



**Press Release 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

### **RSE launches new Young Academy of Scotland**

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), Scotland's National Academy, is delighted to announce that it has today chosen the first members of the new "RSE Young Academy of Scotland". This exciting development is the first of its kind in the UK. It will be part of a growing movement of Young Academies across the world.

The RSE has established this Young Academy as a unique opportunity to bring together some of the most able and innovative young academics, entrepreneurs, artists and professionals in Scotland. Every year a new round of applications will be encouraged bringing in a new cohort of members. The aim of the initiative is to stimulate creative ideas and collaborative working that will help address some of the key challenges facing Scotland and contribute to solving some of the global challenges of the 21st Century.

The Young Academy will provide a platform for the best and most forward-looking people of their generation to develop for themselves a distinctive, coherent and influential "voice" to address many of the challenging issues facing society. It will provide a forum for its members to engage with talented individuals beyond their own discipline or profession.

The average age of the first group of members of the Young Academy is 36 and over 40% are women. They cover a very wide range of expertise from biologists, geoscientists and engineers to lawyers, social scientists and entrepreneurs. There are members from all parts of Scotland, as well as those originally from elsewhere in the UK or other parts of the world.

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, the RSE President said: "This is an exciting and important initiative. We have created the RSE Young Academy of Scotland because we believe that the future vitality of Scotland will depend on how we support and engage with the most talented and creative members of the rising generation. All of the people who have been appointed have demonstrated great ability and potential. I have no doubt that there will be many in this group who will go on to make a significant contribution, both within Scotland and internationally in the years ahead."

A rigorous selection procedure resulted in 68 young academics, entrepreneurs and professionals being chosen to be the first members in Scotland. The Young Academy will be launched at a ceremony in Edinburgh in November. Members were selected from over 300 applicants.

Among the first members of the RSE Young Academy will be Dr Andrew Mearns Spragg, whose marine biology company Aquapharm is in Oban, outstanding musician Dr Jane Stanley, lecturer in music composition and theory at the University of Glasgow, and Dr Lisa DeBruine a scientist at Aberdeen University whose work explores how human physical appearance affects social decision making.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Michael Russell MSP, added his welcome to the announcement saying, "The new Young Academy is supporting the talent of the future, exposing our best young people to the experience and expertise of the RSE Fellowship. It provides the ideal forum for talent in science, engineering and the arts to mix with each other as well as supporting research excellence."

"The young people involved will also have the opportunity to access some of our leading business experts through the RSE Fellowship and that can only help them achieve their ambitions".

The successful computing scientist and entrepreneur, Professor Chris van der Kuyl expressed his support for the venture observing, "As a Fellow of the RSE I recognise the important work that it contributes in promoting research, ideas and entrepreneurship for the benefit of Scotland. The advances in knowledge in recent decades have been very fast moving and it is important for the Society to engage with the most talented young people who are active in Scotland today. These are the next generation of leaders in Scotland. I look forward to working with many of the people we are welcoming to the Young Academy today."

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## **Editors notes:**

**The Royal Society of Edinburgh** is Scotland's National Academy of Science and Letters. It was founded in 1783 by Royal Charter for the "advancement of learning and useful knowledge". It has 1500 Fellows whose expertise encompasses the full spectrum of sciences, medicine, engineering and technology, education, law, the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, industry, the professions and public service. This multi-disciplinary perspective makes the RSE unique amongst the UK's learned societies.

The RSE Young Academy invited applications from outstanding young academics and professionals for membership in the age range late 20s to early 40s. Membership lasts for 3 years and can be continued for a further 3 years.

In the first cohort of members 68 members were appointed from 336 applicants. Of these over 40 % were female; 80% are from the academic sector across a wide range of institutions, with around 20% from the professions and business. Case studies of three of the members are included below and a full list of members is enclosed as an attachment.

The initiative to establish the Young Academy of Scotland was made possible by a legacy donation to the Royal Society of Edinburgh by the late Dr David Shepherd, himself a former Fellow of The Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE).

**Case studies** – some of the first members to be appointed to the RSE Young Academy

**Dr Andrew Mearns Spragg – CTO Aquapharm Biodiscovery, Oban** – a graduate in microbiology and a PhD in marine biotechnology from Heriot Watt University, Andrew's firm pioneers the discovery, isolation and development of novel bio-chemicals from marine microbes in the sea. He has successfully raised £10m in equity and finance. Says Andrew: "My motivation for wishing to join the Young Academy was to take an active role and contribute to the development of strategies and policies that will enable Scotland to succeed as an entrepreneurial nation built on technical and commercial innovation and excellence. As a past RSE Enterprise Fellow, the Royal Society of Edinburgh was pivotal in allowing me the opportunity to explore my entrepreneurial potential and develop the skills needed to build a pioneering technology business. This forum allows me the opportunity to contribute, share my network with like minded individuals and contribute something back."

**Dr Jane Stanley** – lecturer in music composition at the University of Glasgow  
Jane is an Australian born composer who has been lecturing in Scotland at the University of Glasgow for the last 5 years. She received her PhD from the University of Sydney and was a visiting Fellow at Harvard University. Her music has been performed all over the world, including her work Spindrift/Interiors, which was selected to represent Australia at ISCM World Music Days. "I anticipate benefiting from membership of the RSE Young Academy through interacting with an international network of scholars, scientists and entrepreneurs. I expect to benefit from the potential to engage with peers in a variety of disciplines and to continue to

foster interdisciplinary collaborative relationships. For example during my experience of Scottish Crucible 2011 we explored connections between music, genetics and history.”

**Dr Lisa M DeBruine – Senior Lecturer in Psychology University of Aberdeen**

Lisa is interested in how humans use facial resemblance to tell who their kin are, and how people respond to cues of kinship in different circumstances. A highly successful and respected researcher, who has published more than 100 scientific papers, she is also interested in how the visual system learns about faces and what visual adaptation effects can tell us about the face processing system. Lisa combines theories from evolutionary biology and cognitive psychology with methods from experimental psychology, behavioural ecology and experimental economics, to explore how human physical appearance affects social decision making. Lisa says of her appointment as one of the first members of the RSE Young Academy: “I am passionate about science education and hope to help shape the Young Academy’s activities for encouraging children to consider science as a career and for educating the general public about scientific research. I hope to enhance my own ability to contribute to public policy through my research and to act as a conduit through which others can find out how their work can influence policy.”

*The RSE is Scottish Charity SC000470*

## 2011 RSE YOUNG ACADEMY OF SCOTLAND

NAME	JOB TITLE	DEPT	INSTITUTION
ALLEN, Rosalind	Royal Society University Research Fellow and Proleptic Lecturer	School of Physics and Astronomy	University of Edinburgh
ASHBROOK, Sharon	Reader in Physical Chemistry	School of Chemistry	University of St Andrews
BALMFORTH, Des	Programme Manager		SELEX
BLACKSTOCK, Kirsty	Theme Leader	Socio-Economic Research Group	Hutton Institute
CHADWICK, Rosalie	Corporate Finance Manager	Corporate Finance	McGrigors
CHALMERS, James	Senior Lecturer in Law	School of Law	University of Edinburgh
CHAPMAN, Paul	Deputy Director	Digital Design Studio	Glasgow School of Art
CHIRNSIDE, Iain	Executive Director		Brinker Technology
COULTHURST, Sarah	Principal Investigator & RSE Scottish Government Personal Research Fellow	Division of Molecular Microbiology	University of Dundee
DE MOORTEL, Ineke	Royal Society University Research Fellow	School of Mathematics & Statistics	University of St Andrews
DEBRUINE, Lisa	Senior Lecturer in Psychology	School of Psychology	University of Aberdeen
DELIBEGOVIC, Mirela	RCUK Fellow	College of Life Sciences and Medicine	University of Aberdeen
DOCHERTY, Iain	Professor of Public Policy and Governance	Business School, Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit.	University of Glasgow
DUNCAN, Edward	Senior Research Fellow		University of Stirling
ECCLES, Nigel	CEO		Hubdub Ltd
FACCIO, Daniele	Reader in Physics	School of Engineering and Physical Sciences,	Heriot-Watt University
FAULDS, Karen	Senior Lecturer in Bioanalytical Chemistry	Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry	University of Strathclyde
FORGAN, Ross	Postdoctoral Research Fellow		University of Glasgow
FYFE, Aileen	University Lecturer	School of History	University of St Andrews
GOTTS, Jane	International Director	International	SCDI
GOW, Alan	Senior Research Fellow	Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology	University of Edinburgh
GREGGS, Tom	Professor of Historical and Doctrinal Theology	School of Divinity, History and Philosophy	University of Aberdeen
HALL, Jeremy	Scottish Senior Clinical Fellow	Division of Psychiatry	University of Edinburgh
HAMMILL, Faye	Professor of English	School of Humanities	University of Strathclyde
HAMMOND, Giles	RCUK Academic Fellow and Lecturer	School of Physics and Astronomy	University of Glasgow
HARRISON, Gareth	Bert Whittington Chair of Electrical Power Engineering	Institute for Energy Systems, School for Engineering	University of Edinburgh
HASTIE, Helen	Lecturer	School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences	Heriot-Watt University

NAME	JOB TITLE	DEPT	INSTITUTION
HASTIE, Jennifer	Associate Team Leader	Institute of Photonics	University of Strathclyde
HAYNES, Heather	Lecturer	School of Engineering	University of Glasgow
HEYMANS, Catherine	Astrophysics Lecturer and European Research Council Fellow	Institute for Astronomy	University of Edinburgh
ISHAQ, Asif	Policy Adviser	Safer Communities	Scottish Government
JENKINS, Rob	Senior Lecturer	School of Psychology	University of Glasgow
KASHEFI, Elham	Lecturer & EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow	School of Informatics	University of Edinburgh
LORIMER, Karen	Research Fellow in Public Health	Public Health	Glasgow Caledonian University
LUSSEAU, David	Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland Lecturer in Marine Top Predator Biology	School of Biological Sciences	University of Aberdeen
MACPHEE, Catherine	Professor of Biological Physics	School of Physics and Astronomy	University of Edinburgh
MALCOLM, Graeme	Chief Executive Officer		M Squared Lasers
MARSHALL, Alexander	Senior Lecturer	Department of History	University of Glasgow
MCCONNELL, Arlene	Radar and Advanced Targeting Systems Engineer	Radar	SELEX
MCLENNAN, Neil	National Development Officer		Learning, Teaching Scotland
MEARNS-SPRAGG, Andrew	Founder & Chief Technology Officer		Aquapharm Biodiscovery
MURER, Jeffrey	Lecturer on Collective Violence	School of International Relations	University of St Andrews
MUTAPI, Francisca	Research Fellow	Institute for Immunology & Infection Research	University of Edinburgh
NICHOL, Caroline	Lecturer	School of GeoSciences,	University of Edinburgh
NICHOLLS, John	Head of New Businesses		M Squared Lasers
O'DRISCOLL, Cian	Lecturer in Politics	Politics	University of Glasgow
O'SULLIVAN, Chris	Senior Project Manager		Mental Health Foundation
OVERTON, Ian	Senior Scientist (Group Leader)	Biomedical Systems Analysis	MRC HGU
PENTLAND, Gordon	Senior Lecturer in History	School of History, Classics & Archaeology	University of Edinburgh
PICKERSGILL, Martyn	Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Biomedical Ethics	Centre for Population Health Sciences	University of Edinburgh
RAMSAY, Craig	Programme Director	Health Services Research Unit	University of Aberdeen
REEKIE, Peter	Director of Finance and Structures	Finance & Structures	Scottish Futures Trust
REID, Jane	Royal Society University Research Fellow	Institute of Biological & Environmental Sciences,	University of Aberdeen
RHODES, Sinead	Senior Lecturer in Psychology	School of Psychological Sciences and Health	University of Strathclyde
SHU, Will	Lecturer in Microengineering	Department of Mechanical Engineering	Heriot-Watt University
SMITH, Craig	Lecturer in Philosophy	Department of Moral Philosophy	University of St Andrews
SMITH, James	Professor of African and Development Studies	School of Social and Political Science	University of Edinburgh
SMITH, Kenny	Lecturer	School of Philosophy. Psychology and Language Sciences	University of Edinburgh

<b>NAME</b>	<b>JOB TITLE</b>	<b>DEPT</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>
STANLEY, Jane	Lecturer	Music	University of Glasgow
STANLEY-WALL, Nicola	Lecturer	Division of Molecular Microbiology	University of Dundee
TAMS, Christian	Professor of International Law	School of Law	University of Glasgow
TATLER, Benjamin	Reader in Psychology	School of Psychology	University of Dundee
TAUSCH, Nicole	Lecturer in Social Psychology	School of Psychology	University of St Andrews
THIJSSSEN, Job	RSE/BP Trust Research Fellow	School of Physics and Astronomy	University of Edinburgh
TONERY, David	Chief Executive		Oxygen Combustion Ltd
VAN HEMERT, Jano	Project Manager—Technical		Optos
WILLIAMS, Cliff	Senior Scientist, New Projects Team		Ineos Technology
WILSON, James	Senior Lecturer in Population and Disease Genetics	Centre for Population Health Sciences	University of Edinburgh