



Parliamentary Links Day 2023

Science and Economic Development



Organised by the RSB on behalf of the science and engineering community



Tuesday 20 June 2023 | 09:00-13:00

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 2LW

#LinksDay23

Programme

09:00 **Guests arrival and refreshments, Attlee Suite Annex**

10:00 **Welcome and housekeeping, Attlee Suite**
Dr Mark Downs, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Biology

Welcome

Stephen Metcalfe MP, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

George Freeman MP, Minister of Science, Research and Innovation

Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation

Panel discussion and Q&A

Chair: Dr Jo Reynolds, Director of Science and Communities, Royal Society of Chemistry

Panel: Professor David Leslie, Professor of Statistical Learning, Lancaster University

Professor Diane Coyle, Bennett Professor of Public Policy, University of Cambridge

Professor Johnathan Napier, Science Director, Rothamsted Research

Professor Sarah Main, Executive Director, CaSE

Keynote address and Q&A

Professor Dame Angela McLean, Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Vote of thanks

The Viscount Stansgate, House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee

12:00 **Buffet lunch, Attlee Suite Annex**

13:00 **Event end**

Disclaimer: This programme is subject to change

Speakers

Our hosting MP



Stephen Metcalfe
MP

CHAIR, PARLIAMENTARY &
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Constituency: South Basildon and East Thurrock
Party: Conservative

Stephen has been Member of Parliament for South Basildon and East Thurrock since 2010.

He is chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, which provides an important link between Parliament and scientific bodies, science-based industry and the academic world, joint chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence (APPGAI) and past chair and current member of the Science and Technology Select Committee. He was appointed the Government's Envoy for the Year of Engineering in 2018 and the "Engineering - Take a Closure Look" campaign and has visited a large number of engineering companies and events throughout the UK as a representative of the Government.

Stephen is also an Honorary Fellow of the IET, and a member of the Big Bang Community Interest Company which organises the UK's largest science fair for 11-16 year olds.

As a keen supporter of Parliamentary Links Day, Stephen has co-sponsored this annual event since 2013.

You can follow Stephen on Twitter [@Metcalfe_SBET](https://twitter.com/Metcalfe_SBET)

Speakers



George Freeman MP

MINISTER FOR SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION

Constituency: Mid Norfolk

Party: Conservative

Elected to Parliament in 2010, George is currently Minister for Science, Research and Innovation at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. He previously led the Prime Minister's Task Force on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform (TIGRR).

A long-standing localist committed to bold decentralisation as core to unlocking the UK as an Innovation Nation, Freeman has written, spoken and worked around the country through the Big Tent Festival and Foundation to promote new approaches to decentralised growth, levelling up and regeneration.

You can follow George on Twitter [@GeorgeFreemanMP](#)



Chi Onwurah MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR
SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION

Constituency: Newcastle upon Tyne Central

Party: Labour

Chi was elected as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle upon Tyne Central in 2010. After a degree in electrical engineering in 1987, Chi worked in hardware and software development, product management, market development and strategy for a variety of predominately private sector companies in a number of different countries. During this time Chi also studied for an MBA and gained Chartered Engineering status.

Chi is also Shadow Minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and has previously been a shadow minister in the cabinet office, and for business, innovation and skills.

You can follow Chi on Twitter [@ChiOnwurah](#)

Speakers



Jo Reynolds PhD
FRSC FRSA

DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND
COMMUNITIES, ROYAL
SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

Jo is director of science & communities at the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). She has more than 25 years' experience in the non-profit sector, including at Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust. She is a qualified executive coach and a trustee of Leukaemia UK.

You can follow Jo on Twitter [@joreynoldsrc](#)



Professor David Leslie

PROFESSOR OF
STATISTICAL LEARNING,
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Professor of statistical learning, and head of the statistics section at Lancaster University, David also held a position at the data science start up Secondmind.ai, and is a scientific board member of the Smith Institute. His principle research interests are in learning and decision-making, and in particular which actions should a decision-maker take in the short term in order to ensure sufficient information is gained for long-term performance. He has collaborated with many companies, including Google, Tesco, Rolls Royce, BT and BAE Systems, to deploy cutting edge research ideas into industry, while extracting interesting future research challenges back to investigate in universities. David also maintains an interest in strategic decision-making and games that has continued since his PhD in 2003 at University of Bristol.

You can follow David on Twitter [@DLeslieLancs](#)

Speakers



Professor Diane Coyle
CBE

BENNET PROFESSOR OF
PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE

Diane co-directs the Bennet Institute where she heads research under the themes of place, progress, productivity and decision making. Diane is also a director of the Productivity Institute, a Fellow of the Office for National Statistics, an expert advisor to the National Infrastructure Commission, and senior independent members of the ESRC Council. She has served in public service roles including as vice chair of the BBC Trust, member of the Competition Commission, of the Migration Advisory Committee and of the Natural Capital Committee. She was professor of economics at the University of Manchester until March 2018 and was awarded a CBE for her contribution to the public understanding of economics in the 2018 New Year's Honours.

