



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

A hundred years ago our predecessor David Lloyd George identified old age and sickness as two spectres haunting the land. The challenges of old age have not gone away, but that is partly because since the Edwardian era average life expectancy has increased by at least 20 years.

The discovery of the structure of DNA made by this Institute's namesake, Francis Crick, has led to techniques such as genome sequencing which has revolutionised medical science. Francis Crick was an exceptionally talented researcher, who worked across disciplines to tackle some of science's biggest questions. It is fitting that the Institute bearing his name will bring together the brightest minds from different areas of science to advance medical research and improve the health of the nation.

Many of the misgivings of an earlier era that science might be our downfall look less likely to be realised. We hope that a hundred years hence such fears will be even more remote. We know that the pace of scientific discovery will continue and that future Prime Ministers will look back on even more startling discoveries. Many of them, we trust, will be British and associated with the Francis Crick Institute.

But science and discovery does not take place on the shoulders of British Prime Ministers. These achievements take time and effort, and their pioneers rarely share the limelight enjoyed by those who finally make the breakthrough. In 2011, we know our lives are hugely enriched by the knowledge gained through the scientific endeavour of decades past. Now, we pay tribute to the many scientists of today who, through their dedication to the long road of exploration, are writing your tomorrow.

We ask that you keep that faith, with your eyes fixed on the far horizon so that British science, with its glorious past, will have an even greater future.

RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP
PRIME MINISTER

RT HON NICK CLEGG MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER