



## ACADEMIA EUROPAEA CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB Newsletter Summer 2016



*Professor Ole Petersen, Honorary Academic Director, Cardiff Knowledge Hub and Treasurer, Academia Europaea*

June has been probably the busiest month of the year for everyone at the Cardiff Hub. After months of preparation, we were delighted to welcome over 140 delegates to the *Academia Europaea* Annual Conference, hosted at Cardiff.

Following the Conference, it made all of us on the Hub Team immensely proud to receive feedback such as this:

*Thank you for everything. This was a spectacular meeting, run extremely well, informative and enjoyable.*



*(Above): Delegates on day one of the Conference*

### Annual Conference 2016

Highlights of the Conference programme included a debate by a distinguished panel

of speakers on the theme of scientific advice mechanisms, as well as mini-symposia on current topics such as the reproducibility of research, migration and identity, and neuroscience.



*(Left) Sir Mark Walport, UK Chief Scientific Advisor, at the debate on scientific advice mechanisms*

The Erasmus Medal was presented this year to Lord Rees of Ludlow, the Astronomer Royal and a former President of the Royal Society. His Erasmus Lecture was entitled *From Mars to the Multiverse*.



*(Above) Lord Rees gives the Erasmus Lecture*

News snippets and more photographs of the Conference are available on the Cardiff Hub website:

<http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/copy-of-latest-news>



## Launch of the Cardiff Hub

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub was formally launched at the Conference, with speeches by senior representatives from both *Academia Europaea* and Cardiff University.



(Above) *Academia Europaea* President, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, at the Hub Launch

## Meeting of the Cardiff Hub Steering Group

The first meeting of the new Cardiff Hub Steering Group took place on 26<sup>th</sup> June. The Group appointed Sir John Skehel FMedSci MAE FRS as Chair.



(Left) Sir John Skehel FMedSci MAE FRS

The Group discussed the draft Strategic Plan for the development of the Hub up to 2020, particularly in the light of the UK Referendum result, as well as approving operational plans for 2016-17.

The five Strategic Priorities of the Cardiff Hub can be seen on the website (<http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/about>), where the final version of the Strategic Plan will also be published.

## Nominations in the Life Sciences

A total of 58 nominations were made for membership of the Life Sciences Class (C) of *Academia Europaea*. 37 were elected for 2016. Many congratulations to them.

## Update on the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)

In May, *Academia Europaea* and four other European academies submitted their project proposal to the European Commission, in response to the funding call issued under Horizon 2020. The proposal has been reviewed and, subject to further negotiation with the Commission, is due to start in the autumn. The Cardiff Hub will undertake a significant amount of the project work on behalf of *Academia Europaea*.

The Cardiff Hub ran a workshop at the *Academia Europaea* Council Meeting in June on the theme of 'Maximising our contribution to the new European Scientific Advisory Mechanism'.

