

Directors' Forum / 21-22 March 2019 Programme

Programme Director – Martin Davies, UCL

Holiday Inn London – Regents Park, Carburton St, Fitzrovia, London W1W 5EE

Thursday, 21 March 2019

- 1830 Drinks reception
 - 1900 Pre-dinner speaker (TBC)
 - 1930 Dinner
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Friday, 22 March 2019

- 0930 Welcome: Martin Davies, University College London, Director of Business and Innovation Partnerships
- 0945 KE sector stakeholder discussions and insights: Sean Fielding, PraxisAuril Chair and Director of Innovation, Impact & Business, University of Exeter

The PraxisAuril Board recently convened a meeting of key sector stakeholders to discuss high level, macro-economic, changing environment issues and stakeholder needs including topics such as: towards 2.4% - improving UK performance; more businesses investing in R&D; simplifying the innovation landscape; projecting UK expertise internationally. This session will articulate what practical steps PraxisAuril and its partners can take together to support the sector as a whole.

- 1000 PraxisAuril strategy: Maxine Ficarra, CEO, PraxisAuril

An outline of current and future PraxisAuril strategy; how we intend to get there in partnership with members and stakeholders; and how we will know we have been successful.

- 1015 KEF - Metrics, Concordat: Alice Frost, Director of Knowledge Exchange, Research England

Alice will bring us right up to date with all the latest news and developments relating to the KEF consultation and concordat and the forward schedule. The session will provide an opportunity for all Directors to discuss next steps and feed a practitioner view into implementation plans.

This session will include an update re PraxisAuril KE Office peer review as a tool to support the KEF - Tony Raven, Director, Cambridge Enterprise

- 1115 Networking break, refreshments

- 1145 Benchmarking industry engagement: Dr Dan King, Director, Research Consulting

Growing importance is placed on the volume and effectiveness of industry engagement in research environments, but we have only limited understanding of the organisational structures, systems and staff capabilities needed to deliver this. Building on a previous exercise in the area of research contracts, Research Consulting has been working with a small group of institutions in both the UK and Australia to develop a benchmarking approach for industry engagement. This session will explain the rationale behind the chosen approach and provide an opportunity for Directors to comment on and inform the final shape and outputs of the exercise.

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- 1215 Training for academics: Jeff Skinner, Executive Director, London Business School, Alison Mitchell, Director of Development, Vitae

One way of stimulating more KT is to train willing academics to do it themselves - there's not much they can't do if they put their minds to it and those who have been 'round the block' once can be rather good at it. On the other hand, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing and if they keep too much to themselves conflicts inevitably arise. However, the 'multiplier effect' can be dramatic and they are often better placed than us (centrally) to see what's going on. Should we put more into academic KT training and what is the impact on our roles?

- 1315 Lunch, networking

- 1415 Convergence of KE roles and activities: John Rogers, Executive Director, University of Stirling, and Deputy Chair of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) UK

This session will facilitate a round table discussion and scenario planning around the possible implications of the KEF Concordat and metrics for office development and staff deployment across KE and Research functions.

- 1545 Feedback from the HEBCI review meeting: Alice Frost, Director of Knowledge Exchange, Research England

- 1600 Drinks, networking

*** Please note speakers/timings may be subject to change ***