

Day of Science and Careers – Summary. SCI, 27 April 2015

The Early Careers activity is undoubtedly one of the most important events in the SCI calendar. These annual meetings have been outstanding and this one, in my opinion, has been the best so far. It has been noteworthy for the range of careers presented - in academy, large companies and SMEs - to scientists and engineers considering their first employment or an early change of career.

I cannot summarise these excellent presentations in 10 minutes! Instead I will pick up some of the matters arising from the open discussion at the end of the morning session, chaired by Tim Reynolds.

We hope that this annual meeting is not your only contact with SCI members for advice on careers. SCI has a broader membership than other societies such as the RSC, IChemE, IoP, Inst.Biol.. SCI membership does include a range of scientists and engineers but because we do not insist on members having a degree in science or engineering or mathematics it also has members who have marketing, finance or management backgrounds. Thus it has a good resource for a broader view on the choice of career and career development.

How can Early Careers people make full use of SCI in career development? Obviously these 'Science and Careers' meetings are very important. Additionally the Technical Interest Group to which you belong will give you access to SCI members experienced in your field of interest. However the Regional Interest Group in which you are located is also of considerable potential importance to you because it gives contact with SCI members with an even wider range of experience. Please make full use of these opportunities. Members of the Early Careers Committee led by Prof Alan Heaton and Prof Jenny Mordue would be pleased to help and the proposed Mentor/Mentee system should take this into account. Karen Hobbs and Ester Monfort are ready to advise on administrative issues.

Prof Heaton and Prof Mordue would like assistance from you to introduce our ambassadors to your university or industry departments so that we can spread more widely our contacts in large companies, SMEs as well as universities.

In conclusion, I am delighted to hear that today's meeting will be repeated on 1st. June in Aberdeen. The programme will be different but thanks to Prof Mordue's initiative it promises to be every bit as valuable.

Prof Sir Geoffrey Allen
Member of MAC and formerly Research and Engineering Director, Unilever