

IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2025-26

Bringing health
research to life

A year of progress, partnerships and people.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Professor Sir Andrew Morris
CBE FRSE PMedSci

President, Academy of
Medical Sciences

In 2025, a treatment for Huntington's disease reached patients for the first time. Behind it lay decades of dedicated science – including work by Academy Fellow Professor Sarah Tabrizi and former Springboard awardee Professor Ed Wild. During the year, a FLIER alumnus led a major national study on weight-loss medicines, drawing together a university, a global pharmaceutical company and a health-data organisation. These stories have many authors, and we begin here because these are the kinds of outcomes that your support helps to bring about.

This has been a year of real progress – and of significant change. We have stayed focused on where the Academy can make the greatest difference: on the health research workforce, on getting evidence into policy, and on bridging the gaps between academia, the NHS, industry and government that no single organisation can close on its own.

The ten-year anniversary of Springboard is a moment to reflect on what sustained investment makes possible. And the Clinical Academic Summit – more than 40 leaders committing publicly to action, followed by concrete engagement from the Russell Group, AMRC, the BMA and the Shelford Group –



shows the Academy doing what it does best: getting the right people in the same room, and making sure something durable comes of it.

We welcomed Rosalind Campion as Chief Executive in October 2025. Her clarity of purpose and energy are already shaping what comes next.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support protects the Academy's independence, and that independence is fundamental to our work and our values. It allows us to back people and ideas for the long term, to act as an honest broker across institutional boundaries, and to speak with credibility in the interests of better research, better policy and better health. Thank you.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We are deeply grateful to all those who support the Academy. Our regular donors, partnership funders, legacy givers, FORUM members, companies, trusts and foundations – alongside core public funding – make the Academy's independence possible. That independence is the foundation of everything else: our ability to give frank advice to government, our credibility as a convener across sectors, and our freedom to focus on what matters most for patients and the research community.

Our Springboard programme is one example of how this sustained investment and support can help promising researchers build independent careers and generate impact far beyond the original award.

Ten years of Springboard

Since 2015, Springboard awards have given more than 470 early-career researchers the funding and mentoring they need to establish independent careers – total investment is over £50 million. The most recent awards (Round 11) attracted a record number of nominations with 55 awards being made from 204 eligible applications across 72 UK higher education institutions. The awards are deliberately flexible: they fund the bold idea, a bigger research team, the early data that opens the door to larger grants. The results speak for themselves.

EVERY £1 INVESTED HAS UNLOCKED £5.30 IN FURTHER RESEARCH INCOME¹.

WHAT SPRINGBOARD HAS MADE POSSIBLE:

From insight to scale: Dr Laura Rivino secured major Wellcome funding for global dengue and Zika research.

From concept to patent: Dr Wenfeng Xia's award took a novel imaging technology from idea to patented innovation.

From research to collaboration: Dr Ana Tiganescu's work led to an AstraZeneca partnership and a multidisciplinary clinical study.

From awardee to Fellow: Professor Samir Bhatt FMedSci became the first Springboard awardee elected to the Academy's Fellowship.

From lab to patients: Professor Ed Wild's Springboard-supported research contributed to the first Huntington's disease treatment to reach patients in 2025.

“

I support the Academy because the diverse expertise it brings together from across medical disciplines enables it to drive improvements in healthcare and economic benefits in the UK and globally, and it has a strong and productive program to nurture emerging talent. I consider my donation to be an investment in all our futures.”

Dr Stephen Lockhart FMedSci, Academy donor

“

The Springboard award provided not only vital early-stage funding but also the freedom to pursue bold, high-risk ideas. That freedom enabled me to lay the foundations for a multimodal endoscopic imaging platform with real clinical potential.”

Dr Wenfeng Xia, King's College London

1. Total funding secured of £53.6 million. Return on Investment: 1:5 with on average £5.30 further funding secured for each £1 awarded to 103 awardees who reported on ResearchFish. (Evaluation of the Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Scheme (2019-2023) by Powellite Impact)

PROGRESS AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS



IMPACTS AT A GLANCE:

>£29 million new funding secured to support clinical careers

>£11 million awarded in transformative funding

>£6.7 million through 55 new Springboard awards

64 partnerships across **>30 countries** through Networking Grants

109 new mentoring pairings accelerating career progression



Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers:

Supports early-career clinical academics at a key transition point when clinical pressures are highest.

