

SCIENCE IN PARLIAMENT

The Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

The Committee is an Associate Parliamentary Group of members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, industrial organisations and universities.

Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

- a) to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;*
- b) to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.*



In this issue Lawson Soulsby especially welcomes MPs elected to the 2005 Parliament and points them to the Committee's new website. John Krebs leaves the Food Standards Agency with clear responsibilities for safety, but an uncertain role for nutrition. Lindsay Sharp's National Museum of Science and Industry is committed to new scientific dialogue making sense of science and technology. HRH The Princess Royal, our Guest of Honour at the Annual Lunch, provides encouragement to women in science and engineering thus also helping to provide more science and maths teachers. William Hughes wants serious organised crime put out of business, Gloria Laycock needs a new scientific agency promoting crime prevention. Gary Pugh's forensic databases are the best in the world and paramount in the investigation and reduction of crime. Keith O'Nions distributes the Chancellor's £10 billion for science and innovation at the Science Week Seminar, Catherine Beech's early stage companies need business to help them pull through. Patrick McDonald joins up government departments to make them a more demanding customer for technology. Ian Diamond's knowledge networks and partnerships underpin commercial applications. Janet Hurst's microbes will inherit the earth, but in the mean time require constant vigilance. Colin Grant's chemical engineers help solve practical problems. John Bourne finds that 60% of post FMD TB is due to cattle movement, not badgers. Tam Dalyell finally says goodbye after 43 years as a "Committee Regular" – and he will be very much missed.

Dr Douglas Naysmith MP
Chairman, Editorial Board,
Science in Parliament

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*Front cover picture: Colour TEM of MRSA: resistant Staphylococcus bacteria
(Credit: Dr Kari Lounatmaa/Science Photo Library)*

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