



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

2016

ANNUAL
REPORT

PROMOTING **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**
FOR **POLICY AND PROGRESS**



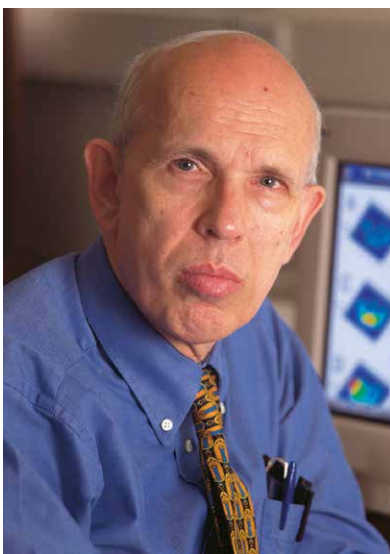
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Introduction

By Professor Ole Petersen

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Honorary Academic Director,
Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub



Professor Ole H. Petersen
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Welcome to our Annual Report 2016, highlighting our achievements so far in meeting the three-year priorities set out in our Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

Founded in 1988, *Academia Europaea* is a non-governmental association, acting as a pan-European Academy. Our members are leading scientists and scholars who collectively promote research, learning and education. Our membership now numbers well over 3000, including more than 75 Nobel laureates.

Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Wroclaw and Bergen. In 2016, they have been joined by a fourth hub, hosted at Cardiff University in Wales. Cardiff's world-leading research was ranked 5th amongst UK universities in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework for quality and 2nd for impact.

This has been a momentous first year for the new Cardiff Knowledge Hub. The *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016 was hosted at Cardiff, just four days after the UK's referendum vote to leave the European Union.

It is now more vital than ever to emphasise the importance of collaboration and networking between research communities in Europe and, indeed, worldwide.

In this context, I am pleased with the proactive role the Hub has played in preparations for a new European project, SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), which will support the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The project officially got under way on 1st November and the Cardiff Hub has been vigorously engaged from the outset, contributing to the review work on New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology. I am delighted that the Cardiff Hub will, on behalf of *Academia Europaea*, lead the work on the first topic coordinated by the SAPEA consortium, Food from the Oceans, due in 2017.

I would like to thank Sir John Skehel for his very active engagement as Chair of the Hub Steering Group. My thanks also to Professor Nora de Leeuw, Pro Vice Chancellor (International and Europe), Cardiff University, for her great support.



Professor Ole H. Petersen

Highlights in 2016

Professor Ole Petersen at a meeting of the SAPEA partners, Amsterdam, February 2016. Professor Sierd Cloetingh, *Academia Europaea* President, is also pictured.

A new project, SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), kicked off in November. The Cardiff Hub is playing a major role in delivering work in the project, on behalf of *Academia Europaea*.

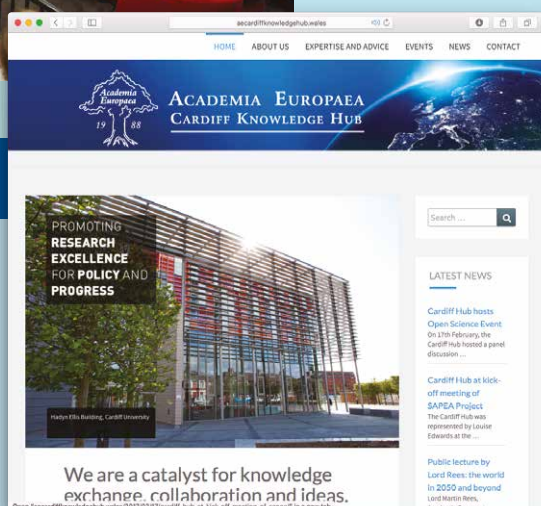


Academia Europaea Annual Conference 2016, Hadyn Ellis Building, Cardiff University

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016 took place 26th-30th June in Cardiff, attracting a large international audience.

New Cardiff Hub website

The new Hub website and corporate identity were launched in the autumn, with a completely fresh look and feel.



Achievements in 2016

Our achievements are set out in the context of the priorities in the Strategic Plan 2016-2019.



PRIORITY 1:

Establish a major role in developing the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)

The Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) was established by the European Commission in 2015 to provide quality, timely and independent scientific advice for policymaking. It is supported by a new project, SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), which commenced in November. Funded under Horizon 2020, the SAPEA consortium comprises five pan-European academies, including *Academia Europaea*. The project is four years' duration and is budgeted at 6 million EUR in total. The Cardiff Knowledge Hub is delivering a significant part of the work assigned to *Academia Europaea* in the project, under its status as a Linked Third Party.