Each award funds a discrete research project to build evidence and strengthen future grant competitiveness. Awards increased to £40K from Round 35 (Jan 2026). 60 awards totalling £1.7 million were made across Rounds 33–34 (FY25/26). The consortium includes Wellcome, BHF, MRC, Arthritis UK, plus new partners Cancer Research UK and the Lister Institute.

Cross-Sector Experience Awards:

Enables researchers and professionals to spend up to a year working in a different sector.

This year Round 2 funded 13 awards worth over £930K across academia, industry, NHS, government and charities. Early feedback highlights stronger collaborations, improved system understanding and greater confidence working across sectors.

FLIER programme:

18-month programme developing researchers' cross-sector skills, experience and networks.

Relaunched following a redesign, with Cohort 4 of 19 participants selected from 54 applicants. Alumni are now progressing into senior roles across academia and industry, with impact demonstrated through cross-sector collaborations such as Professor Jason Gill's OLS-funded obesity research, spanning universities, industry and data partners.

SUSTAIN programme:

Women in research leadership programme.

Rounds 11 and 12 empowered 45 participants. Introduced a second mentor from the alumni network in response to participant feedback. A new partnership with the Royal Society will extend delivery for three further cohorts, with places reserved for Springboard and Starter Grant awardees.

AMS Professorship scheme:

Supports internationally relocating researchers taking up professorial posts in the UK.

FY25/26 added four new awardees, bringing the total to 28, with relocations from the USA, Germany and wider Europe. Research spans discovery and translation across cardiovascular disease, ADHD, cancer and infectious disease. The scheme was highlighted by DSIT and Lord Vallance, the Minister for Science as evidence of the UK's success in attracting global research talent.

Cross-sector hubs:

Convene researchers across all four nations.

Bringing together researchers, clinicians, patients and policymakers around priorities including data and digital health, mental health, cancer innovation and regional health inequalities hub events enable connections that would not otherwise occur. For example, connections made between the National Cancer Team in Wales and clinicians at Deontics have led to a pilot introducing AI tools into clinical trials, improving efficiency and allowing clinicians to spend more time with patients while supporting access to new treatments.

Global health and research capacity:

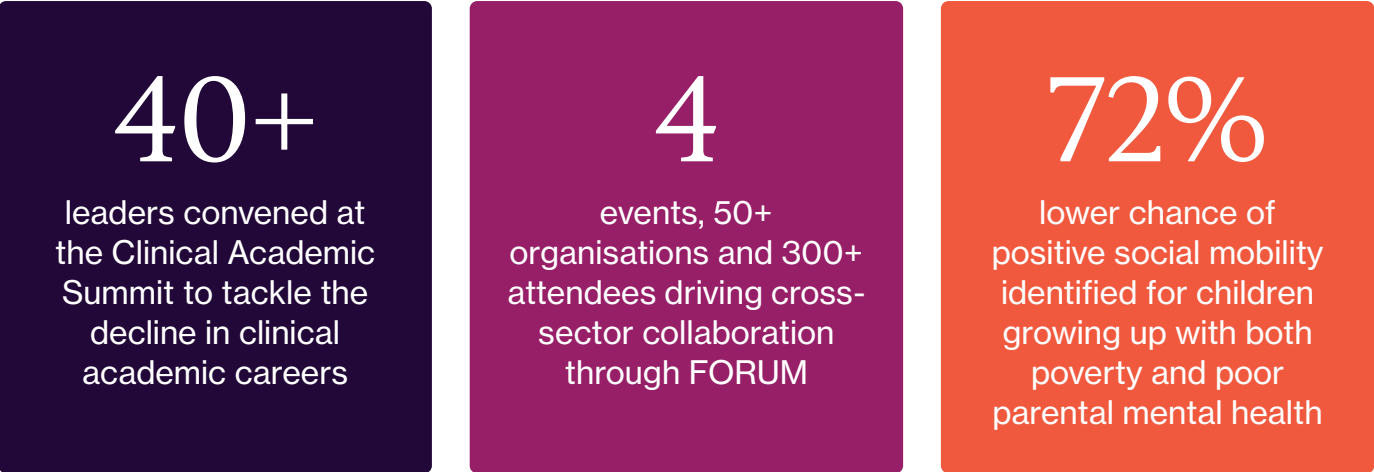
Through the International Science Partnership Fund, the Academy supported work on clinical research career pathways in South Africa, Malawi and Kenya. The International Health Lecture, delivered by Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim and co-hosted with The Lancet, attracted participants from 33 countries and highlighted the global impact of collaborative health research.

International influence:

The Academy continues to strengthen its global profile through strategic partnerships, including with the US National Academy of Medicine. Its President, Viktor Dzau, has described the Academy as NAM's key international partner, creating opportunities for joint work on global challenges.

SHAPING POLICY: FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

IMPACTS AT A GLANCE:



Government engagement:

Responded to 10+ major government announcements, including the first public response to the Life Sciences Sector Plan. Academy statements were reflected in DSIT and DHSC press notices, alongside regular engagement with ministers and senior government leaders.

Prevention and child health:

Supported major national work on child health and prevention, with evidence on poverty and parental mental health shaping senior policy thinking. Schools-based children thriving work is also feeding directly into policy development.

Water fluoridation:

At the request of the Chief Medical Officer, the Academy convened a specialist group and published an evidence synthesis in December 2025. The findings are now informing decisions on potential national roll-out in England.

AI and emerging technologies:

Convened work on AI and quantum technologies in health research, helping inform the Government’s quantum roadmap and guidance on in silico methods. The Academy is also being considered to lead an international AI programme.

FORUM – cross-sector collaboration:

FORUM brings together 35 organisations across academia, industry, the NHS, regulators and government. A major 2025 workshop on decentralised trials embedded patient voices throughout, while new members are broadening the network’s reach.

European partnerships:

Worked with partner academies in Italy, Norway and the Netherlands to generate new reports, agreements and collaborative programmes. Two Brussels delegations also strengthened relationships ahead of Horizon Europe and future framework discussions.

LEADING CHANGE WITH OUR PATIENT COLLECTIVE

IMPACTS AT A GLANCE:



Patients shaping policy and practice:

The Academy’s Patient Collective – a growing network of patients, carers and public contributors with lived experience – reached 100 members in 2025–2026. Their insight shaped policy workshops, grant panel development and hub events across the UK. At the December 2025 decentralised clinical trials workshop, patient contributors were included in every breakout group, helping ensure the recommendations reflected what trial participation really asks of people’s lives.

From engagement to influence:

The independent Phase II evaluation of our Public Engagement with Research programme showed that participants are not just taking part – they are shaping decisions. They have contributed to government consultations, policy roundtables and strategic reviews at Wellcome, MRC and local level. In one case, participation led directly to a new research partnership, with a member moving into active collaboration with a Starter Grant holder as a working partner in the science itself.



Strengthening Fellowship engagement

A new Fellowship engagement strategy was approved in December 2025 to better connect the Academy’s Fellows with opportunities to contribute to policy, funding, mentoring and public engagement activities. Delivery has begun through expanded regional connections, with four new Regional Champions appointed in 2026, and a stronger focus on inclusion through the launch of the EDI Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Professor Franklin Aigbirhio FMedSci and Professor Bernadine Idowu FMedSci.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I joined the Academy in October 2025. What I found was an organisation with genuine strengths: a Fellowship spanning the full breadth of medical science, a staff team with deep experience, a reputation for independence valued across government and the research community, and grant and career programmes with well-evidenced impact on individual careers. The task now is to use all of this more deliberately – to connect it more directly to the system changes it is designed to produce.

