



## SSAC Update Report - June 2013

The SSAC is Scotland's highest level science advisory body, providing independent advice and recommendations on science strategy, policy and priorities to the Scottish Government. Professor Muffy Calder, the Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland (CSA) and Dr Chris Masters are co-chairs of the SSAC.

SSAC has decided to issue a short report following each quarterly meeting to provide an update on their latest workstreams and areas of interest. This is the fourth of these reports.

### ONGOING WORK STREAMS

The SSAC are currently progressing two major pieces of work.

- ✚ At the SSAC meeting in March Council members concluded that SSAC would undertake a piece of work to review the current scientific evidence around GMO research and technology. As a result of the initial scoping exercise and a subsequent discussion at the SSAC meeting on 12 June SSAC agreed that this work should focus on **the current scientific evidence around Synthetic Biology** and the impact of novel biology on the Scottish economy. The work will consider the key issues and will highlight the potential economic and environmental benefits for Scotland and potential risks. SSAC have now agreed a working group to take this work stream forward. The group will be Chaired by Professor Nigel Brown.
- ✚ SSAC continue to progress a piece of work to identify the pertinent **issues of interest to the science and engineering community in the context of the Independence debate**. In addition to seeking views from the SSAC members the Co-Chairs wrote to a number of key stakeholders in the science and engineering community in Scotland to gather the wider views and interests of the community.
- ✚ SSAC continue to monitor the situation surrounding the current debate on **Open Access Publishing and Open Access Data** associated with publically funded research. SSAC members submitted a response to the recent Review of the Finch Report and its recommendations.

### ✚ OTHER NEWS

- ✚ The SSAC submitted a response to the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) consultation on the proposed changes to the Memorandum

on Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland. A copy of the response can be found on the SSAC website at <http://www.scottishscience.org.uk/article/ssac-respond-proposals-changes-entry-requirements-teacher-education-scotland>



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The SSAC is a not-for-profit organisation that provides independent advice and recommendations on science education policy and practice to the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Council for Research in Education and the Scottish Council for Educational Awards.

SSAC is pleased to issue a short report following each country meeting to provide an update on the latest workstreams and areas of interest. This is the fourth of these reports.

#### WORKSTREAMS

The SSAC is currently organising the input process of work

4. At the SSAC meeting in March 2013, the SSAC agreed to conduct a series of workstreams to explore the current evidence around the key areas of interest. The SSAC has now agreed a working group to lead the work stream forward. The group will be chaired by Professor Nigel Brown.

2. SSAC continue to progress a range of work to clarify the current issues of interest to the science and engineering community in the context of the independence debate. In addition to consultations from the SSAC members the Co-Chairs will be a number of key stakeholders in the science and engineering community. It is intended to gather the views and attitudes of the community.

4. SSAC continue to monitor the situation surrounding the current debate on Open Access Publishing and Open Access Data associated with publicly funded research. SSAC members submitted a response to the recent Review of the Funding Review and its Recommendations.

#### OTHER NEWS

4. The SSAC submitted a response to the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC) consultation on the proposed changes to the Memorandum