

ACTIVITIES IN 2005

The Advisory Board has set a challenging agenda for the Forum in 2005 and would welcome Forum Members' comments:

Topics The Board is considering the following topics and will select four for the 2005 programme:

- Developability of chemicals into drugs;
- Vaccines production in the UK;
- Experimental medicine and academic/company interactions;
- Novel approaches to clinical trials;
- Obesity and diabetes;
- Personalised medicines;
- Statins;
- Translational research and technology transfer;
- Transporter molecules in drug action and toxicity.

Membership The Board has given its support for a Forum membership expansion to include food and nutrition, medical engineering and medical IT. Suggestions on additional fields would be welcome.

Please email comments to forum@acmedsci.ac.uk by 4 January 2005 to be reviewed by the Advisory Board on 5 January or by 14 February to be reviewed at the Annual Meeting on 7 March.

FORUM'S FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES (Contact: forum@acmedsci.ac.uk)

7 March: **Annual Meeting** and **Annual Forum Lecture** (Venue: The Royal Society, London SW1)

15.30 Discussions at the Annual Meeting will include the 2005 programme, the expansion of membership, and the 7th R&D Framework Programme. Special guests will include Dr Octavio Quintana Trias (Director for Health, Commission's Directorate-General for Research), Professor Jacqueline Hunter (EFPIA's R&D Directors group) and Dr Martin Penny (Director, UKRO).

18.00 Professor Alex Markham, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK will deliver the 3rd Annual Forum Lecture on 'Cancer research in the UK: areas of optimism and concern' (free entry).

ACADEMY'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES (Contact: apollo@acmedsci.ac.uk)

7 January: Deadline of the Call for Evidence by the Academy's study group looking at the **Use of Patient Data in Medical Research**. Forum Members are invited to respond to the Call for Evidence. For additional information, visit http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/p_patientdata_cfe.pdf.

November: Launch of the Academy's new informative **website dedicated to Academic Medicine: www.academicmedicine.ac.uk**. The website is still under development and a section explaining careers in Industry is planned. Any suggestions of how the Academy's new website might help to promote careers for medical scientists in industry would be gratefully received.

News



The Rt. Rev. Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, Sir William Castell and Sir David Cooksey at the Admission Ceremony

- Sir William Castell, Sir David Cooksey, Lord Broers and The Rt. Rev. Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford were admitted as Honorary Fellows of the Academy in November 2004
- Sir Keith Peters has been appointed independent co-chair of the Council for Science and Technology, which advises the Prime Minister and the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales on strategic issues that cut across the responsibilities of individual government departments.
- The Academy was awarded a £1.75m (£350K for 5 years) grant-in-aid from the Department of Health in July 2004.

THE FORUM'S SECOND YEAR

Following the Forum's early success with its launch lecture on personalised medicines and the symposium on the European Clinical Trials directive, Sir John Skehel and his Advisory Board provided Forum Members and Academy Fellows with the opportunity to hear and communicate with international leading experts on a number of topical issues:

Can Europe compete in biomedical research? Sir Tom McKillop FMedSci, CEO of AstraZeneca highlighted the imbalance between quality research and innovation in Europe and called for real cooperation across Europe as well as between academia, the health systems and industry with the aim to develop an integrated R&D strategy across Member states and create a rewarding attitude to innovation (Summary, April 2004).



Sir Tom McKillop FMedSci (CEO, AstraZeneca) and **Professor Mervyn Maze** FMedSci (Head of Intensive Care, Imperial College)

Medicines for Children The symposium was the opportunity for a British audience to hear European speakers from academia, industry and the regulatory bodies discuss the current unsatisfactory state of provision of these medicines and the means to improve it but also to reflect on the success of their counterparts in the US as presented by Dr Gregory Kearns from the Children's Mercy Hospitals in Kansas City. In addition, the Health Minister, Lord Warner announced that the Government was making this issue a priority for the UK Presidency of the EU in 2005 and new funds would be allocated to the expansion of paediatric research networks. (Summary, June 2004).



Professor Pat Price (Director, Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre), **Dr Richard Frank** (Director, Medical & Clinical Strategy, GE Healthcare), **Dr Barry Furr** FMedSci (Chief Scientist & Head of Project Evaluation, AstraZeneca)

Cancer and Biomarkers The symposium surveyed the latest developments in the field, in Europe and the US, and highlighted the need for partnership between academia and industry at different steps along the biomarker discovery pipeline (Summary *in press*, October 2004).

Towards better Safety Assessment of Medicinal Products This ongoing project is looking at the state of the art in safety assessment, identifying techniques in need of further development and processes which would benefit from a more integrated approach. The report will now be launched in May 2005.

WEBSITE Now available on the Academy website at www.acmedsci.ac.uk:

FORUM PUBLICATIONS

- Summary of the Forum symposium on **Medicines for Children**
- Summary of the symposium on **Progress towards Assuring the Safety of Vaccines**
- Summary of Sir Tom McKillop's Lecture on **Can Europe compete in biomedical research?**

ACADEMY REPORTS

- **Restoring Neurological Function: Putting the neurosciences to work in neurorehabilitation**
- **Calling Time: The nation's drinking as a major health issue**
- The 2004 Harveian Oration, **Exceptional Matters**, by Sir Keith Peters, the Academy's President

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In its first two years the Forum has established itself as a significant port for information on topical issues at the academia/industry interface. With a focus on excellence, the Forum has organised scientific meetings, offered networking opportunities and instigated an independent platform for academic and medical industry affairs. Our aim for the future is to broaden our membership, form connections with international bodies, expand our activities and in turn make the Forum the premier source of information of common interest to academia, industry and government. My term of office as Chairman of the Forum comes to an end on 31 March when I shall be replaced by Dr Barry Furr, Chief Scientist and Head of Project Evaluation at AstraZeneca. There could be no one better to take forward the Forum's campaign.

Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci
Vice President of the Academy and Chairman of the Forum