Speaker Biographies

Dr Rosemary Dyson is a Senior Lecturer in Applied Mathematics and Director for New Staff at the University of Birmingham. Rosemary applies the principles of mathematical modelling to mechanical problems in biological and industrial contexts, generating novel insights into the systems involved, as well as new mathematical techniques. As such her work is inherently highly collaborative, involving frequent interactions with experimentalists.

Rosemary graduated with an MMath from the University of Oxford in 2003. She went on to complete a DPhil within the Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics under the supervision of Dr Peter Howell and Dr Chris Breward on "Mathematical modelling of curtain coating". This project was sponsored by ArjoWiggins via a Smith Institute industrial CASE award. In 2007, Rosemary started as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Plant Integrative Biology, University of Nottingham where she was part of a large interdisciplinary team in which she was responsible for developing mechanical models of plant growth. These models form part of the "virtual root" currently under development at CPIB. She took up a Lectureship within the School of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham in 2011 as part of the System Science for Health initiative, and is also a member of the Centre for Systems Biology.

Professor Neil Ranson is Professor of Structural Molecular Biology at the University of Leeds. After studying for a Biochemistry degree, Neil stayed on to do his PhD in Mechanistic Enzymology at the University of Bristol, working to understand how the molecular chaperones GroEL and GroES assist the folding of other proteins in the crowded environment of the cell. Neil then cross-trained into structural biology at Birbkeck College London. Neil joined Leeds as a University Research Fellow in 2002 and, prior to his current role, has been a Lecturer and Associate Professor. Neil is Director of Electron Microscopy at the Astbury Biostructure Laboratory and Deputy Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology.

Neil's research interests include the structure of macromolecules such as proteins and nucleic acids, and the dynamic, heterogeneous complexes they make, which drive biological function. A major interest of his lab is in structural virology and the investigation of all aspects of virus structure using cryo-electron microscopy. His lab also retains a strong interest in the study of protein folding, working to understand how proteins are folded into membranes, and how protein misfolding goes wrong to produce amyloidoses.

Professor Anne-Kathrin Duhme-Klair obtained her PhD in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Oldenburg in Germany (with Prof. Siegfried Pohl and Dr. Henry Strasdeit). After postdoctoral positions at King's College London (with Prof. Robert C. Hider) and the EMBL Outstation at DESY in Hamburg, she completed her Habilitation at the University of Münster (with Prof. Bernt Krebs). In 1998, she was appointed to a lectureship in Biological Inorganic Chemistry at the University of York, where she is now a Professor in Inorganic Chemistry. Her current research interests include the coordination chemistry of siderophores, the development of new antimicrobials, artificial metalloenzymes and biomimetic photocatalysis.

Professor Nick Talbot joined The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) as Group Leader and Executive Director in 2018. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Wales, Nick trained at the UEA where he was awarded a PhD for genetic and genomic analysis of the tomato leaf mould fungus Cladosporium fulvum.

After a postdoctoral research post at Purdue University from 1990 to 1993, Nick was appointed a Lecturer at the University of Exeter in 1993, and has been Professor of Molecular Genetics since 1999. He was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer in 2010 and in this role he was responsible for Doctoral Training Partnership programmes across all the Research Councils in the university and wider GW4 Research Alliance, which he chaired from 2014-18.

Nick's research investigates plant pathology and the developmental biology of plant-infecting fungi. Nick was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB) in 2010, a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization in 2013, a member of the Academia Europaea in 2014, and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2014.

Professor Tom Welton is a Professor of Sustainable Chemistry at Imperial College London and Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. He served as Head of the Department of Chemistry from 2007 to 2014 and is a Fellow and a member of the Council of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Tom's research focuses on sustainable chemistry, with particular focus on ionic liquids and on solvent effects on chemical reactions. Tom received his DPhil from the University of Sussex in 1990. He began his career at Imperial College London as a Lloyd's of London Tercentenary Fellow in 1993, became a lecturer in 1995 and was promoted to full professor in 2004. During his tenure, he has served as the chemistry department's Director of Undergraduate Studies and served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry from 2007 to 2014. In January 2015, Tom became the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Tom is an advocate for diversity in academic science and in 2013, under Tom's leadership, the Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London was one of four university departments in the United Kingdom to be awarded an Athena SWAN Gold Award in recognition of efforts to promote women in science. He supports academic institutions around the world in their efforts to improve diversity and equality and in January 2017, Tom toured Australia to share good practise in supporting academic women. In 2014, together with Alison Rodger, Tom established the Irène Joliot-Curie conference that looked to develop the careers for women and underrepresented groups in science. The conference included talks from leading women in chemistry and is now run annually by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Tom was appointed to the UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion External Advisory Group in 2018.

Peter Moore Fuller is a graphic designer, creative facilitator and guest lecturer in Science Communications at UEA. In 2014, Peter founded infohackit, running events to support researchers, students and experts to communicate concepts, processes and data.

Peter was the Norwich Pint of Science coordinator for two years (including the first year in Norwich in 2016) and is a certified LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® facilitator.