2018 Programme



- Baroness Susan Greenfield, Wednesday 28 February 2018 The 21st Century mind: Blowing it, expanding it, losing it
- Dr Alastair Leake, Wednesday 28 March 2018 Sustainable agriculture: Enabling biodiversity alongside intensive farming
- Sir Martyn Poliakoff, Wednesday 25 April 2018 Photochemistry for a greener future
- Dr Ruth McKernan, Wednesday 23 May 2018 Innovation in the UK - where are we going?
- Dr Helen Sharman, Wednesday 27 June 2018 From Mars to the stars: a chemist in space
- Prof Ben Feringa, Wednesday 26 September 2018 Nanotechnology, title TBC
- Prof Michael Bevan, Wednesday 24 October 2018 Gene editing in crop plants for food security
- Prof Gerry Gilmore, Wednesday 28 November 2018 Dark matter in the early universe



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Public Evening Lecture Programme



About the Public Evening Lecture series

The Public Evening Lectures were established to provide a means of communicating the latest developments in science and technology in a manner that is both interesting and informative. We believe that this approach can assist public understanding of key issues facing our society and it is crucial to underline the importance of employing evidence-based science to support statements and positions.

Public Evening Lectures are free and open to all. They are part of SCI's charitable outreach, which aims to reach members of the public and provide discourse on science-based topics and relevant popular subjects in an accessible way. The lectures can be streamed live to other institutions who have partnered with SCI to present the Public Evening Lectures as part of their public outreach programme.



Highlights

Dr Hermann Hauser, October 2017 Machine intelligence: are machines better than humans?

146th Lecture

143rd Lecture

Judging by Dr Hermann Hauser's lecture, it's hard to say no. Dr Hauser described how today's transistors are 1,000 times smaller than the human brain's equivalent and computers can operate a million times faster, and explained that now, with the third wave of microprocessors, we can use big data to allow machines to make their own rules.

Sir John Beddington, September 2017

Global Sustainability Challenges: Food, Water, and Energy Security Andrew Medal awardee. Sir John Beddington reflected on the legacies of the 20th Century and the challenges of the 21st. He addressed sustainability challenges, the role of scientists and engineers in approaching them, and considered how climate change, regulation, and the public perception of science and engineering can complicate these issues.

Lord David Willets, May 2017

Securing the UK's future industrial success in a post-Brexit world Lord David Willets explained the way the UK promotes innovation and research should be fundamentally altered to enable us to bring new technologies to market. He welcomed the government's Industrial Strategy, and called for an expansion of the network of Catapult centres, which were founded by Innovate UK to connect businesses with the UK's research and academic communities.

Prof Graham MacGregor, June 2016

Unhealthy food: By far the biggest cause of death in the UK Salty and sugary foods have become a national addiction. Prof MacGregor explained how we now crave these foods and are not satisfied with lower levels. In order to successfully change the way we eat, Prof MacGregor argued that the food industry should slowly reduce the salt, fat, and sugar content of foods slowly so that the general public does not notice.

Prof David Mottram, April 2016 Doping and anti-doping in sport

136th Lecture

In his lecture, Prof Mottram reviewed some of the key events in the evolution of doping and anti-doping that have influenced our present approach to the problem in response to recent events with various athletes banned for doping, and with senior officials investigated for bribery and doping cover-ups. Prof Mottram described how the scale of the problem seems to be getting bigger

Prof Kevin Harrington, November 2015 132nd Lecture Using Viruses to Treat Cancer: Turning Poachers into Gamekeepers

In his lecture, Prof Harrington explored the potential for selected viruses to be used to kill cancer cells with increased patient benefit. There are a range of viruses that are able to grow in and kill cancerous cells. These 'oncolytic viruses' are now being considered as potential targeted therapies for a range of different cancers.













Notable speakers, on a range of topics, include: Sir Simon Campbell, *Science, art and drug discovery* Dame Sally Davies, Anti-microbial resistance - the Chief Medical Officer's role ▶ Lord Krebs, *Feeding the 9 billion* Sir Brian Hoskins, *The challenge of climate change* • Sir Paul Nurse, The Francis Crick Institute: Tackling the world's biggest health problems faster

About SCI

SCI was established in 1881 as the Society of Chemical Industry. The founder members were inventors, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists, all with a passion for science. Many were the pioneers of their day, going on to establish significant businesses which formed the heart of the industrial revolution in the early 1900s.

Uniquely, SCI was established to be both multi-science and multi-disciplinary. Although our core is around chemistry, our charitable objectives are to promote chemistry and related sciences into industry and we have members from many different disciplines including biochemistry, biology, physics, environmental science, and food science.

Creating the environment to discuss and develop ideas, educating and developing young talent, and ensuring the benefits of science are understood by the public is what makes SCI relevant today.

