

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Next steps for the UK research workforce - policy and support, widening access to careers, training and development, tackling skill gaps, and workplace culture and inclusion

Timing: Morning, Friday, 6th May 2022

Taking Place Online



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Feryal Clark MP, Co-Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the UK Innovation Corridor
- 9.05 **Priorities for the research workforce in the UK**
Professor Melanie Welham, Executive Chair, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; and People and Culture Champion, UKRI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 Break
- 9.40 **Widening pathways into UK research careers**
Senior representative, research
- 9.50 **Next steps for the researcher pipeline - increasing the breadth of intake, recognition of a wider range of qualifications, targeting engineers and technicians, tackling skills mismatches and planning for the future**
Kelly Vere, Director, Technical Skills and Strategy, University of Nottingham
Charlie Ball, Head, Higher Education Intelligence, Jisc
Jacqui Hall, Head of Early Careers, BioPharma R&D, AstraZeneca
Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental Physics, and Master, Churchill College, University of Cambridge
- 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Feryal Clark MP, Co-Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the UK Innovation Corridor
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 **Improving the skills base of those in research - training and CPD, and developing interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, leadership, project management and commercialisation**
Dr Nigel Eady, Director of Research Talent, Kings College London
Dr Katie Wheat, Head of Engagement and Policy, Vitae
Stephanie Baxter, Education and Skills Lead, Institution of Engineering and Technology
Dr Jennifer Harris, Director of Research Policy, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Senior representative, consultancy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 Break
- 11.45 **Diversity, inclusion and research culture - widening representation, tackling systemic barriers, and developing supportive and productive cultures**
Daniel Akinbosedede, PHD Candidate, University of Sussex
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, research
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for developing the workforce within UK research and innovation**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum