



What does the AHSC mean for you?

**Our vision for the UK's first
Academic Health Science Centre—
a mini-guide for patients**

Quicker access to new medicines and new treatments

The Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) is a new approach to healthcare in the UK, bringing a university and the NHS together and running them hand in hand to provide the best healthcare in the world, free at the point of delivery.

The AHSC is a unique form of partnership between Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, formed in October 2007. It represents a concentration of doctors, nurses, scientists and managers all dedicated to providing the best quality healthcare and finding new ways to treat diseases and conditions that affect your health. It is led by Professor Stephen Smith, who is both Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at the College and Chief Executive of the Trust.

We believe our new approach is needed because while the UK is excellent at biomedical research, this is not reflected in the quality of many of its clinical treatment outcomes. Our patients are currently being let down by a failure to turn discoveries and innovations into new treatments and ways of caring for them.

Our vision for the AHSC is that we will improve the quality of life of our patients and populations by taking the discoveries we make and translating them into new therapies as quickly as possible.

Our mission is to become one of the top five academic health science centres in the world within the next 10 years.



Your standard of care: world-class

We are single-minded in our focus on the quality of care you receive in the AHSC. We are a centre of research excellence, which means you have some of the nation's best doctors and nurses on your doorstep. But our focus on patient satisfaction is as important as the quality of our treatment outcomes—meaning investment in better facilities, rigorous infection control and a strong patient-centred culture.

Our vision for the AHSC means:

- While we are already recognised* as one of the best Trusts in the UK, we wish to measure our AHSC against the best in the world. This means raising our sights and developing new quality indicators for everything we do. [**Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide*, 2007]
- We will seek to dramatically improve patient satisfaction with our healthcare services.
- In five years' time we want both our patient treatment outcomes and satisfaction scores to be rated as comparable with the best international providers. We will make all information on our performance publicly available.
- We will work with local care providers to improve our patients' experience of care from before hospital to aftercare at home.



Local healthcare networks, international quality

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is the largest NHS Trust in the country, providing general and specialist care for patients nationwide as well as serving a large local community in west London.

Our proposals for the AHSC were developed in partnership with patient groups, GPs, Primary Care Trusts, oversight and scrutiny committees and the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

The AHSC will continue to serve its local and national patient base with a broad range of services as agreed in collaboration with our commissioners, while also fulfilling our intention of leading the world in our chosen areas of excellence. Our vision for the AHSC includes:

- Partnering with NHS organisations, public, private and charitable providers to create the AHSC's healthcare network, critical to delivering better care for Londoners and the wider UK population.
- Developing ways of working with local networks that allow conditions to be treated in the most appropriate settings. These approaches will be led by clinicians, with any proposals for service reconfiguration subject to consultation with the public and NHS London.
- Developing a new approach to public health and primary care with the goal of keeping people in good health and preventing illness, rather than diagnosing and treating them later on.



Trust and hospital contact information

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Hammersmith Hospital
Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS

Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital
Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS

St Mary's Hospital
Praed Street, London W2 1NY

Western Eye Hospital
Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QH

www.imperial.nhs.uk

To learn more about our vision for the next 10 years
download our document from:

www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus





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Be part of the AHSC's world-class team

We need all our staff to work together to fulfil the promise of the AHSC, and all staff need to be inspired to share in making discoveries and finding new ways of treating patients. We are tearing down institutional barriers to enable this to happen, and devising new ways of working between doctors, scientists, nurses, administrators and managers. We have already made a start with our innovative Clinical Programme Group structure, and here are some more ways we will develop our team:

- We are bringing clinical and academic management together in a way that is unprecedented in the UK health system—this creates new opportunities for all our staff to progress their careers and become leaders of their fields.
- We will establish a new Education Directorate covering all staff, and dedicated to fostering the supportive learning culture in which we believe our staff will do their best work. This will take a broad view of education and work from undergraduate level through to postgraduate and ongoing training and development for all healthcare professionals.
- We will create a Postgraduate Health Science Academy that will develop programmes for medical and non-medical healthcare professionals. One aim is to develop research skills and run postgraduate courses for nursing and professions allied to medicine.



Opportunities to develop your clinical academic career

To achieve our ambitions for healthcare we need to attract, develop and retain the best clinical academics in their fields. The AHSC offers unique opportunities for staff to develop their clinical academic careers.

Our vision for the AHSC means:

- We will maintain our status as the leading British centre of excellence for training clinical academics, and within five years all our consultants will hold honorary academic appointments with research and teaching responsibilities built into job plans.
- The AHSC has a world leading research presence in four areas: cardiovascular; endocrinology, diabetes and obesity; chronic inflammatory diseases; and infectious diseases. We will continue to focus on discovery and innovations in these areas.
- Clinical services at the heart of local networks, such as the West London Renal and Cancer networks and the proposed West London Specialist Children's Centre, will benefit from the College's research strengths in these areas.
- We have created a new Research Directorate which will support the transfer of academic research into clinical trials by providing a single point of access for the management, governance and conduct of trials.



Translational research opportunities for scientists and engineers

Research is central to our AHSC's mission and all our activities within it. To transform patient care in the NHS we believe that we need to focus our efforts hardest in this area.

Increasingly, the big challenges in medicine and healthcare require the input of scientists and engineers to address them. The diverse academic strengths of Imperial College London are an essential ingredient. Our AHSC will encourage collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to biomedical research and will draw on the College's research strengths to develop the latest healthcare technologies.

Our vision for the AHSC means:

- We will harness the College's ability to carry out fundamental scientific research, and help to secure a pipeline of scientific innovation for healthcare benefit.
- The Trust's access to a large and diverse patient population, alongside its established clinical and research expertise, places it in a unique position to undertake translational research and deliver effective and efficient clinical trials.
- We will at all times maintain the highest standards of safety and probity in our development of new treatments.



Imperial College London

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