Three things stood out in my first months and now shape our priorities for 2026–2027. The fall in clinical academic posts is one of the most serious risks to the UK health research system, and the Academy is better placed than any other organisation to address it – through our grants, our policy influence, and our ability to bring funders, universities and the NHS into the same room. The translation gap – the distance between outstanding UK science and the patients it could help – is real and addressable, and we are tackling it directly through FORUM and through the new Translational Catalyst programme. And public trust in medical science is earned, not assumed: it requires honest communication, genuine patient and public involvement, and a voice that people can trust to be independent.

We should be defined by the difference we make, not just the work we do. Your support makes that ambition possible.



Rosalind Campion
Chief Executive, Academy of Medical Sciences

PROGRESS ALREADY UNDER WAY:

40+ leaders united behind action on clinical academic careers

National taskforce launched to map UK medical science career pathways

UK-wide cross-sector plan due by December 2026

Clinical academic contributions recognised in REF 2029 for the first time

Long-standing **barriers to research careers** now being addressed

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2026–2027



In January 2026, Council agreed six priorities for the year ahead. Each has clear deliverables and is being actively tracked. Below is an outline of where we are concentrating our effort:

1 Making the UK the best place for a career in medical sciences

We are strengthening the medical sciences workforce by driving system-wide action on careers, skills and leadership development.

This includes:

- Convening a UK-wide Careers Taskforce to develop a national plan and identify practical solutions to career pathway challenges across the sector.
- Influencing government thinking on life sciences skills and employment through contributions to the UK life sciences jobs plan.
- Supporting the next generation of researchers through 55 Springboard Awards across 38 institutions and leadership development programmes including FLIER and CATAC.

2 Improving health outcomes through policy leadership

We are shaping evidence-informed policy to address some of the most pressing challenges facing health systems.

This includes:

- Launching the Prevention Catalyst programme, bringing together stakeholders to accelerate progress on prevention and early detection.
- Advancing policy work on responsible AI and data use, and on transforming clinical evidence generation to improve patient outcomes.
- Convening policymakers, researchers and health leaders through FORUM and rapid-response policy activity to inform emerging health policy priorities.

3

Mobilising the health system to turn discovery into practice

We are accelerating the translation of research and innovation into real-world health benefits.

This includes:

- Developing a major new translational research programme designed to bridge the gap between discovery and implementation.
- Engaging prospective founding partners and funders to secure investment for large-scale research translation initiatives.
- Scoping high-impact innovation areas and early-adoption pathways to help prepare the health system for future breakthroughs.



4

Increasing public trust in medical science

We are strengthening public confidence in medical science through evidence-based engagement and action to combat misinformation.

This includes:

- Launching a new Academy website to improve accessibility, engagement and the visibility of medical science.
- Establishing a robust evidence base on health misinformation through new Ipsos polling and public insights research.
- Collaborating with partners, including the Royal Society, to address vaccine misinformation and improve access to trusted scientific information.



5

Connecting and supporting the medical sciences community

We are bringing together researchers, Fellows and partners to strengthen collaboration and maximise collective impact.

This includes:

- Expanding capacity to deliver a stronger Academy-wide events programme that supports networking, collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Engaging Fellows in shaping the Academy's international strategy through focus groups focused on key global partnerships.
- Continuing to develop more personalised approaches to Fellowship engagement and support throughout the Academy community.

6

Being a resilient, high-performing organisation

We are building a strong, sustainable organisation capable of delivering long-term impact.

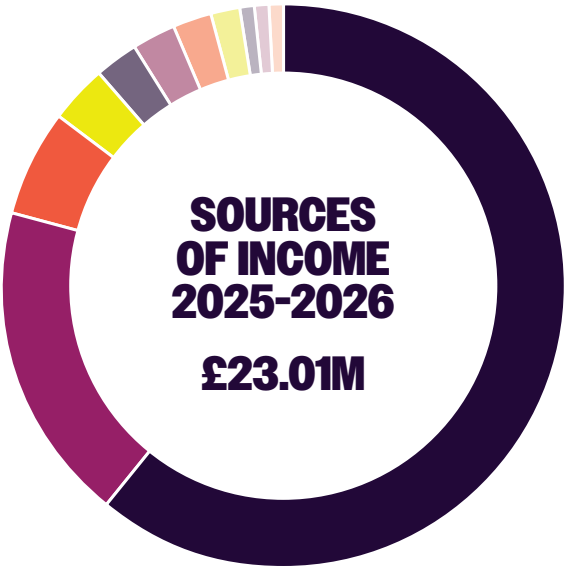
This includes:

