

The Key Note Speakers at the R&I Supporters Conference 2016

Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Research & Innovation

Professor Richard Jones

Professor Jones is an experimental polymer physicist. He has a first degree and PhD in Physics from Cambridge University, and following post-doctoral work at Cornell University, USA, he was a lecturer at the University of Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory, before he moved to Sheffield in 1997. In 2006 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 2009 was awarded the Institute of Physics Tabor Prize for his contributions to nanoscience.

Professor Jones has written extensively on the wider issues surrounding science and technology. He was the co-author of a report published by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), *The Social and Economic Challenges of Nanotechnology* (2003) and he wrote *The UK's Innovation Deficit & How to Repair it* in 2013. In the same year he was appointed to the Council of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

In 2009, Professor Jones became the university's PVC for Research and Innovation. He has made a vital contribution to our strategy and success in research, which is reflected in the 62 per cent increase in research funding during his time in office, and our successful performance in REF2014.



Valerie Cotter

Faculty Director of Operations, Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Valerie Cotter joined the University of Sheffield in 2008 as Director of Faculty Operations for Arts and Humanities. Before that she had worked in a number of roles in health, local government and for the government Department for Education and Skills. She has experience of research, both as a graduate student and as a commissioner and contributor to academic research in her public policy roles. One of the greatest pleasures of her current role is working with professional colleagues to support and promote the research activity of academic colleagues throughout the Faculty. Valerie chairs the Faculty's Research Data Management Group and is an active member of the Faculty Research and Innovation Committee



Malcolm Butler

Faculty Director of Operations, Faculty of Engineering

Dr Butler's first degree was in Physics from the University of Warwick and his PhD was from our Department of Engineering Materials. He then spent eleven years working across the UK and Europe for British Steel/Corus (now Tata Steel) in R&D and then management roles. In 2003, he joined the Polymer Centre as General Manager where he was able to increase knowledge and technology transfer activities in a number of areas including; contract research, consultancy, training, feasibility projects, and patent commercialisation. In 2005, his role expanded to include a Micro- and Nano-technology (MNT) Manager role for Yorkshire Forward, promoting MNT from the region around the world. This led to Dr Butler co-founding FaraPack Polymers Ltd (a company spin-out from the Polymer Centre).

In 2008 Dr Butler took up the post of Faculty Director of Operations for the Faculty of Engineering, where he works across the University and within the Faculty to ensure a "High quality and effective infrastructure, administrative, technical, and support service to underpin Research, Teaching and the Student Experience". He is still doing this role now and during this time the Faculty has doubled its student numbers to more than 5,000 and its research awards by over 50% whilst improving the quality of research and teaching; this gives the Faculty of Engineering an annual turnover in excess of £129m and it has 900 staff.



Professor John Derrick**Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Research & Innovation**

In October 2015, John Derrick became deputy PVC for Research and Innovation, following a period of being Head of the Computer Sciences Department. He graduated with a degree in Mathematics from the University of Nottingham, before taking his DPhil in Oxford. From 1990 to 2005 he worked at the University of Kent at Canterbury, moving to Sheffield in 2005.

"I'll be supporting Professor Richard Jones by taking responsibility for some specific areas such as the next REF exercise, EU funding, Research Computing and others.

Each of these presents individual challenges in their own right. Not least of which is the changing national and international context. For example, there is highly likely to be another REF but we don't know the format or timing as yet. Europe contains enormous challenges, not just in securing research income, but in our very existence in the EU with the forthcoming referendum. Finding out how to respond to each of these and helping colleagues navigate through the maze is at the heart of my new role, which I'm very much looking forward to."

**Alison Johns****Chief executive of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LfHE)**

The LfHE provides high quality higher education leadership development programmes for universities and higher education colleges in and for higher education wherever it exists. The Leadership Foundation also offers consultancy and tailored in-house development programmes providing expert advice and support - meeting the needs of individuals, teams, the executive, and the whole institution.

Alison has worked in higher education for over 20 years and she has held a number of senior positions. Prior to her current role she was head of Policy for Leadership, Governance and Management (LGM) and also had responsibility for the internal HR and organisational development function at the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce).

As head of LGM Alison had a wide range of specific policy responsibilities including governance development, efficiencies and procurement, the funding and relationship management with the Leadership Foundation and Equality Challenge Unit, the HE workforce, estates and infrastructure, equality and diversity, sustainable development and through investment initiatives like the LGM Fund, support of the enhancement of all aspects of LGM capacity and capability in the sector.

Alison is the immediate past president of the Association of University Administrators (AUA), and is the UK representative on the Association of Commonwealth Universities HRM Network. She advised the Australian government on the establishment of the Office for Learning and Teaching to enhance teaching quality across the Australian HE sector and speaks regularly, both nationally and internationally on all aspects of university LGM at national and international.



Professor James Wilsdon**Professor of Research Policy, Department of Politics**

James Wilsdon joined the University of Sheffield in January 2016 as Director of Impact and Engagement for the Faculty of Social Sciences, which he combines with a role as Professor of Research Policy in the Department of Politics.

He is also Director of the Nexus Network, a £1.8m ESRC initiative to link research & policy across food, energy, water and the environment. Since 2013, he has been Chair of the Campaign for Social Science, and he led the working group for its 2015 report *The Business of People*.

James recently chaired a review of the role of metrics in the management of the UK's research system, which published its final report *The Metric Tide* in July 2015. Building on this, he is now leading an expert panel for the European Commission on the role of altmetrics. He is also on the advisory board of Scientists for EU.

Previously, James worked as Professor of Science and Democracy at SPRU, University of Sussex (2011-2015), Director of Science Policy at the Royal Society (2008-2011) and Head of Science and Innovation at Demos (2001-2008).

His research interests include the role of evidence in policymaking; the politics and practice of scientific advice; interdisciplinarity, particularly between natural and social sciences; and science and research policy in the UK, EU and China.

James contributes regularly to the media and is one of the editors of the Guardian's 'Political Science' blog. In 2015, he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. You can find him on twitter @jameswilsdon.