Over the course of 2016, Professor Petersen and the Cardiff Hub Manager, Louise Edwards, had significant involvement in the preparatory phase of the project. Following the official start date on 1st November, Professor Petersen represented *Academia Europaea* in his capacity as Vice-President at the first joint meeting of the High-Level Group, the SAM Unit of the European Commission and the SAPEA Consortium, held in Brussels. Louise Edwards, Hub Manager, joined the Review Team for the topic New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology, with its initial meeting hosted in Brussels in December.

PRIORITY 2:

Showcase outstanding regional research

The Cardiff Hub website was relaunched in October, following a comprehensive professional redesign, including a new image identity and strapline. The website now provides an attractive showcase for our work, with in-depth reports and features, as well as news. The new image has also been incorporated into a new set of marketing collaterals produced for the Hub.

Our editorial activity on the new website included an online report on the INGSA (International Network for Government Science Advice) Conference in October, which was referenced by other academies. Regionally, we wrote and published an online report on the Come Dine with the Future expert meeting on food and sustainability, organised by the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon Energy and Environment and the Royal Society of Biology and hosted by the National Museum of Wales in November.

At the Annual Conference in June, young scholars from across Wales presented their research to the delegate audience, followed by the award of a prestigious Burgen scholarship.



Dr Tomos Owen, Bangor University, receives his Burgen scholarship award from *Academia Europaea* President, Professor Sierd Cloetingh

PRIORITY 3: Engage with our membership



Professor Sierd Cloetingh, *Academia Europaea* President, at the official launch of the Cardiff Hub

Academia Europaea Annual Meeting and Conference

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016 took place between 26th and 30th June in Cardiff. The event also marked the official opening of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub by the President of *Academia Europaea*, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, and the Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Professor Colin Riordan.

Highlights of the Conference included:

The Erasmus Lecture, given by the UK's Astronomer Royal, Lord Rees of Ludlow, and entitled *From Mars to the Multiverse*.

A debate on Scientific Advice Mechanisms, with a panel that included Sir Mark Walport (UK Chief Scientific Adviser & Chair of the Prime Minister's Council for Science & Technology) and Patrick Child [Deputy Director-General of DG-Research and Innovation, European Commission]. It was chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Learned Society of Wales (LSW) and sponsored by the LSW.

Mini-symposia were held on brain projects at the frontiers of neuroscience, the reproducibility of published research, migration and identity.



Erasmus Lecture 2016



Panellists at the debate on Scientific Advice Mechanisms

An exhibition attracted major publishers and research organisations, as well as highlighting the best of Welsh tourism and culture.

Delegates enjoyed a varied social programme, including a Gala Dinner at the City Hall and an excursion to study Wales' rich geological features on the Vale of Glamorgan.

“Thank you for everything; this was a spectacular meeting, run extremely well, informative and enjoyable”
Conference delegate



Geology lesson at the Vale of Glamorgan

Other Hub Meetings and Events

In November, the Cardiff Hub hosted two events, both at the new CUBRIC (Cardiff University Brain Imaging Centre) Building in Cardiff.

Our panel session on The Future of UK Research and Scholarship attracted a lot of interest. Following the UK referendum result, many questions have been raised around the future of UK research and scholarship in a post-Brexit world. The context was set through an opening talk by Professor Richard Catlow, incoming Foreign Secretary at the Royal Society. Our panelists and the audience then explored ideas about how best to pursue European and other international collaborations.

Sir John Skehel, Vice-President and Biological Secretary of the Royal Society, also delivered a lecture on behalf of the Cardiff Hub. Sir John has provided major insights into the molecular basis of how viruses recognise and infect their host cells. He focusses on the virus that causes influenza, of which there are 3–5 million cases a year worldwide, resulting in up to 500,000 deaths.

Alexei Tepikin, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology at the University of Liverpool, delivered a special seminar on 14th November.



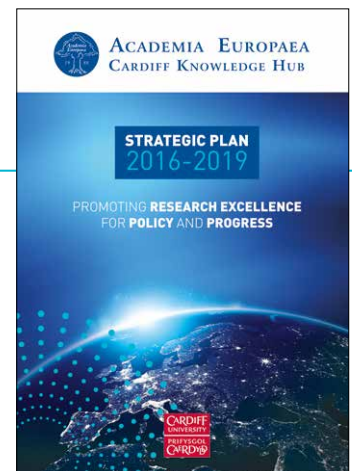
Panelists on the Future of UK Research



Sir John Skehel's lecture

PRIORITY 4: Engage with wider stakeholders

The Hub's first Strategic Plan, covering 2016 to 2019, was professionally designed and printed. It was circulated to the Hub's wider stakeholder networks, including research-intensive universities in the UK and Republic of Ireland, national and regional academies across Europe, the Welsh government, European organisations such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the European Universities Association (EUA).