- Aligning governance, leadership and organisational structures around the Academy's strategic priorities.
- Strengthening organisational capability through new senior appointments and the completion of recruitment to key roles.
- Advancing financial sustainability through new fundraising opportunities, strategic funding bids and investment discussions linked to priority programmes.

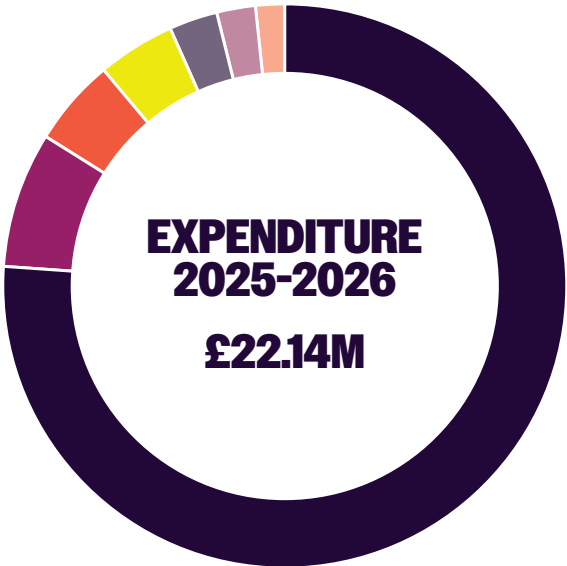
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total income for the Academy in 2025–2026 was £23.0 million, and expenditure was £22.1 million. Most income (£20.3 million) was restricted to specific projects and programmes. Unrestricted income for the year was £2.5 million – supported by generous contributions from Fellows and individual donors, as well as income generated through 41 Portland Place. This unrestricted support is what keeps us flexible and genuinely independent.

The year brought important funding reassurance. Wellcome confirmed a major strategic partnership. DSIT confirmed funding through to 2030, with an additional £2 million agreed for 2026–2027. MRC and BHF confirmed continued support for our grant programmes, and the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine and CRUK joined the Starter Grants consortium for the first time. The Helix reception in April 2025 raised £16,000 in new donations, and discussion is underway regarding significant support from the International Journal of Experimental Pathology.



- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (**£14.04m**)
- Wellcome (**£4.23m**)
- Department of Health and Social Care (**£1.39m**)
- Investment income and other (**£0.77m**)
- 41 Portland Place trading subsidiary (**£0.58m**)
- Trust and Foundations (**£0.55m**)
- Research Councils (**£0.54m**)
- Fellows' subscriptions (**£0.34m**)
- Donations and gifts (**£0.24m**)
- Other grant funding (**£0.20m**)
- FORUM (**£0.13m**)



- Support the next generation of researchers (**£16.90m**)
- Influence policy and practice (**£1.68m**)
- Increase Academy's impact on global health (**£1.14m**)
- Support UK biomedical and health research (**£0.96m**)
- Build our resources (**£0.66m**)
- Trading operations at 41 Portland Place (**£0.48m**)
- Cost of Generating Funds (**£0.32m**)

SUPPORT THE ACADEMY

The Academy of Medical Sciences brings the UK's health research community together to make science work for everyone. Our independence is the foundation of everything we do – and it depends on the generosity of our donors, partners and supporters.

Whether you give as an individual, support through your organisation or invest in a named programme, your contribution funds the researchers reimagining what is possible, shapes the policies that put evidence into practice, and helps break down the barriers between academia, the NHS, industry and government. Science this important cannot afford to stay in the lab.



To find out more about how you can support the Academy, please visit:
acmedsci.ac.uk/about/support-us
or contact us directly.

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