

Statement by the Presidents of the partner Academies on the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing

Thursday 21 October 2021

As Presidents of the UK Royal Society, the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, and The World Academy of Sciences, we invite you to engage with us as we prepare for the [Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing](#). The Summit will take place on 7-9 March 2022 at the Francis Crick Institute, London, UK, and we are pleased to announce the members of the [Planning Committee for the Summit](#).

As research into human genome editing continues to advance, the need for global dialogue and collaboration on the safe and ethical applications and uses of human genome editing technologies is as important as ever. Clinical uses of non-heritable, somatic genome editing are now underway. Whilst these technologies offer promising new pathways to treat a variety of diseases, there are significant questions about how to ensure equitable access. Heritable genome editing – which is not yet at a stage where it might be performed safely and effectively in humans – raises a host of scientific, ethical and societal concerns, which call for international coordination on the governance and regulation of any potential future use.

Building upon the work of the previous international summits (held in [2015](#) and [2018](#)), the upcoming Summit will inform and catalyse debate around current and potential uses of genome editing technologies in humans by bringing together speakers and participants from a broader range of countries. It will also foster greater engagement with the genetic disease and disability communities and the companies developing genome editing therapies. Furthermore, the Summit will provide an opportunity to discuss and explore the findings and recommendations of the [2020 report](#) of the International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Editing and the [2021 reports](#) by the World Health Organization's Expert Advisory Committee on Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Summit in March next year and engaging in this important discussion.

Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society
Anne Johnson, President of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences
Marcia McNutt, President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences
Victor Dzau, President of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine
Mohamed Hassan, President of The World Academy of Sciences