You can follow Diane on Twitter [@DianeCoyle1859](#)



Professor Johnathan
Napier

SCIENCE DIRECTOR,
ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH

Professor Johnathan Napier is a leading pioneer in plant biotechnology and a flagship leader at Rothamsted Research, one of the oldest agricultural research institutions in the world. At Rothamsted, Professor Napier leads a team running the only GM field trials in the UK, evaluating the performance of metabolically engineered oilseeds to accumulate omega-3 fish oils.

He completed his PhD in plant biochemistry from King's College London and post-doctoral research at the University of Cambridge. He has published over 160 peer-reviewed papers and is the inventor on multiple patents relating to the biotechnology of lipid metabolism.

You can follow Johnathan on Twitter [@JohnathanNapie1](#)

Speakers



Professor Sarah Main
FRSB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CAMPAIGN FOR SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING

After training and working as a molecular biologist, Sarah worked at the MRC and in Government on science funding. Sarah is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a Trustee of the British Science Association, and the Foundation for Science and Technology. She is an honorary professor at UCL and a Royal Academy of Engineering visiting professor at the University of Westminster.

You can follow Sarah on Twitter [@drsarahmain](#)



Professor Dame
Angela McLean FRS

GOVERNMENT CHIEF
SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Dame Angela is Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) having taken up the role in April 2023. She is also the head of the Government Science and Engineering (GSE) profession. Prior to this, Angela was the Chief Scientific Advisor for the Ministry of Defence.

Until April 2023, Dame Angela was a professor of mathematical biology in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, and a Fellow of All Souls College.

You can follow Angela on Twitter [@uksciencechief](#)

Resources



British Ecological Society
www.britishecologicalsociety.org

- The 2022 report on protected areas: [Protected Areas](#)
 - [The future of ecological research in the UK](#)
-



The Physiological Society
www.physoc.org

- [Understanding 'Early Exiters': The case for a healthy ageing workforce strategy](#)
 - [Translating Knowledge and Research into Impact](#)
 - [Contribution of physiology education and training to the UK economy](#)
-



Royal Society of Biology
www.rsb.org.uk

- [Our science policy priorities for 2022 – 2027](#)
- [Our education priorities for 2023 – 2028](#)

Resources



The **Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)** is the professional body for the advancement of the chemical sciences. We represent around 50,000 members in the chemical sciences sector, including entrepreneurs, researchers, teachers and students.

The following link shows all of our recent policy and evidence campaigns:

www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns

Recent highlights:

Policy and Evidence

- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/chemical-waste-and-pollution
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/inclusion-diversity/surveys-reports-campaigns/racial-and-ethnic-inequalities-in-the-chemical-sciences
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/inclusion-diversity/joint-commitment-for-action-inclusion-and-diversity-in-publishing
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/environmental-sustainability/sustainability-reports-surveys-and-campaigns/precious-elements
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/environmental-sustainability/sustainability-reports-surveys-and-campaigns/sustainable-laboratories
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/discovery-research-and-innovation/discovery-research-innovation-reports-surveys-campaigns/the-case-for-supporting-uk-deep-tech-chemistry
- <https://changemakers.rsc.org>

Education

- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/chemistry-education/education-reports-surveys-campaigns/the-science-teaching-survey
- www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/chemistry-education/education-reports-surveys-campaigns/chemistry-curriculum-framework



MEASURING VACCINE-INDUCED IMMUNOGENICITY

Leveraging a COVID-19 legacy for improved public health

British Society for Immunology report

Immediate investment in vaccine-induced immunogenicity is crucial to improve the evaluation of the effectiveness and value of vaccines for the advancement of public health and the UK's pandemic preparedness. The progress made in science, research infrastructure and innovative ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemic has given us an exceptional opportunity to enhance vaccine development through this key tool.

This report calls for interventions to better understand, measure and utilise vaccine-induced immunogenicity for long-term benefit to patients and public health, and stronger pandemic preparedness in the UK. It has been informed by roundtable discussions with experts from academia, industry, government, regulators and clinical medicine.

Recommendations include:

LESSONS FROM COVID-19 VACCINES REGULATION AND MONITORING

Immunogenicity research should be an agreed toolbox of companion diagnostics recognised as a central part of the UK's pandemic preparedness plans. It should be defined to support vaccine development, licensing and adoption.

LEADERSHIP AND CO-ORDINATION OF PEOPLE WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

A UK vaccinology network based on pandemic models of working, with continued funding and strong leadership, should be included in licensing and post-marketing surveillance programmes for people who are immunocompromised. It should be established to devise and address key questions and challenges in vaccine immunogenicity.

Download the report here: www.immunology.org/bsi-report-immunogenicity



MSD fully funded and attended the roundtable meeting. This report was fully funded by MSD and was fact checked for accuracy and balance only.

Biochemical Society policy work

Parliamentary Links Day 2023 – Science and economic development

The Biochemical Society champions the molecular biosciences by identifying and acting on key science and education policy issues. We aim to ensure that the views of our membership are channelled to the appropriate policymakers, to protect the future of our discipline.

