

From the President
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23 February 2026

Dear Fellows

Appointment of next Academy Vice President (Non-Clinical)

I am delighted to write to you on behalf of Council to seek nominations for a successor to Professor Jim Naismith FRS FMedSci, who will complete his four-year term as Vice President (Non-Clinical) in December 2026. Jim has made a very significant contribution to the Academy during his tenure, and we are extremely grateful for all his work.

The Vice President (Non-Clinical) will play a visible influential leadership role at the heart of the Academy, championing the priorities of the non-clinical research community and turning strategy into impact. Over half of the Academy's Fellows have a non-clinical background as do many hundreds of early career researchers who benefit from our careers grants and schemes each year. The leadership of the Vice President (Non-Clinical) will be pivotal in uniting this diverse community, strengthening its voice and accelerating progress across disciplines.

We are seeking a leader with strong scientific credibility, an effective and compelling communicator with a track record of partnership-building and engagement across sectors, including industry. We welcome candidates with a range of networks and experiences across basic, discovery and industrial science who can broaden our reach and strengthen our relationships with diverse stakeholders and organisations. An understanding of national priorities and an ability to help the Academy contribute to discussions in this area would be valuable - but we recognise that candidates may bring this insight in different ways and from different sectors.

The postholder will bring vision, drive and energy to the Academy's activities, bringing expertise from a non-clinical portfolio/industry lens, working in partnership with Council, Honorary Officers, Fellows and our expert staff. While the role is open to all Academy Fellows, we particularly welcome interest from those with non-clinical backgrounds or whose careers align with the Academy's membership within that category, recognising the breadth of experience within our community.

This is a rare UK wide leadership opportunity to shape the Academy's strategy for the non-clinical community—amplifying its impact and helping to advance medical sciences across the UK and internationally.

Candidates should demonstrate the attributes set out in the role description. This is a strategic non-executive board appointment, requiring the ability to provide constructive challenge and strategic guidance, while complementing and sitting coherently alongside the individual's main employment.

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The successful candidate will also serve as a Trustee of the Academy, a registered charity, and will be expected to uphold the highest standards of governance, integrity and accountability. This includes fulfilling the full legal duties of a charity trustee - ensuring compliance with charity law and regulation, safeguarding the Academy's charitable purpose and public benefit, exercising proper stewardship of its assets and finances, and contributing to robust strategic oversight and risk management.

Trustees are collectively responsible for setting the Academy's direction, monitoring performance, and ensuring effective leadership while maintaining appropriate scrutiny and challenge. A strong commitment to transparency, ethical conduct and excellent governance will be essential.

We expect candidates to be able to commit a set number of days per month to the role, which would be discussed as part of the application process.

We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. Suggestions and expressions of interest are welcome from any area of the Fellowship and should be sent, in confidence, to my Academy e-mail address (president@acmedsci.ac.uk). Fellows can self-nominate as long as their nomination is supported by three signatures from other Fellows.

A [nomination form](#), [role description](#) and further details can be found on the Academy [website](#). **The deadline for receipt of completed nominations is 17.00 on 5 May 2026.**

Council will elect the next Vice President (Non-Clinical) at its June meeting based on the recommendations of our Nominations Committee.

Please give consideration to candidates who might be interested in taking on this role. Either myself, or our Chief Executive, [Rosalind Campion](#) would be very pleased to have a confidential conversation with Fellows who are interested in applying.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely



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