

UK-V4 FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

The UK-V4 Frontiers of Science Symposium (UKV4FoS) is co-organized by the Royal Society (RS) and the V4 group of Academies – Poland, Hungary, Czech and Slovakia. The conference brings together outstanding young British and V4 scientists from all fields of the natural sciences for an exchange of new ideas in research.

I. Format

- Five countries conference: 20% of participants from each country;
 - young post-doctoral scientists (up to 20 years post doctoral experience); nationality of all participants (organizers, speakers, and general participants) correlates with country in which they work at the time of the conference (not “passport nationality”)
- approx. 70 participants in total
- interdisciplinary conference covering the following 8 fields:
Astrophysics/Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geosciences, (Applied) Mathematics, Neurosciences, and Physics
- 7 sessions from above mentioned fields with one introductory speaker and two session speakers each:
 - overview of the field and introduction into the session topic by introductory speaker (10-15 min.)
 - 2 talks on specific topics within the field: must cover innovations in research and be „cutting-edge“ (approx. 25 minutes each)
 - 2 hours per session including 45 min. of discussion (Q&A) among all participants following the talks
- total duration of the symposium: 3 days
first day: welcome reception in the evening, following 2 and a half days: 7 sessions,
- conference language: English

II. Organizing Committee (OC)

- consists of 1 member from each Academy members (including 1 co-chair from UK and one from V4); plus UK co-secretary and V4 co-secretary
- Organizers:
 - young enthusiastic scientists with standing in their scientific community
 - participate in OC Meetings; attend entire OC Meeting and Symposium
 - prepare joint session proposals in co-operation with counterpart of a partner country and select final session topics
 - organize session in co-operation with counterpart of a partner country:
 - select topic of talks
 - select and instruct introductory speaker and the two session speakers
 - ensure the coordination between the introductory speaker and the two session speakers
 - watch speakers' times (time-keeping responsibility for entire session)
 - nominate general participants (up to 10 people, not from home institution)
- Organizing Committee Meetings:
 - each session organiser sends in 2-4 session proposals
 - all members read and rank the proposals on a scale from 1-10
 - the ranked proposals within each discipline are selected for presentation at the OC meeting
 - OC Meeting approx. 8 months prior to symposium:
 - final selection of the 8 session topics to be presented at the next symposium

- general discussion on organization, scientific outline, etc.

III. Introductory Speakers

- one introductory speaker per session: 8 in total
- age: up to 45 years
- balanced representation of British and V4 introductory speakers (1 or 2 from each country)
- appropriate representation of excellent young female scientists
- Introductory speakers prepare abstracts of their introductions (1/2 - 1 page) for distribution prior to symposium in the agenda book; introductory talks should give overview of the field, introduce audience to session topic, explain why session topic is a “frontier” of science (jargon to be avoided or explained)
- during symposium: introduce session speakers and moderate follow-up discussion (Q&A round)
- Introductory speakers attend entire symposium

IV. Session Speakers

- two speakers per session: 14 speakers in total
- age: up to 20 years post doc experience
- balanced representation of British and V4 speakers (about 20% from each country, bearing in mind nationalities of introductory speakers)
- appropriate representation of excellent young female scientists
- speakers of a particular session may not be from the same research institute
- speakers prepare abstracts of their talks (1-2 pages) for distribution prior to symposium in agenda book; talks may be technical but must be accessible (jargon to be avoided or explained)
- speakers should send an outline of their presentations to their organizers before preparing final presentations
- session speakers attend entire symposium

V. General Participants

- general participants from the United Kingdom are selected by the Royal Society (approx. 8-9);
- general participants from V4 (8- 9 from each country); nominated and selected by V4 academies
- age: up to 20 years post doc experience
- post-doctoral scientists, holders of research fellowships or research awards
- balanced representation of fields
- appropriate representation of excellent young female scientists
- not more than 2 representatives from the same university/research institute
- participation only possible once (further participation possible in different role, i.e. as organizer, session speaker, or introductory speaker)
- general participants attend entire symposium

Dates for Symposium and OC meeting:

The date for the symposium has been set for February /March 2007 in Krakow. An exact date will be determined at the OC meeting.