Working together

The [Policy Advisory Panel](#) guides the Biochemical Society's policy activities, developing and driving our objectives in the areas of policy and public affairs. The panel proactively identifies policy matters of relevance to the molecular biosciences, working closely with our [Policy Network](#), which is open to all members with an interest in policy, and external partners to inform and influence policymakers.

Joining forces to provide a unified voice on policy issues and maximise our policy influence and impact, we work closely with our partner organisations such as the Royal Society of Biology, and others, to advocate for the molecular biosciences and the wider science sector.

Informing policymakers

We respond to requests from policymakers for information and evidence, both independently and in conjunction with partners. We have contributed to inquiries on a range of topics across science and education policy that are important to our membership and our discipline, such as antimicrobial resistance, genetic engineering, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in STEM, and more. Responses are shaped by the Policy Advisory Panel, with input from other relevant Society committees when appropriate, and the Policy Network to ensure the views of our membership and community are represented.



Voice of the Future 2023 (Credit: Royal Society of Biology).



STEM for Britain 2023: Stephen Metcalfe MP, Sarah Dawson (winner of the Bronze Award in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences section), Professor Michelle West (Biochemical Society), Professor Julie Lovegrove (Nutrition Society), Stephen Benn, 3rd Viscount Stansgate.

We also support parliamentary events organised by our partners, such as [Parliamentary Links Day](#), [Voice of the Future](#), and [STEM for Britain](#), where we sponsor the Bronze Award in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences section, supporting opportunities for researchers at all career stages to engage in dialogue with policymakers within the UK Government.

Sharing knowledge

We are committed to sharing information and triggering discussion on important policy matters, through regular publication of articles in our magazine, [The Biochemist](#), and we share policy [news stories](#) via our website.

We produce policy webinars, which in the past have covered [open access](#) and the [anti-vaccine movement](#), and our introductory training course for researchers interested in policy and public engagement has educated over 250 learners.

Through our partnerships with other organisations, such as the [Science Media Centre](#) and Sense about Science's [Standing up for Science workshops](#), we also support the delivery of a range of training and guidance opportunities that help scientists to hone their skills and engage in discussions around policy, evidence, and public affairs.



Voice of the Future 2023 (Credit: Royal Society of Biology).



Parliamentary Links Day (Credit: Royal Society of Biology)



Serving our community

We are proud to represent a diverse community of molecular bioscientists across the spectrum of basic to clinical research. We strive to understand our membership to ensure we are prioritising our efforts in the policy space and beyond to address their needs and concerns, and champion their contributions to addressing wider societal issues. Our [Research Areas and Theme Panels](#) ensure diversity in our events programme, which includes a [clinical and translational research focus](#), and scientists working in life science industry on our [Industry Advisory Panel](#) and across our [Ambassadorial programme](#) facilitate ongoing dialogue with the commercial sector. Through these channels, we help translate molecular insight into real-world solutions to challenges faced by medicine, agriculture, and the environment.

The Society places [EDI](#) at the heart its activities, and we conduct annual EDI surveys to understand the makeup of our membership and inform how we can provide as inclusive an environment as possible. Our [EDI Advisory Panel](#) drives our EDI agenda, working in close collaboration with the Policy Advisory Panel on projects such as judging of applications for our [Diversity in Science grants](#), which aim to promote or support diversity in STEM.

Follow us for all our latest news

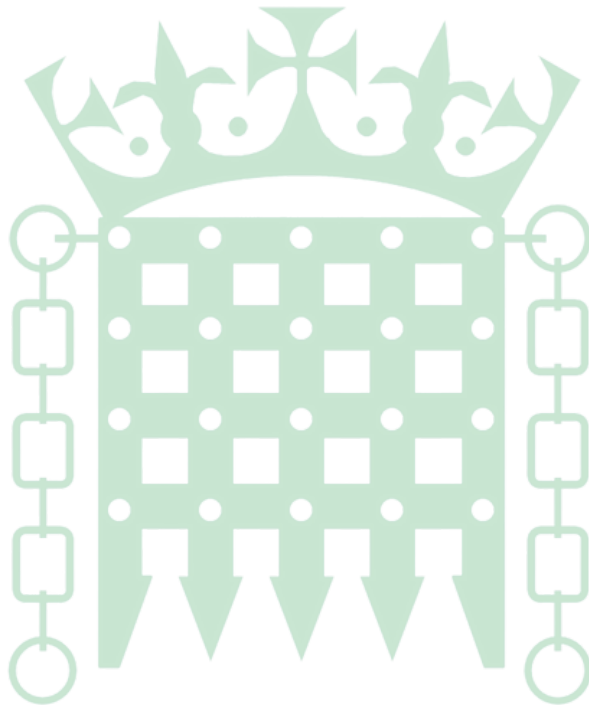
 [@BiochemSoc](#)

  [Biochemical Society](#)

 [officialbiochemsoc](#)

Find out more on our website

[biochemistry.org](#)



Royal Society of Biology
1 Naoroji Street
London WC1X 0GB

020 3925 3440

info@rsb.org.uk
www.rsb.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 277981
Incorporated by Royal Charter