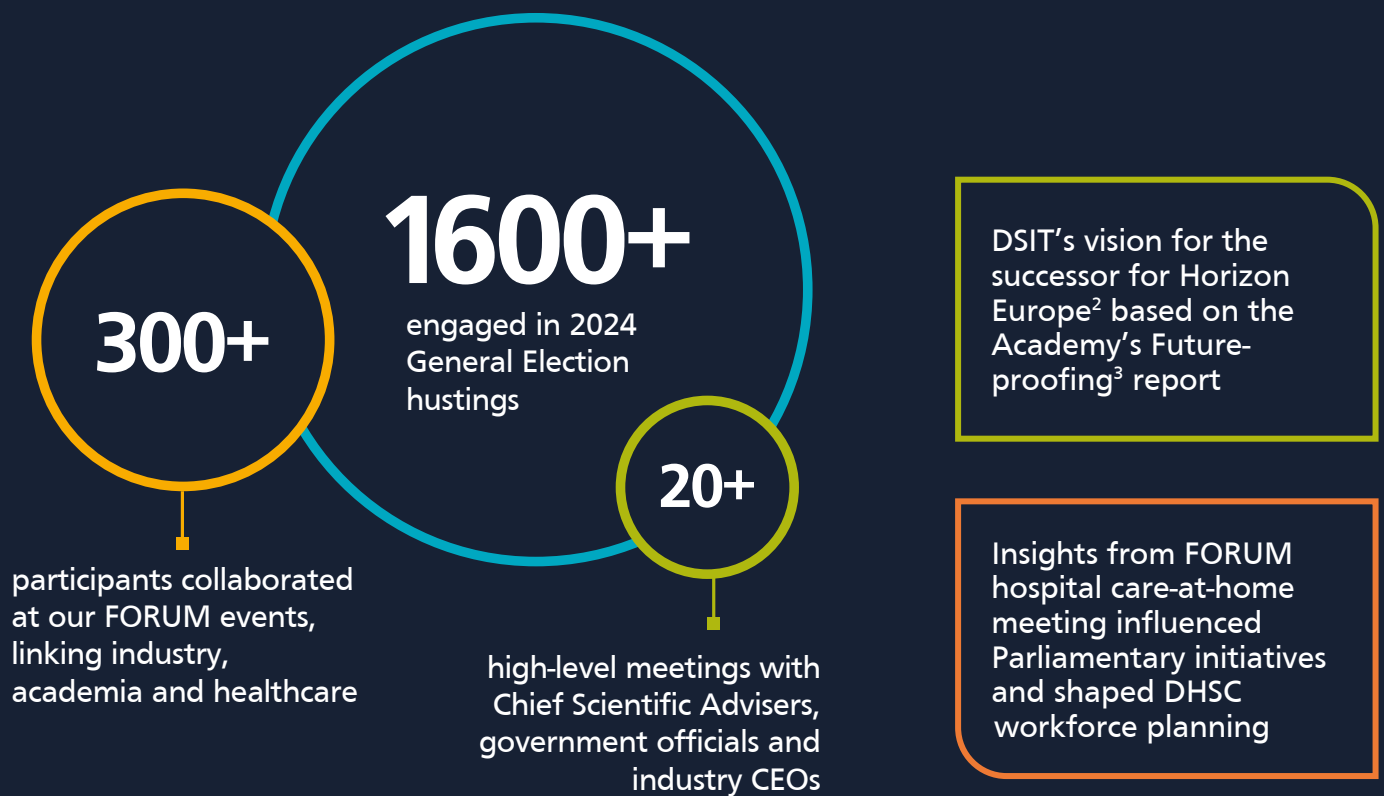


Life sciences industry
engagement in
Scotland

¹ Evaluation of the Academy of Medical Sciences Starter Grant for Clinical Lecturers (2016-2023) by Powellite Impact

² EU's key funding programme for research and innovation

³ Future-proofing UK Health Research: a people-centred, coordinated approach



Our international policy work focused on key challenges:



Child health



Diagnostics and therapeutics



Genomic testing



Climate change



Clinical research pathways



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

60

patient and public contributors engaged in 24 Academy initiatives



976

participants from 80+ countries viewed the International Health Lecture on 'Climate crisis, cities, and health' by Professor Mark J Nieuwenhuijsen



550+

researchers attended overseas workshops



Your impact on strengthening policy, ensuring action

Embedding prevention in policy

Our evidence-based approach continues to influence national and international policy agendas. With your support, we have mobilised expert voices from our Fellowship and wider networks to shape policy on critical health issues including child health, social care, AI, climate change, MedTech, and clinical research.

Our 2024 report, **‘Prioritising early childhood to promote the nation’s health, wellbeing and prosperity’**, revealed that the UK ranks below 60% of comparable nations in under-five health outcomes, with rising rates of infant mortality, obesity and tooth decay, costing at least £16 billion annually.



1/4

of children aged 5 are overweight or obese



Rise

in infant mortality between 2014 and 2017



1/4

of all 5 year olds affected by tooth decay

Key impacts:



Media and public engagement

The report received widespread media coverage, including two citations in BBC Panorama’s Britain’s Child Health Crisis (July 2024), elevating child health to a national policy priority for the new government.



Policy influence

We are informing the Department for Education’s “Break Down Barriers to Opportunity” mission, ensuring every child is set up for a healthy start in life.



Improving children’s lives

We influenced the Government’s broader mission to “Build an NHS Fit for the Future,” with child health now a central focus.



Brighter futures

Our influence prompted the Government Office for Science to initiate a foresight report on the future of childhood and adolescence.

Ongoing leadership from the Academy

We led on the international Thrive by Five policy statement, endorsed by over 40 experts from eight countries.

We convened National Academies with the Chief Medical Officer to promote a transdisciplinary approach to primary prevention.

Our **“Improving the Health of the Public by 2040”** report directly informed the Council for Science and Technology’s strategic planning and a letter to the Prime Minister.

Your impact on building connections to improve healthcare

Driving innovation through cross-sector collaboration

Our **Cross-Sector Programme** is breaking down barriers to collaboration across healthcare, academia, industry, and government, accelerating innovation and improving patient outcomes.

Healthcare systems face increasingly complex challenges, from integrating new technologies to relieving pressure on overstretched services. Recognising that academic research alone was not enough to drive change, Dr Pradeep Harish sought to understand the full innovation pipeline. With support from the Academy, he ventured from academia into a placement at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), where he contributed to initiatives improving access to innovative medicines and building patient-centred health systems.

Pradeep's experience illustrates the transformative potential of our **Cross-Sector Experience Awards**. These awards complement our broader cross-sector activities and provide up to £100,000 in flexible funding, enabling researchers to spend up to a year in a different sector. The goal – to translate scientific breakthroughs into real-world healthcare solutions that improve patients' lives.

Key impacts:

- 12 innovators in the first round (2024) collaborated with partners across industry, the NHS, government, and the charity sector.
- Participants increased their ability to navigate cross-sector environments gaining insights into regulatory decision-making, policy development, and data analysis for health impact.
- Outcomes included enhanced academic courses, new research programmes, and strengthened cross-sector partnerships.
- Awardees accelerated their professional growth and long-term impact through mentoring and career development support from the Academy.

“

Opportunities like this are rare. The knowledge I've gained is priceless. By supporting the Academy, you're cultivating leaders and improving lives.

Dr Pradeep Harish, University of Liverpool



Pradeep now applies his cross-sector insights to research at the University of Liverpool, developing tools to help clinicians and patients assess gene therapy risks and benefits – advancing safer, more effective treatments for genetic disorders.

Together, our cross-sector initiatives are building a more connected, innovative, and patient-focused health research ecosystem.

Your impact on strengthening research

From a whisper to a roar: amplifying diverse voices in health research

Our **Public Engagement in Research (PER) programme** is transforming how health research is shaped, by ensuring that people with lived experience, especially from underrepresented communities, have a meaningful voice in the process.

“

It was really nice to know that there are people out there trying to make a difference... and knowing things we said can change things.

Riahannon Smith-Wilde, PER programme participant



Too often, patient and public involvement in research attracts only those with the confidence to step forward, typically white and affluent individuals. This leaves many voices unheard, particularly those from minority backgrounds, carers, and people already facing health inequalities. In 2024, we launched the PER programme to change that.

Creating space to take the lead

Thirty individuals with lived experience of health challenges or caring responsibilities, including Riahannon Smith-Wilde, a carer, parent and patient, took part in a six-session programme designed to:

- Strengthen storytelling and communication skills.
- Build confidence to share experiences.
- Explore opportunities to influence and shape research.

Participants said the programme provided a safe space to connect, share experiences, and gain the tools to advocate for change. For Riahannon, the programme was transformative, giving her the confidence to speak up for better support and fairness for others like her.

From participation to impact

The impact of the PER programme has extended well beyond the sessions:

- Riahannon became one of **32 patient and public contributors** involved in shaping applications for our **Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers**, helping to guide future research priorities.
- **60 members** of our **Patient Collective** – including many PER participants – have contributed to key policy initiatives this year, such as our response to the NHS 10-Year Plan consultation.

By investing in inclusive engagement, the PER programme is not only amplifying diverse voices, it is reshaping the future of healthcare research to be more equitable,

Your impact on working globally

Advancing global health through international collaboration

In a year of mounting global uncertainty, the Academy's international work has delivered tangible impact, strengthening research ecosystems, influencing policy, and improving access to innovation across borders.

Through partnerships with **17 international organisations** and engagement with over **1,600 stakeholders** from **35 countries**, we've helped shape global health agendas and accelerated progress on critical issues such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), pandemic preparedness, and equitable access to diagnostics and therapeutics.

Key impacts:

- Our **10 international workshops** mobilised new collaborations, informed national strategies, and seeded joint funding bids that are now driving cross-border research.
- By **embedding patient and public involvement** into our international work we've helped shift the culture of global science toward greater inclusivity and relevance.
- Our support has enabled researchers to secure **funding for cross-national projects**, expanding the reach and impact of their work.



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Shaping policies to improve access to diagnostics

In collaboration with the **Academy of Sciences Malaysia**, we co-hosted a workshop in Kuala Lumpur that identified concrete policy actions to address inequities in access to diagnostics and therapeutics. The resulting report is now informing high-level initiatives, including the **International Affordable Diagnostics and Therapeutics Alliance (IA-DATA)** and the **South-South Alliance**, helping to improve access across the globe.



Delhi, India

Driving action on AMR

With support from **The Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation**, our AMR workshop in Delhi, co-hosted with the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, produced a set of priority actions grounded in a **One Health approach**. These recommendations are now shaping India's national AMR strategy and contributed to global dialogue ahead of the UN General Assembly's high-level meeting on AMR.



We continue to work with key stakeholders in India and the UK to ensure these insights translate into sustained, coordinated action, demonstrating the Academy's role as a trusted bridge between science and policy on the global stage.

Financial summary

Total income for the Academy in 2024–25 was £27.0 million, and expenditure was £24.8 million.

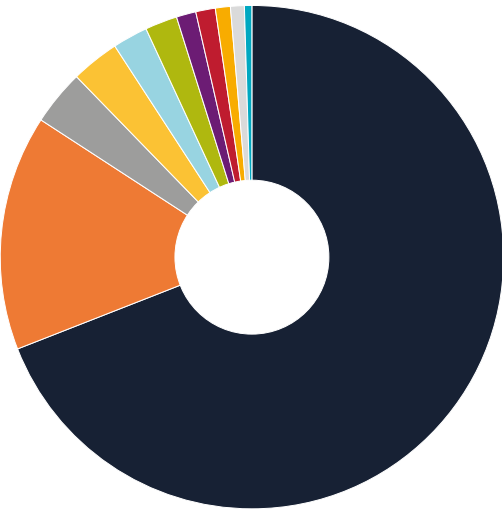
The majority of income (£24.6 million) was restricted to specific projects and programmes. Restricted income increased due to additional funding from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) for international programmes, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for cross-sector awards, and Wellcome for grant awards.

Total expenditure also increased, the majority of which related to activities to support the next generation of researchers, with the remainder spread across our other programmes.

Unrestricted income for the year was £2.3 million, thanks to generous support from our Fellows, Helix and other donors, and from income generated through use of our facilities at 41 Portland Place. This unrestricted income helps ensure we have the resources to respond to the most pressing health and research challenges nationally and globally.

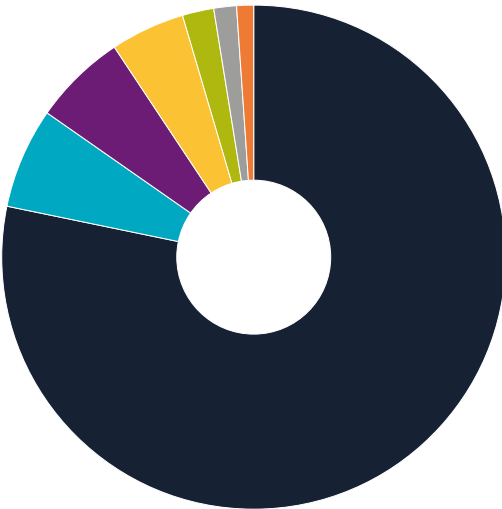
Philanthropic donations, particularly those that are not restricted to a specific area of our work, support our flexibility and are vital in enabling us to remain the independent, trusted voice of biomedical science.

Sources of income 2024-2025



- DSIT (£18.68m)
- Wellcome (£4.09m)
- DHSC (£0.96m)
- Investment income and other (£0.84m)
- Research Councils (£0.61m)
- Trust and Foundations (£0.56m)
- Fellows' subscriptions (£0.34m)
- Other grant funding (£0.33m)
- Other donations, including Helix (£0.26m)
- 41 Portland Place trading subsidiary (£0.24m)
- FORUM (£0.13m)

Expenditure 2024-2025



- Support the next generation of researchers (£19.38m)
- Influence policy and practice (£1.63m)
- Increase Academy's impact on global health (£1.48m)
- Support UK biomedical and health research (£1.18m)
- Build our resources (£0.50m)
- Trading operations at 41 Portland Place (£0.36m)
- Cost of generating funds (£0.27m)

Snapshot of the year ahead

Driving discovery

Focusing our FORUM programme on innovating research and development, which will include events on cell and gene therapies, AI and computational modelling in clinical research, innovative clinical trial design and transforming translation with novel preclinical models.

Unlocking potential, accelerating progress

Delivering new rounds for five of our grant schemes and our career development programmes that uniquely target key career stages for biomedical and health researchers. This includes a new round of our sector-leading Future Leaders in Innovation, Enterprise and Research (FLIER) programme following the successful completion of the first phase last year.

Shaping future health research

Publishing the *'Future-proofing UK Health Research: 2025 Update Report'*, which builds on our landmark 2023 review,⁴ drawing on discussions from a high-level symposium that brought together over 40 leaders from across the UK health research ecosystem, and capitalising on a rare '10-year window of opportunity' ahead of crucial government spending decisions.

Regional roots, national reach

Launching our first Cross-Sector Regional Hub in England, following the successful set-up of hubs in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, to expand our UK-wide network and support innovative events to drive collaboration in life sciences and health innovation.

Reversing the decline in clinical academics

Hosting a Clinical Academic Summit, to bring people together to learn from examples of innovative co-funding models to create clinical academic posts and encourage adoption of similar solutions to improve the situation across the UK.

From evidence to action

Working with low- and middle-income country partners across the globe, we are bringing together evidence of the benefits of sustainable, locally embedded career pathways for clinical researchers, and developing recommendations to strengthen them.

Driving policy change for a healthier childhood

Building on the recommendations of our Child Health report, we will work with government and health partners to embed primary prevention in policy.

Building our Fellowship today for the health challenges of tomorrow

While our latest Diversity report⁵ highlights positive progress in the gender and racial diversity of new Fellows elected in the past five years, challenges remain within the wider Fellowship.

Three sprints to 30

We will initiate the first in a series of three "Fellowship Sprint Groups" to seek new ways to identify candidates and to reform the nomination and selection process, over the 2026, 2027, and 2028 election cycles. These sprints are designed to deliver focused, Fellow-led improvements that will culminate in a more diverse and dynamic Fellowship, whilst not compromising on excellence, in time for the Academy's 30th anniversary in December 2028.

⁴ Future-proofing UK Health Research: a people-centred, coordinated approach

⁵ Diversity report: Academy of Medical Sciences Diversity report 2020-24

Helix: a special group of individuals

We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of our Helix donors, particularly those who give us a regular gift each month. Through their unrestricted support, this special group of individuals, including those who wish to remain anonymous, allows us to expand and strengthen the work of the Academy and lay the foundations for an open and progressive research sector to improve the health of people everywhere.

Helix donors

Professor David Adams FMedSci
Professor Dario Alessi OBE FRS FRSE FMedSci
Professor Hugh Anderson FMedSci
Professor Wiebke Arlt FMedSci
Professor Sir Michael Arthur FMedSci
Professor Jonathan Ashmore FRS FMedSci
Professor Denis Azzopardi FMedSci
Professor Sir Peter Barnes FRS FMedSci
Professor Richard Begent FMedSci
Professor George Bentley FMedSci
Professor Sheila Bird OBE FRSE FMedSci
Professor Jenefer Blackwell FMedSci
Professor Sir Walter Bodmer FRS HonFRSE FMedSci
Professor Alan Boyd FMedSci
Professor Frances Brodsky FMedSci
Professor Ed Bullmore FRS FMedSci
Professor David Burn FMedSci
Professor Robin Carrell FRS FMedSci
Professor Sir Mark Caulfield FMedSci
Professor Edwin Chilvers FMedSci
Professor Tim Cole FMedSci
Professor Sir Rory Collins FRS FMedSci
Professor Cyrus Cooper OBE FMedSci
Professor Heather Cordell FMedSci
Professor Philip Cowen FMedSci
Professor Hilary Critchley FRSE FMedSci
Professor Anthony Culyer CBE FMedSci
Professor David Denning FMedSci
Diana, Lady Dollery
Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak DBE FRSE FMedSci
Professor Dian Donnai CBE FMedSci
Professor Rina Dutta
Professor Sir Christopher Edwards FRSE FMedSci
Professor David Edwards MBE FMedSci
Professor Timothy Eisen FMedSci
Dr Christopher Exeter
Professor Dame Lesley Fallowfield FMedSci
Professor Peter Friedmann FMedSci
Professor Sir Charles George FMedSci
Professor Ian Gilmore FMedSci
Emeritus Professor Ted Gordon-Smith FMedSci
Professor Sir Brian Greenwood CBE FRS FMedSci

Sir Andrew Haines FMedSci
Professor Neil Henderson FMedSci
Professor Raymond Hill FMedSci
Professor Humphrey Hodgson FMedSci
Professor Sir Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci
Dr Simon Hollingsworth FMedSci
Professor Rury Holman FMedSci
Professor Peter Hutchinson FMedSci
Professor Eileen Ingham FMedSci
Professor Sir Miles Irving FMedSci
Professor Bent Jakobsen FMedSci
Dr Harren Jhota OBE FRS FMedSci
Emeritus Professor Martin Johnson FRS FMedSci
Professor Dame Anne Johnson DBE HonFBA FMedSci
Professor Trevor Jones CBE FMedSci FLSW
Dr Ian Kerr FRS FMedSci
Professor Kamlesh Khunti CBE FMedSci
Professor Dimitri Kullmann FRS FMedSci
Professor John Langdon FMedSci
Professor Ronald Laskey CBE FRS FLSW FMedSci
Professor Catherine Law CBE FMedSci
Dr Stephen Lockhart FMedSci
Professor Janet Lord CBE FMedSci
Professor Michael Malim FRS FMedSci
Ms Patricia Martin
Professor Duncan Maskell FMedSci
Professor Christopher Mason FMedSci
Professor Iain Mattaj FRS FRSE FMedSci
Emeritus Professor Alan McGregor FMedSci
Professor Sir Tom McKillop FRS FRSE FMedSci
Professor Andrew Morris CBE FRSE FMedSci
Dr Helen Munn OBE
Professor Gillian Murphy FMedSci
Professor James Naismith FRS FRSE FMedSci
Ms Hilary Newiss FMedSci
Professor Sir Stephen O'Rahilly FRS FMedSci
Professor Michael Orme FMedSci
Professor Peter Parham FRS FMedSci
Professor Jeremy Pearson MBE FMedSci
Professor Sir Denis Pereira Gray OBE FMedSci
Emeritus Professor John Pickard CBE FMedSci
Professor John Primrose FMedSci

Emeritus Professor Jonathan Rhodes FMedSci
Mrs Pamela Risby
Professor Martin Rossor FMedSci
Mr Dean Rowell
Professor Sir Nilesh Samani FMedSci
Professor Philippa Saunders FRSE FMedSci
Professor Caroline Savage FMedSci
Professor Jonathan Seckl OBE FRSE FMedSci
Professor Jonathan Shepherd CBE FMedSci FLSW
Professor Elizabeth Simpson OBE FRS FMedSci
Professor Jonathan Slack FMedSci
Professor Sir Jim Smith FRS FMedSci
Professor Rosalind Smyth CBE FMedSci
Professor Tom Solomon CBE FMedSci
Professor Peter Stanfield FMedSci
Professor Robert Stout FMedSci
Professor Paul Peter Tak FMedSci
Professor Tilli Tansey OBE FMedSci
Professor Anne Tattersfield OBE FMedSci
Professor Simon Tavaré FRS FMedSci
Mr Alistair Thoros
Professor Stephen Tomlinson CBE FMedSci
Professor Sir John Tooke FMedSci
Professor Bryan Turner FRS FMedSci
Professor Veronica van Heyningen CBE FRS FRSE FMedSci
Professor Angela Vincent FRS FMedSci
Professor Brian Walker FRSE FMedSci
Professor Frank Walsh FRSE FMedSci
Professor Jadwiga Wedzicha FMedSci
Professor Anthony Weetman FMedSci
Professor Peter Weissberg CBE FMedSci
Dr Elspeth Whitby
Professor Dame Moira Whyte DBE OBE FMedSci
Professor Andrew Wilkie FRS FMedSci
Dr John Williams
Dr Roger Williams FRS FMedSci
Professor Lord Robert Winston HonFREng FMedSci
Professor Roland Wolf OBE FRSE FMedSci
Professor Sir Kent Woods FMedSci
Professor John Wyke FRSE FMedSci

This ongoing donor support means we can better respond to health needs as they arise and make long-term decisions to secure the future of biomedical research. For more information on how you can join our Helix donors in supporting the Academy, please visit acmedsci.ac.uk/about/support-us



Academy of Medical Sciences
41 Portland Place
London W1B 1QH

+44 (0)20 3141 3200
info@acmedsci.ac.uk
acmedsci.ac.uk

Follow us on social media:

/company/acmedsci

@acmedsci

/acmedsci

@acmedsci

/acmedsci

Registered Charity No. 1185329

Incorporated by Royal Charter Registration No. RC000905

