

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar

Research and innovation in the UK - improving the commercialisation of research and the impact of European reforms

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 14th March 2013

Venue: Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall, Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG

Draft agenda subject to change



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- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Stephen Metcalfe MP, Member, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Challenges for UK research and innovation**
Key findings from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's inquiry: 'Bridging the "valley of death": improving the commercialisation of research'.
Andrew Miller MP, Chair, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.45 **Catapult Centres - progress so far and the future**
David Way, Director of Knowledge Exchange & Special Projects, Technology Strategy Board
- 9.45 - 10.35 **University-business research and innovation collaboration - Catapult Centres and the impact of the Wilson Review**
Are Catapult Centres set in the long term to deliver the intended increased commercialisation of UK research? What other areas should future Catapult Centres focus on beyond the current seven specialisms? What would be the result of implementing the Wilson Report's proposal for smaller centres of excellence in areas of science where there is industry interest but which aren't suitable for a fully-fledged Catapult Centre? Are the Research Excellence Framework's (REF) 'impact' criteria likely to lead to an increased focus on commercial outputs for research? What challenges does this present for academics? Will the adoption of open access impact the commercialisation of research? Is the alpha version of the Research Councils UK 'Gateway to Research' project user-friendly for SMEs seeking research and academic partners for commercialisation? What should be the next steps for the Technology Strategy Board's Innovation Vouchers scheme; has it met its aim to provide small businesses with academic support? What has been the impact of Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) so far and what is the long-term potential for the scheme? What challenges and barriers need to be addressed to increase private sector investment in research and development? What further steps could Government take to encourage this investment?
Keith Thompson, Chief Executive, Cell Therapy Catapult
Professor Stephen Caddick, Vice-Provost (Enterprise), University College London
Dr Mike Short, Vice-President, Telefónica Europe and President, The IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology) (2011-2012)
Professor Sa'ad Medhat, Founder and Chief Executive, NEF: The Innovation Institute
Katie Potts, Managing Director and Lead Fund Manager, Herald Investment Management
Questions and comments from the floor with **David Way**, Director of Knowledge Exchange & Special Projects, Technology Strategy Board
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Stephen Metcalfe MP, Member, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
- 10.40 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord May of Oxford, Emeritus Professor, Zoology Department, University of Oxford and Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government and Head of the UK Office of Science and Technology (1995-2000)
- 11.10 - 11.40 **Implementing the Innovation Union**
An outline of the key research and innovation priorities for the European Commission.
Pierre Vigier, Head of Unit - Economic Analysis and Monitoring of National Research Policies and the Lisbon Strategy, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.30 **Cross-border research and funding - implications for UK institutions**
Perspectives on the European Research Council (ERC) and Horizon 2020 initiative; what is needed for them to achieve their aims? What has been the impact of the first five years of the ERC on UK research, and what steps could be taken to increase the proportion of ERC funding received by UK universities? What would be the effect on UK universities of the current proposals to further the EU's 'single market for research' with the European Research Area? What would be the likely impact of Horizon 2020's proposed flat-rate reimbursement model for research costs, and are concerns about the lack of flexibility, as recently highlighted in the European Parliament, justified? Is the alignment of national research funding priorities desirable and how do current UK priorities compare with those of other EU member states?
Dr Sophie Laurie, Head of International Research, Research Councils UK
Professor David Drewry, Vice-President, European University Association
Professor Richard Davies, Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Research and innovation - next steps for UK policy**
Dr Graeme Reid, Head of Research Funding, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord May of Oxford, Emeritus Professor, Zoology Department, University of Oxford and Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government and Head of the UK Office of Science and Technology (1995-2000)
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum