



SSAC Update Report – February 2019

The SSAC provides independent advice, through its Chair, to the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland, to inform policy development and delivery across all areas of the Scottish Government's work. It typically develops advice on a medium- to long-term basis, advising on developments in science and technology and their implications for policy and identifying potential future opportunities and threats.

Chaired by Professor Paul Boyle, the SSAC currently has 11 other members, including the Scottish Government's Chief Scientific Advisers, all of whom are ex-officio members: Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland Professor Sheila Rowan, Professor David Crossman, the Chief Scientist (Health) and Professor Andrew Millar, CSA Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The SSAC issues a short report following each quarterly meeting to provide an update on its latest workstreams and areas of interest. The SSAC held its last meeting at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh on 23 January 2019.

SSAC WORKSTREAMS

- ✚ The SSAC report 'A Metrics-Based Assessment of Scotland's Science Landscape (2007-16)', commissioned from Elsevier was launched at a reception in Edinburgh on January. The report examines Scotland's science strengths, and places Scotland's research performance in an international context. It includes comparisons with the other UK nations and selected EU and non-EU countries of similar size and research capability. The full and summary version of the report can be found on the SSAC website: <http://scottishscience.org.uk/publications>.
- ✚ The SSAC's report 'Informing the Future of Human Genomic Medicine' (commissioned by the Chief Scientist (Health) Office) was published on 18 February. The report provides an overview of the current capabilities in Scotland, and compares developments elsewhere in the UK and internationally. The full and summary version of the report can be found on the SSAC website: <http://scottishscience.org.uk/publications>.
- ✚ The following pieces of work are expected to be published soon:
 - A briefing note on 'Open Science'.
 - Horizon-scanning project on Cyber Resilience, commissioned by the Scottish Government (SG) Cyber Resilience Unit.
- ✚ A number of briefing notes on other topics are currently being scoped and are at an early stage of development.

OTHER NEWS

Members

Following a recruitment campaign, five new members joined the Council in January 2019:

- Dr Caroline Cantley, Executive Director, Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering
- Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak DBE FRSE, Regius Professor of Medicine and Vice Principal and Head of the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow
- Professor Mark Inall, SAGES Director, Scottish Association for Marine Science
- Professor Wayne Powell FLSW FRSE, Principal and Chief Executive, Scotland's Rural College
- Professor John Underhill FRSE, Chief Scientist at Heriot-Watt University

Further details can be found on the SSAC website:
<http://scottishscience.org.uk/members>

All new SSAC Members attended an induction session to introduce them to their role.

Professor Susan Rosser, Professor of Synthetic Biology at the University of Edinburgh. and Professor Tara Spires-Jones, Professor of Neurodegeneration at the University of Edinburgh, both stepped down in January 2019, having served a three-year term.

Professor Paul Boyle, SSAC Chair, along with CSA Professor Sheila Rowan, attended a meeting of the Scottish Funding Council's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee in October 2018.

For further information please contact the SSAC Secretariat:
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