

A Career in Knowledge Transfer

Dr Matthew Thornton

Society for Chemical Industry

Careers Options Seminar

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University of York

Outline of this presentation:

1995 – 2001: The undergraduate years!

2001 – 2005: The postgraduate years!

2005 – Present Day: The real world!

1995 – 2001: The undergraduate years!



BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Chemical Engineering

4 year Sandwich Course with 1 year industrial placement

Final year project funded by the Ministry of Defence looking at hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride removal in gas mask respirators



DECHEMA

Gesellschaft für Chemische Technik
und Biotechnologie e.V.

Sandwich placement in Frankfurt, Germany

6 months working in electrochemistry
department and 6 months working in the
chemical engineering department

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

1995 – 2001: The undergraduate years!

Summer Placements - Work Experience



Two summer placements:

- Installing and commissioning a new £5M tablets packaging line
- Helping with the internal launch of a new drug



One summer placement:

- Carried out a time and motion study

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2001 – 2005: The postgraduate years!



The University of
Nottingham

Meggitt Aircraft
Braking Systems

PhD in Materials Science and Engineering

EPSRC CASE Award sponsored by Dunlop
Aircraft Braking Systems

Thesis Title:

**Catalytic Carbon Deposition on 3
Dimensional Carbon Fibre Supports**

**INDUSTRY
EXPERIENCE**



2005 – Present Day: The real world!



2005 – 2006: Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate at The University of Reading and J G Shelton and Company Ltd

Worked for 18 months on a project looking at materials for the removal of mercury from crematoria flue gases



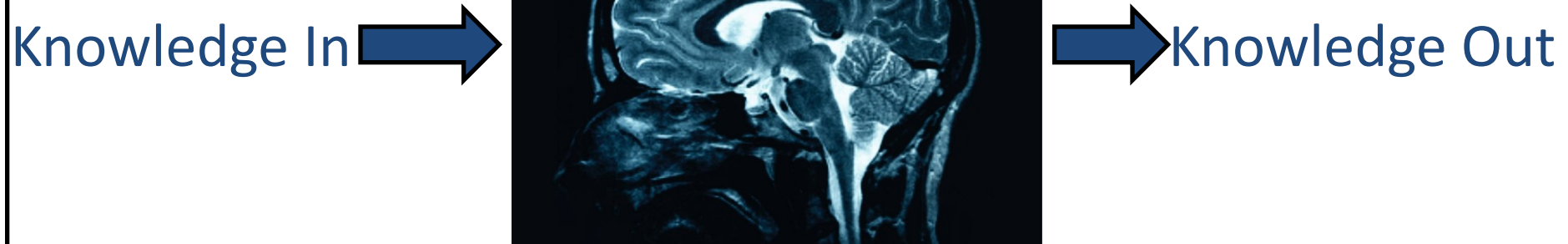
2006 – Present Day: Materials Advisor at The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and Polymer Sector Leader at the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network

The Materials KTN

Our Vision

"To bring together the materials supply chain to improve industrial innovation and global competitiveness of UK business"

Knowledge Transfer



Knowledge
Transfer
Network

Materials

The Materials KTN

Academia



Government



Industry



Industry



Materials KTN

Knowledge
Transfer
Network

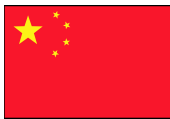
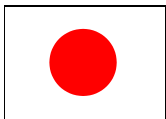
Materials

2005 – Present Day: The real world!



Good Points:

- No two days are the same
- Very diverse range of topics, applications, problems etc...
- Working at the interface between industry, academia and government
- Meeting a lot of different people from different backgrounds
- Travel
- No lab work!!



2005 – Present Day: The real world!

Top 5 Skills Required for a Career in Knowledge Transfer:

1. Inquisitiveness
2. Open Mindedness
3. Communication
4. Influencing / Persuasiveness
5. Experience

A degree in chemistry (or science in general) is a strong foundation for all of these...

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