



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

5 CELEBRATING
YEARS
OF THE
ACADEMIA
EUROPAEA
IN
CARDIFF

“ A big thank you on behalf of Academia Europaea to Cardiff, and warm congratulations on your very successful contribution to the effective functioning of Academia Europaea and our impact in science advice for policy. Your work has made the difference.”

Professor Sierd Cloetingh MAE

President of Academia Europaea

“ On behalf of Cardiff University, I congratulate the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub on your 5th anniversary. As host of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub, we derive considerable benefit from your work in promoting and creating pan-European scientific collaboration across all disciplines. We very much value our relationships in Europe, and we are grateful for the Hub's support in developing our links with our European strategic partners, the Universität Bremen and KU Leuven. I wish everyone associated with the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub every success for the future.”

Professor Colin Riordan FLSW

President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University

“ Congratulations to Cardiff and the Academia Europaea on the 5th anniversary of the Cardiff Hub. The Hub has played a very significant role in the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) consortium, which is an important contributor to the Scientific Advice Mechanism that has been set up by the European Commission. Very importantly for science advisers, the Hub leads the provision of independent evidence review reports that are used by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to make policy recommendations to the European Commission. I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate Ole Petersen and the team at the Hub on your 5th anniversary.”

Sir Mark Walport FRS FMedSci MAE

*UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser (2013-2017),
Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (2017-2020)
and Chair of the Hub's Steering Group*

“ On behalf of the Young Academy of Europe, I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub on the wonderful milestone of your 5th anniversary. The AE Cardiff Hub is a true example of leadership and impact in pan-European scientific collaboration and evidence-based scientific advice. It is also very supportive of young scholars, so we are very proud and grateful for our cooperation.”

Dr Gemma Modinos FYAE

Chair of the Young Academy of Europe

Celebrating 5 years of the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub

2021 marks the fifth anniversary of the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub, representing a significant milestone in our unfolding story

Back in 1988, I was privileged to attend the small inaugural meeting of Academia Europaea in Cambridge. Today, the Academy has grown to more than 4,500 elected members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. With headquarters in London, Academia Europaea operates through an expanding network of hubs across Europe. The fourth hub opened in 2016, in Cardiff, the capital of Wales, under my leadership as its Director and Vice-President of Academia Europaea.

Although the Cardiff Hub is still relatively young, we have many achievements of which we can be rightly proud, as this commemorative brochure illustrates.

Our guiding mission is *Promoting research excellence for policy and progress.*

In the field of science for policy, we have played a key role in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. Academia Europaea is a member of the SAPEA (Science for Policy by European Academies) consortium with the Cardiff Hub responsible for delivering work on behalf of the Academy. This includes coordinating evidence reviews that inform policymaking by the European Commission.

Through our programme of events, we have reached a wide audience on a range of topical issues in research and science advice. Our outlook is increasingly international, attracting a global audience for what we offer. We are proud of the partnerships we have formed with leading organisations that have enabled us to organise and promote our activities.

With the Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and our host, Cardiff University, renewed for another term, we can look forward to a new period in our history, where we continue to evolve and innovate.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the many colleagues and organisations who have contributed to our work and have supported us so generously over the last five years.

Professor Ole Petersen CBE FRS MAE

Academic Director of the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub



Professor Ole Petersen



2016
to
2021

2016

■ Following a **Collaboration Agreement** between Academia Europaea (AE) and Cardiff University, the Cardiff Knowledge Hub opened. The agreement was signed in 2015 by AE President, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, and President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Professor Colin Riordan. Vice-President of Academia Europaea, Professor Ole Petersen, was appointed Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub and Sir John Skehel, Vice-President and Biological Secretary of The Royal Society, became Chair of the Hub's Steering Group. The Cardiff Hub was the fourth AE Hub to open, following Wroclaw (2011), Barcelona (2013) and Bergen (2014).

■ The official **Cardiff Hub launch** took place during the 2016 Academia Europaea Annual Meeting in Cardiff. With 150 delegates from 20 countries, the Conference featured a stimulating programme of short lectures by newly-elected Members of Academia Europaea. A highlight was the Erasmus Lecture, given by Lord Martin Rees OM FRS MAE, the UK's Astronomer Royal. The Conference also included a debate on Scientific Advice Mechanisms, chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry (then President of the Learned Society of Wales). The expert panel included Patrick Child (Deputy Director-General of DG-Research and Innovation, European Commission), Professor Sierd Cloetingh, Professor Colin Riordan, Sir John Skehel, Professor Günter Stock MAE (then President of ALLEA), Sir Mark Walport (then Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government) and Professor Julie Williams (then Chief Scientific Adviser to the Welsh Government).