Front page of the Strategic Plan

External Meetings and Events

The Cardiff Hub was represented at the following external meetings:

January – Professor Petersen participated in the Expert Workshop on Science Advising in Europe, organised by the Initiative for Science in Europe (ESE), in Heidelberg, Germany.

February – Professor Petersen took an active part in negotiations between consortium members in the SAPEA project, at a meeting held in Amsterdam.

March – At a follow-up meeting of the SAPEA consortium in Brussels, Louise Edwards represented the Cardiff Hub, alongside the *Academia Europaea* President, Professor Cloetingh.

March – Representatives from all four *Academia Europaea* Hubs, together with the Young Academy of Europe, met in London to exchange progress reports and to coordinate planning in areas such as website development, marketing and communications.

April – The Cardiff Hub team presented progress reports to the *Academia Europaea* Board, Budapest.

May – Professor Petersen took the opportunity to strengthen links with EASAC (European Academies Scientific Advice Council), one of the partners in the SAPEA project, by attending its Council Meeting in Norway.



Joint Hub meeting in London

June – Professor Sven Bestmann, Vice-President of the Young Academy of Europe made a promotional presentation to attract early- and mid-career researchers to join the YAE, in an event co-organised with the Cardiff Hub and the European Office at Cardiff University.

September – The European Commission hosted the second INGSAs (International Network for Government Science Advice) Conference, attended by the Hub Manager, Louise Edwards, and *Academia Europaea* President, Sierd Cloetingh.

November – The first joint meeting of the SAPEA Board, the High-Level Group of Experts and the European Commission's SAM Unit took place in Brussels on 24th November, with Professor Ole Petersen representing *Academia Europaea*.

December – The first Review Team meeting for the SAM topic Agricultural Biotechnology, Brussels, was attended by Louise Edwards.

Marketing and Communications

The Cardiff Hub was able to raise its profile significantly through its promotion of the Annual Conference, both locally and internationally. Within Europe, we achieved coverage in sources such as the European University Association, Research Europe and the Welsh Higher Education Brussels. We also were featured by the Royal Irish Academy, the Learned Society of Wales, Universities Wales and the Welsh Government, which included us in its *Festival of Innovation* programme.

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Conference was promoted extensively through channels at Cardiff University, including its *Summer of Innovation* programme, designed to showcase initiatives of excellence. The Cardiff Hub gained a new set of pages on the Cardiff University website to promote the strategic collaboration between *Academia Europaea* and Cardiff University.

Cardiff's Pro Vice- Chancellor (International and Europe), Professor Nora de Leeuw, published several blogs highlighting the progress of the Cardiff Hub.

In June, we established Twitter and Facebook accounts to announce and promote Hub events.

PRIORITY 5: Ensure future sustainability

In addition to the core operational funding provided by Cardiff University, the Hub was boosted by securing Horizon 2020 funding for the SAPEA project, enabling us to employ a full-time equivalent member of staff to work on SAPEA activities.

We acknowledge and express our gratitude to the Welsh Government and the Learned Society of Wales for their generous support towards the Annual Conference.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

GOVERNANCE

The Cardiff Hub Steering Group held its inaugural meeting on 26th June. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group:

Yves Barde MAE

Nora de Leeuw FLSW

Dianne Edwards CBE FLSW FRS MAE

Theo D'Haen MAE

Donald Dingwell MAE

Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci MAE

Colin Riordan FLSW

Irene Schulz-Hofer ML MAE

Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci MAE (Chair)

John Tucker FLSW MAE

RESOURCES

Staffing



Honorary Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen



Louise Edwards joined the team as [Knowledge Hub Manager](#) on 1st February. She brought extensive experience of managing European networks and projects, having spent the last nine years working in The Netherlands.



[Executive Officer](#) **Judith Lockett** brought her considerable experience as a senior university administrator to the successful organisation of the *Academia Europaea* Annual Conference and Meeting 2016.

FINANCE

In addition to covering the salaries of the Executive Officer and Knowledge Hub Manager (in-part), our hosts, Cardiff University, provided a sum for core operating costs in the academic year 2015-16.

Funding for work on the SAPEA project commenced from 1st November, meeting the costs of 1.0 FTE employee and associated travel costs.

The Conference budget was designed to cover costs and resulted in a balanced outturn.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Number of attendees at the <i>Academia Europaea</i> Annual Conference and Meeting 2016	148
Number of countries represented at the <i>Academia Europaea</i> Annual Conference and Meeting 2016	21
Number of attendees at the Hub events on 11th November (panel debate and Skehel lecture)	94
Number of visits to the Hub website January-December 2016	2,664
Number of pages viewed on the Hub website January-December 2016	7,799
Average number of times users were served a Hub Tweet in timeline or search results (per day, July-December 2016)	88
Number of active user engagements (e.g. re-Tweets, likes) with the Hub Twitter account July-December 2016	63



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