



The Royal Society
of Edinburgh

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL



Scotland's National Academy

February 2017



New Fellows 2017

The 2017 intake of new Fellows was announced on 15 February. The RSE is pleased to welcome 60 UK and International Fellows to its 1600-strong Fellowship. This year, 51 New Fellows were elected, (including one current member of the Young Academy of Scotland and one YAS Alumni). Four Honorary Fellows and five Corresponding Fellows were also appointed. Among the new Honorary Fellows, we are delighted to welcome HRH The Duke of Cambridge, who has been selected as an RSE Royal Honorary Fellow. The full list of new Fellows is available at: www.rse.org.uk/rse-welcomes-60-new-fellows/

Nominations for President and new Office Bearers

Fellows should have received separate letters from the President, inviting suggestions on who might be the next President, and from the General Secretary, seeking nominations to fill the following positions from April 2018:

- General Secretary (currently Alan Alexander)
- Vice-President, Life Sciences (currently Neva Haites)
- Vice-President, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (currently John Wallace).

Following a skills audit of Council, we are aware of a particular, but not exclusive, need for Office Bearers and Trustees with experience in commerce, investment, IT, marketing and law. All suggestions for the next President should be sent to Alan Alexander – aalexander@theRSE.org.uk by the end of February 2017, and suggestions for the other Office Bearers to Morven Chisholm – mchisholm@theRSE.org.uk by 15 March 2017.

Fellows' Morning Discussion Meetings

Coffee is available in the Fellows' Room on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 am. Once a month, between October and March, there is a Discussion Meeting, normally in the Wellcome East Room, introduced by an invited speaker. The last of these Discussions for this Session will take place on Tuesday 7 March 2017, when Professor John Connell, RSE Fellowship Secretary, will speak on *Fellowship matters*.

Fellows Deceased

It is with much regret that we report the death of Professor John Kenyon **Mason** CBE. If you have any suggestions of obituary writers for those Fellows for whom we have not managed to commission a writer or source an obituary, please email: obituaries@theRSE.org.uk.

A list showing the current state is available at: www.rse.org.uk/fellows/past-fellows

Recruitment of New CEO

Eighty applications were received for the post of CEO by the closing date of 9 February. Applicants, 50% of whom were women, came from around the world, as well as the UK, and backgrounds included academia, business and the third sector. The Appointment Panel reduced the number to 15 and these names have been passed back to Perrett Laver for further sifting. The final shortlist will be interviewed on Friday 7 April 2017.

Policy Advice Activity

Responses are being prepared to: the British Academy Consultation on Skills (closing date 15 March) – www.britac.ac.uk/callforevidence; a Scottish Parliament Inquiry into the Gender Pay Gap (closing date 10 March) – www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/102751.aspx; and the UK Government Green Paper on developing a modern industrial strategy (closing date 17 April) – www.gov.uk/government/consultations/building-our-industrial-strategy;

Fellows are invited to contact the Policy Team at: publicpolicy@theRSE.org.uk should they wish to offer written comments on these calls for evidence. The RSE has recently submitted a response to the Commission on Parliamentary Reform – www.rse.org.uk/advice-papers/commission-parliamentary-reform/.

The Learned Societies Group has responded to the Scottish Government's plans for a STEM Education and Training Strategy – www.rse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LSG_STEM_Strategy.pdf.

Grants for Fellows and Members of the Young Academy of Scotland

The next closing date for Grant applications is Wednesday 31 May 2017. These Grants are available to Fellows and Young Academy Members in support of research and scholarship. Joint applications (between Young Academy Members and Fellows) would be particularly welcome. Please visit the website for more information and application forms: www.rse.org.uk/awards/grants-for-fellows/

Young Academy of Scotland External Event

A panel discussion and pitching competition will take place on Monday 13 March at 6 pm at the University of Edinburgh's Business School Auditorium, entitled *Life Science for Good: Speeding the Convergence of Impact and Profit*. Hosted by EthosBio CIC and sponsored by the Young Academy of Scotland, this event will discuss and explore how Scotland can nurture socially conscious entrepreneurs with life science business ideas. Start-ups are invited to present and pitch their technology with a social conscious angle. For more details and to register visit: www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/events/current/life-science-for-good.html

RSE Research Awards – Available Now:

Cormack Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships – Closing date: Thursday 30 March 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/robert-cormack-bequestpiazzi-smyth-bequest-undergraduate-vacation-research-scholarships

Cormack Postgraduate Research Prize – Closing date: Thursday 30 March 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/revision-of-early-career-prizes-2/

RSE–CASS Joint Projects (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Closing date **now extended to**: Friday 31 March 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/international-exchange-programme-rse-cass-joint-projects/

Enterprise Fellowships – Closing date: Wednesday 26 April 2017.

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/enterprise-fellowships/

Lessells Travel Scholarships – Closing date: Friday 28 April 2017 at 5 pm.

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/john-moyes-lessells-travel-scholarships/

D S MacLagan Travel Grants – Wednesday 31 May 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/d-s-maclagan-travel-grant

RSE Events

For tickets and information about RSE events, please visit the [Society's website](http://www.theRSE.org.uk), email the Events Team – events@theRSE.org.uk or phone the events ticketline – 0131 240 2780. Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the RSE. Registration is required for all RSE events. Tickets are available as follows:

RSE/RAEng Joint Lecture – *Delivering the Nation's Flagships*. Dr Archie Bethel CBE FEng FRSE, Chief Executive of Babcock International Group plc. Monday 6 March 2017 at 6 pm. Organised in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng). This lecture forms part of an Ordinary Meeting and so will be preceded by Society business, such as Fellows signing the Roll.

Conference & Discussion Forum – *How can we learn to live with floods? Challenges for science and management*. Wednesday 15 March 2017. During the day (10 am–4.30 pm), there will be a series of talks by leading UK experts on how best to manage flood risk. There will be a charge of £25 (discounted rate: £10) for the day-time session. This will be followed in the evening (5–7.30 pm) by a panel discussion on issues raised during the day. The evening session will be open to the general public and no charge will be made. Supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Conference – ITMAT in Edinburgh – *Big Data & the Development of New Medicines*. Friday 17 March 2017, 8.30 am–5.30 pm at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Supported by the British Pharmacological Society. For more information and to book, please contact the BPS Team at: meetings@bps.ac.uk, phone 0207 239 0176 or visit the BPS web page: www.bps.ac.uk/itmat.

Lord Kelvin Prize Lecture – *From the Infinite to the Infinitesimal: Birth of a Higgs Boson*. Professor Anthony Doyle FRSE, Professor of Physics, University of Glasgow. Monday 24 April 2017 at 6 pm.

Staff News

We are sorry to announce that Susan Lennox, Senior Policy Officer, left the RSE on Thursday 2 February and that Dr Lesley Campbell, Young Academy Manager, retired on Thursday 16 February. We wish them both all the very best as they embark on new episodes in their lives.

Welcome to Rebecca Dudgeon who joined the RSE on 13 February as Events Assistant.

Feedback

Feedback on how we could improve this bulletin for Fellows is always welcome. To comment, or if you do not wish to receive future editions, please contact: Jenny Liddell – jliddell@theRSE.org.uk – 0131 240 5019.