■ Academia Europaea became part of the **SAPEA** (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, within the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The Cardiff Hub became the major organiser of the Academy's work for SAPEA.

■ In November, the Hub launched its **events series**, holding its very first event on *The future of UK research and scholarship*. Over the last 5 years the Hub has developed its ambitious events programme and has held over 30 events including international conferences, workshops and webinars attracting audiences of up to 300 from almost 40 countries.



Cardiff University, host to the AE Cardiff Knowledge Hub



Debate on Scientific Advice Mechanisms at the AE Annual Conference, Cardiff, 2016

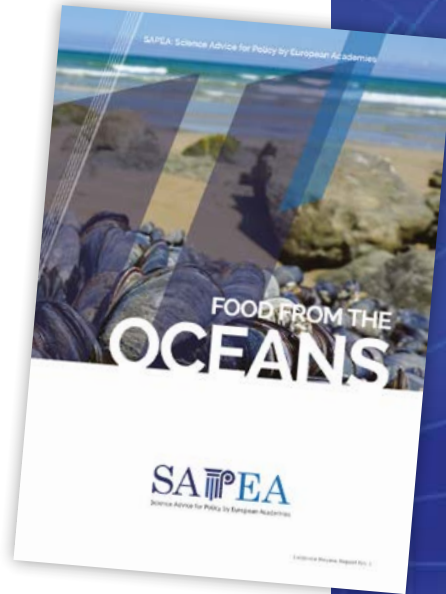


Audience participating at one of our events



2017

■ AE Cardiff led the very first SAPEA Evidence Review Report, **Food from the oceans**. The substantial report was formally handed over to the European Commission, together with the Scientific Opinion produced, on the basis of the SAPEA report, by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Outreach events disseminating information about the report and allowing discussion of its content were held in a number of European locations, including Cardiff, Bergen, Hamburg and Sofia.



Handover of the *Food from the Oceans* reports to Commissioners Karmenu Vella (front row, 3rd from left) and Carlos Moedas (front row, 2nd from right)

■ AE Cardiff began its **interview series** with members of Academia Europaea, each interview showcasing their research and exploring views on key issues in their field. Around 20 interviews have taken place to date, all drawing visitors to the Hub's website.

INTERVIEW SERIES



Professor Martin McKee CBE MAE



Professor Peter Jackson FBA, FAcSS MAE



Professor Barbara Prainsack MAE



Professor Yike Guo FEng MAE

■ AE Cardiff introduced its **quarterly newsletter** in the summer of 2017. This seasonal newsletter continues to be distributed to the AE membership.

2018

■ In March, the Cardiff Hub hosted a major international symposium, *Physiology and pathophysiology 2018*, to mark the **75th birthday of Professor Ole Petersen**, Vice-President of Academia Europaea and Academic Director of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub. The event attracted 100 delegates from across the world, many of whom had worked with or been mentored by Professor Petersen.



■ In September, the Cardiff Hub held a conference called ***Science for policy: a European perspective*** at Swansea University. A panel of experts, chaired by Hub Steering Group member Professor John Tucker MAE FLSW, provided a range of insights into the relationship between science advice and policymaking. Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Peter Halligan, was the keynote speaker.

■ The Cardiff Hub oversaw the completion of a second SAPEA Evidence Review Report ***Making sense of science for policy under conditions of complexity and uncertainty***. The Evidence Review Report, together with the accompanying Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' Scientific Opinion, were presented in a dedicated session within the European Commission's Research & Innovation Days. The Working Group was chaired by Professor Ortwin Renn and included AE President-elect Professor Marja Makarow MAE.

■ In September, Academia Europaea celebrated its **30th Anniversary** at the Royal Society in London. This special celebratory event, organised by the Cardiff Hub, was generously supported by then President of the Royal Society, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, and Royal Society Vice-President Sir John Skehel. Highlights of the event included Sir Arnold Burgen FRS MAE, Founding President of the Academia, speaking of the original aims in establishing the Academy and its key achievements as well as the presentation of AE's Gold Medal to Robert-Jan Smits MAE, the then European Commission's Open Access Envoy and formerly Director-General of the Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate. Professor Éva Kondorosi MAE, then Vice-President of the European Research Council, delivered the laudatio for Mr Smits.

As part of the programme, a roundtable discussion took place on *Making sense of science for policy*. Chaired by Professor Sierd Cloetingh, the expert panel included Professor Nicole Grobert MAE (current Chair of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors) and Professor Ortwin Renn. Continuing Academia Europaea's 30th anniversary celebrations into 2019, the Cardiff Hub held its own celebration in January at Cardiff University. AE Cardiff also published a 30th anniversary commemorative brochure.



Science for policy: a European perspective panel of experts, Swansea University's Bay Campus, September 2018



The SAPEA Evidence Review and the EU Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' Opinion are presented to the public

Professor Ortwin Renn and Professor Nicole Grobert on the *Making sense of science for policy* panel at the Royal Society, September 2018



AE's Gold Medal is presented to Robert-Jan Smits at AE's 30th Anniversary

2019

■ In 2019, the AE Cardiff Hub and the **Young Academy of Europe (YAE)** entered a collaboration agreement, with the aim of working together more closely. The YAE, a pan-European initiative of outstanding young scientists for networking, advocacy, scientific exchange, and science policy, has been formally affiliated with the Academia Europaea since 2012.



■ The Cardiff Hub supported Academia Europaea's **Translational Medicine Project** which brought together basic researchers, clinicians, academics, science publishers and communicators and experts in translational medicine to discuss how to turn scientific knowledge into innovative therapies, medical procedures and diagnostics that benefit patients and healthcare systems and become everyday best care practice. A two-day Consensus Workshop *Frontiers in translational medicine* took place at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest in September 2019.



Key participants at the Translational Medicine Conference at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, September 2019, including Dr Joao Monterio, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature Medicine*, (second from right)

The project was supported by AE's Hubert Curien Fund, the University of Pécs' Medical School, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and AE's Cardiff Knowledge Hub. It was led by Professor Peter Hegyi MAE, with additional input and advice from the Chair of AE's Clinical and Veterinary Science Section, Sir Stephen Holgate MAE and Professor Ole Petersen. As a result of the project, a position paper was later published in the open access journal, the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* in May 2020. To further support the project, AE Cardiff held a webinar on translational medicine in June 2020.

■ Following an **Asthma UK** meeting hosted by the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub in 2018, Asthma UK released a new report *Asthma still kills: Urgent priorities for the international research community to treat, prevent and cure asthma*. The report, put together by Asthma UK and the many respiratory experts who attended the meeting, identified urgent priorities for the research community and highlights the need for funding to address these issues. The meeting, *Curing and preventing asthma; Where do we go next?* held at Cardiff University in November 2018 was chaired by Sir Stephen Holgate.



Asthma UK meeting, *Curing and preventing asthma; Where do we go next?* November 2018

■ The Cardiff Hub and KU Leuven Libraries organised a major **international symposium on the impact of Plan S**, the initiative for Open Access publishing, in November 2019. An audience of 130 gathered at the historic Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe where a distinguished panel of experts debated the prospects for researchers, universities, learned societies, academies and publishers. The event was chaired by Professor Theo D'haen MAE, Hub Steering Group member and Editor of the *European Review*. Professor Johan Rooryck MAE, Open Access Champion of cOAlition S, delivered the keynote address. The Hub later published a comprehensive event report, *The future of research: Assessing the impact of Plan S*, which highlights the key messages of the discussions.



Panellists and organisers of *The future of research: Assessing the impact of Plan S*

2020

■ Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cardiff Hub made a rapid transition from physical to online events and launched a **webinar series** in June 2020. The series has continued to attract a large international audience. All webinars are available on the AE Cardiff YouTube Channel.

■ In April 2020, AE Cardiff began **collating COVID-19 academic papers** written by members of Academia Europaea. They are all featured on the AE and AE Cardiff websites, providing a useful resource to those following latest research on COVID-19.

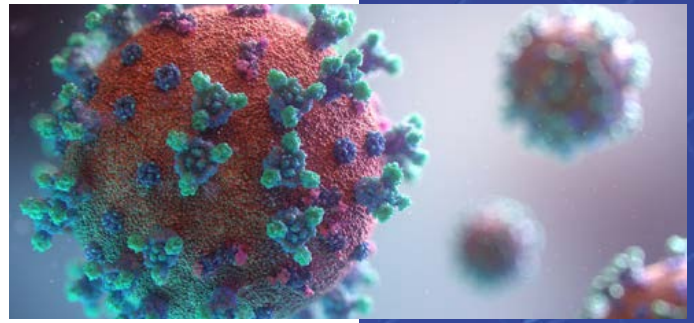
■ In June, SAPEA published its **Sustainability Plan**, which lays out a roadmap for the consortium's future development in providing evidence for the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Overseen by Academia Europaea, the work on the plan was undertaken by the Cardiff Hub.

