

**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:
Research and innovation in the UK - funding, commercialisation and infrastructure**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 27th March 2014

Venue: Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord Dixon-Smith, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Research & Development spending in the UK - the state of play**
Dr Sally Howes, Executive Leader, National Audit Office
- 9.15 - 9.25 **Focusing on excellence - the impact of the Research Excellence Framework (REF)**
Dr Steven Hill, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE
- 9.25 - 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Sally Howes**, Executive Leader, National Audit Office and **Dr Steven Hill**, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE
- 9.35 - 10.20 **Funding for innovation - challenges and opportunities for universities and businesses**
What has been the effect of including commercial 'impact' criteria in REF assessments, and should the weighting increase to 25% as suggested in the Witty Review? What will be the likely impact of the Government's expansion of schemes to support seed and venture capital investment in businesses that commercialise research; what more could be done to increase investment in early-stage businesses seeking to commercialise research? What has been the initial impact of the Patent Box and the increased accessibility of R&D tax credits; what further steps can Government take to encourage private R&D investment? Will identifying the 'eight great technologies' as outlined in the Government's industrial strategy and the potential introduction of 'Arrow Projects' - collaborative projects to develop new technologies, led by universities where world-class research in the field is taking place, help attract inward investment; what steps should UKTI take to support this? How should LEPs utilise their allocation of European Structural and Investment Funds in order to achieve considerable increases in R&D output? Does more need to be done to raise business awareness of European funding options such as 'European Research Council Proof of Concept funds'?
Professor James Stirling, Provost, Imperial College London
Emily Thomas, Head of Strategy, University Alliance
Will Searle, Director and Founder, Axillium Research
Jan Krauss, Political Officer, Office of the European Commission in London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Lord Dixon-Smith, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- 10.25 - 10.45 Coffee
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Victoria Charlton, Committee Specialist, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
- 10.50 - 11.35 **University-Business collaboration - Catapult Centres, KTPs, spin-outs and the local growth agenda**
What are the benefits of the Catapult Centre model of university-business collaboration; what lessons can be learnt from the initial wave of centres and what areas of research should future Catapult Centres focus on? What steps can be taken to improve the uptake of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), particularly among SMEs? Other than finance, what are the key barriers to students and staff seeking to commercialise their research via a university spin-out company; what more can universities do to encourage and support spin-outs? Will the changes to Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF), proposed in the Witty Review, be successful in increasing university engagement with innovative SMEs? How can LEPs, universities and Government encourage greater R&D investment outside of London and South East England? Will the new University Enterprise Zones successfully address the lack of affordable lab and office space for science-intensive start-ups?
Marcus Gibson, Founder, Gibson Index
Robert Whiting, Business Development Consultant, KTP Office, Research and Innovation Service, University of Leeds
Dick Elsy, Chief Executive, High Value Manufacturing Catapult
Alan Welby, Executive Director, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 - 11.45 **Infrastructure for science in the UK**
Challenges for Government, HE sector and business arising from the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry.
Baroness Perry of Southwark, former Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group and Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- 11.45 - 12.30 **Internationally competitive scientific infrastructure - maintaining and developing world-class facilities**
How does the UK's scientific infrastructure compare with that of other developed nations? Is existing infrastructure being used to its full capability? What should be the priorities for future central Government investment in new infrastructure, and are existing funding streams adequate to deliver these projects? How could UK involvement in international and EU infrastructure projects be improved?
Dr Louise Leong, Head of Research and Development, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Dr David Hardman, Chairman, UK Science Park Association and Chief Executive Officer, Innovation Birmingham
Professor Sir Peter Gregson, Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor, Cranfield University
Professor John Womersley, Chief Executive Officer, Science and Technology Facilities Council
Questions and comments from the floor with **Baroness Perry of Southwark**, former Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group and Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Research and innovation - next steps for UK policy**
Lucia Costanzo, Assistant Director, Research Funding Unit, 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**
Victoria Charlton, Committee Specialist, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum

Seminar supported by **Axillium Research**

