



# **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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[www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

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

[www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus)

