

# 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.



Martin Rees notes the low participation in science by 16 and 17 year-olds and reductions in A-level physics, chemistry and maths. Deirdre Hutton presents a Science Strategy for the Food Standards Agency. Mark Walport welcomes a vibrant research environment protected by risk management. Robert Souhami attacks the confused legal and regulatory guidance that is stifling the use of electronic personal health care records



in NHS research. Ursula Roos promotes UK-German bilateral collaboration especially in climate change and energy. John Walton recommends that doctors refer patients for CAM therapy on the NHS

and Stephen Holgate encourages integrated health care using the science and art of medicine while David Tredinnick promotes complementary medicine from both personal and public viewpoints. Norman Borlaug's plant breeding research provides "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation" and a breathing space in which to deal with the "population monster". Sue Owens describes the evolution of the precautionary principle (PP) in the RCEP while Colin Berry describes erratic, arbitrary and non-scientific applications of the PP, and Ragnar Lofstedt traces the PP from Swedish origins, but predicts that the cost of regulation will outweigh the benefits. Crispin Tickell concludes that the most sustainable action possible is to help Africans to help themselves and Frank Rijsberman recommends investment in water, while Richard Carter considers that Africa is in need of support that exceeds even the most imaginative that science and technology can deliver, and Gordon Conway makes water and sanitation targets a priority for DFID. The British Pharmacological Society celebrates its 75th birthday. Novartis Pharmaceuticals promote living donation of kidneys. Paul Hardaker says hurricanes have increased in intensity over the last 30 years.

Dr Brian Iddon MP  
Chairman, Editorial Board  
Science in Parliament

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