

# SCIENCE AND THE ASSEMBLY 2013

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**The Royal Society of Chemistry held its ninth annual Science and the Assembly event on 21st May. Organised by the Society, on behalf of, and in cooperation with, the science and engineering community in Wales, this event has become a firm fixture in the National Assembly for Wales' calendar, and is designed to foster close relations between scientists, Assembly Members and the Welsh Government.**

Once again, the event was held at adjacent venues in Cardiff Bay. The historic Pierhead building was the location for the afternoon presentations and its more recent neighbour, the Richard Rogers' designed Senedd, hosted the early evening reception and exhibition.

This year's theme was: *Innovation as a Driver for Growth in the Welsh Economy.*

**Professor David Phillips CBE**, immediate Past President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, got the proceedings under way. He



Professor David Phillips CBE

took the opportunity of paying tribute to Professor John Harries, Wales' first Chief Scientific Adviser, who had recently retired from his post. During Professor Harries' three year tenure, the Welsh Government had published the *Science for Wales* Strategy, which underpins "the Government's vision to cultivate a strong, dynamic science base, that drives forward the economic

and national progression of Wales, to build a solid supportive education system, and to deliver results in the three vital Grand Challenge priority areas, enshrined in the £50m Ser Cymru/Stars Wales project". Under Ser Cymru, three National Research Networks and Research Chairs, are being created, and based on: Life Sciences and health; Low Carbon, energy and; Advanced engineering and materials.

**Professor Keith Smith** of Cardiff University, and a member of the RSC Council, introduced a distinguished array of speakers:

**Wendy Sadler**, Director of science made simple, and a member of the Science Advisory Council for Wales, whose presentation asked the question: 'Why is STEM vital for innovation, in Wales?'



Wendy Sadler, Director, science made simple

**Dr Gareth Jenkins**, Director, Process Research and Development Projects, AMRI Europe. Gareth addressed

delegates on the subject of 'Small-scale chemical manufacturing: innovate to survive; innovate to grow; innovate to sustain'.

**Professor Peter Heard**, Professor of Economic Development and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at Glyndwr University, spoke about 'Economic Development: Establishing a North East Wales Knowledge Industry Corridor'.



Members of the audience for the presentations at the Pierhead

**Stuart West**, Managing Director, Biocatalysts Ltd, Cardiff, who dealt with the topic: 'Skills and Innovation – the routes to commercial success'.

**Beverley Pold**, Development and Innovation Manager for Chwarae Teg (Fair Play) covered the subject of 'Influencing the Gender Agenda'.

**Professor Ian Cluckie**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Science and Engineering, Swansea University, presented on: 'Innovation in Higher Education via research and co-location'.



Pierhead and Senedd

**Professor Chris McGuigan**, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Cardiff University, delivered the afternoon's final talk on the theme of: 'Life Science in Wales: HUB, Fund and Ser Cymru'.

**Professor Jim Iley**, Executive Director, for Science and Education, Royal Society of Chemistry, brought proceedings to a close, at the Pierhead, by thanking the speakers for their presentations.

Delegates then joined Assembly Members at the Senedd for the Reception and Exhibition.

The Exhibition was fully subscribed, and supported by the following organisations: the Association of Public Analysts; Association for Science Education; ASTUTE; British Science Association/CREST; Campaign for Science and Engineering; Cardiff University; Central Biotechnology Services; Chwarae Teg; Engineering Education Scheme Wales; Institute of Physics; OCR Cymru; Royal Society of Chemistry; See Science; Society of Biology; science made simple; Society for General Microbiology; The Geological Society of London; the University of South Wales, and the WJEC.

*Science and the Assembly* was sponsored by representatives of each of the for main political parties: David Rees AM, Chair of the National Assembly's Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology (Labour); Eluned



Prof David Phillips CBE, Simon Thomas AM, David Rees AM, Jeff Cuthbert AM, Eluned Parrott AM, Nick Ramsay AM, Leigh Jeffes

Parrott AM, Shadow Minister for Enterprise, Transport, Europe and Business; Nick Ramsay AM (Liberal Democrat) Chair of the Enterprise and Business Committee, and Shadow Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science

(Conservative); and Simon Thomas AM, Shadow Minister for Education and Skills, and the Welsh Language (Plaid Cymru).

Eluned, Nick and Simon also serve as Vice Chairs of the Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology, which is managed

by the Royal Society of Chemistry, in Wales.

Each of the co-sponsoring AMs addressed delegates, and was preceded by Jeff Cuthbert AM, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, who stood in for Mrs Edwina Hart MBE AM,

Minister for Economy, Science and Transport.

*Science and the Assembly* 2013 was an extremely successful event, drawing a record number of attendees from across the Welsh science and engineering community.

The Royal Society of Chemistry looks forward to welcoming guests to next year's event, which takes place at the Pierhead and the Senedd, on Tuesday 20th May 2014.



Dr Stephen Benn

Joint Meeting of the Parliamentary Space Committee and Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on Monday 9th September

# OUR LIVING SOLAR SYSTEM

The four speakers were:

Dr Lewis Dartnell, Space Research Centre, University of Leicester  
Mars – did life ever evolve there and what will future exploration reveal?

Professor Michele Dougherty FRS, Imperial College  
Jupiter and Saturn's moons – new hopes for finding life in the Solar System

Professor John Zarnecki, Open University  
Time capsules, space hazards or mineral resources: Opportunities for New Space entrepreneurs

Fabio Favata, European Space Agency  
Answering the big questions about our planet's place in the Universe

Committee Room 11 was full to capacity for the meeting, which was chaired jointly by Andrew Miller MP and Dr Phillip Lee MP. It was organised in association with European Planetary Science Congress 2013, with several of the delegates in the audience.



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