■ In September, **Sir Mark Walport** was announced as the new AE Cardiff Hub Steering Group Chair, succeeding Sir John Skehel. Sir Mark was the UK's Government Chief Scientific Adviser between 2013 and 2017, and the Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) from 2017 to 2020.

■ The Hub dedicated much of 2020 to working on a third evidence review on **Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment** for the European Commission. This was the first review to be conducted from beginning to end solely by virtual means rather than physical meetings. The report was presented to Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, Professor Nicole Grobert, at the official online handover event on 14th December. European Commissioners Mariya Ivanova Gabriel and Virginijus Sinkevičius were in attendance.

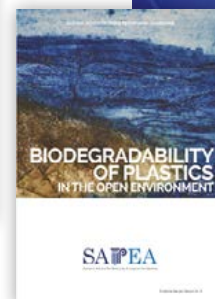
■ The Hub also oversaw a comprehensive **systematic review on the European food policy landscape**, on behalf of SAPEA. The systematic review was specifically requested by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and published in March, alongside SAPEA's Evidence Review Report, *Towards a sustainable food system*, coordinated by ALLEA. The systematic review involved a novel partnership between methodologists (members of Cardiff's Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE) and Cardiff University Library Service) and subject experts. Professor Terry Marsden, Director of Cardiff's Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE) and Dr Alison Weightman, Director of SURE, led on the review.

■ Academia Europaea announced that Cardiff Hub Director, Professor Ole Petersen, would be awarded **AE's Gold Medal** for his contribution to the development of European Science. Due to COVID-19, the award lecture will be delivered at AE's annual conference in Barcelona in 2021.



The Hub's first webinar on *The future of Translational Medicine*. Professors Sir Stephen Holgate, Ole Petersen and Péter Hegyi

Sir Mark Walport,
AE Cardiff Hub's
Steering Group
Chair



Academia Europaea's
Gold Medal

2021

■ Specialists in systematic review at Cardiff University carried out a **mapping review** of recent research evidence within the field of *Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment*. It forms a separate but complementary document to the SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment*. The evidence review was coordinated by the Cardiff Hub, on behalf of Academia Europaea.

■ In March, AE Cardiff organised a **special online event, in partnership with the universities of Bremen and Cardiff**, supporting the *Wales in Germany 2021* campaign. Panellists discussed the role of the digital media on public debate, attitudes and behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 100 joined the webinar from 23 countries across the world. The webinar opened with words of welcome from Professor Rudolf Allemann, Cardiff's Pro Vice-Chancellor, International and Student Recruitment and Professor Eva-Maria Feichtner, Bremen's Vice-President International and Diversity. Professor Peter Halligan, representing the Welsh Government, gave a short presentation about Wales' response to the pandemic and the role of science advice, with some observations on how it is communicated through the media.

■ AE Cardiff launched a **briefing series** summarising the key points of discussion from the Hub's webinars, with the aim of providing a useful resource on important topics.

■ A **renewed cooperation agreement** between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University was signed by Professors Sierd Cloetingh and Colin Riordan. The new agreement is in place until the end of 2024. The Hub is grateful for the unfailing support of Professor Cloetingh and Professor Riordan over the last 5 years.

■ In order to broaden our **international collaborations**, a formal cooperation agreement was signed between the Bergen and Cardiff Hub Directors, Professor Eystein Janssen MAE and Professor Ole Petersen.

■ The Hub has played a key role in a number of **important webinars** which have taken place throughout 2021. In June, AE Cardiff co-organised, together with the European Parliament's Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development and SAPEA, a high-profile webinar on *Plastics Pollution: Are biodegradable plastics a solution?* A global audience of over 300 attended, our largest audience to date. The event was hosted by Mohammed Chahim MEP and chaired by Professor Ole Petersen, who together with two members of the SAPEA Expert Working Group, Drs Miriam Weber and Michael Sander, summarised some of the key findings of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report. Other speakers included Patrick Child, Deputy Director General Research & Innovation at the European Commission and the Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to the Commission, Professor Nicole Grobert. Two MEPs, Delara Burkhardt and Stéphane Bijoux provided comments, emphasising their commitments to making progress on dealing with the problem of plastics pollution.

This was the first time for AE Cardiff to be directly engaged with the European Parliament; a very important step for Cardiff University, AE and SAPEA.



Panellists at the Hub's *Digital Media in Crisis Situations* webinar



BRIEFING SERIES



Panellists at *Plastic pollution: Are biodegradable plastics a solution?*



Read the AE Cardiff Hub's Strategic Plan 2020–2023 to find out more about our key priorities for the future. Available [here](#)



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
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