

INNOVATION

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in association with UK
TRADE &
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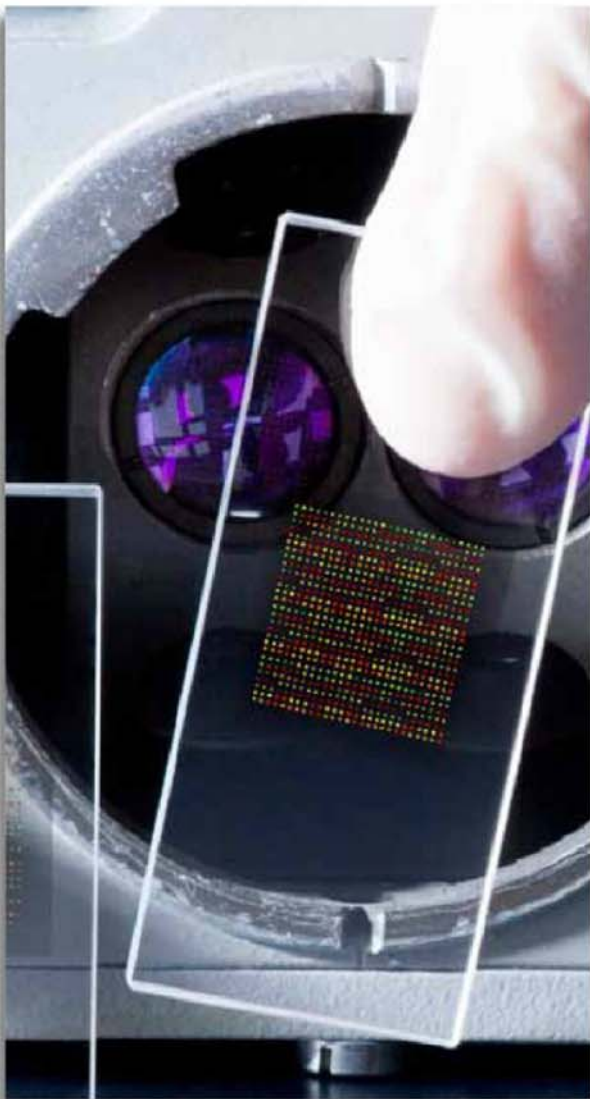


Putting people first

Research Councils UK invests in people and skills to maintain the UK's world-beating research base

Research Councils UK (RCUK) is the strategic partnership of the seven UK Research Councils. By investing in training and managing the next generation of researchers, RCUK is contributing to the impact of research and helping to bring major benefits to the economic and social wellbeing of the UK.

Professor Rick Rylance, RCUK Champion for Research Careers, believes that investment in people is key to the future prosperity of the UK. He says: "Research is crucial if we are to find our way out of the economic crisis and huge societal challenges facing the UK today. People are critical to research. Whether they are researchers striving to find urgent solutions to the challenges confronting society or those whose lives are touched by the discoveries of research, it is people that make a difference."



Each year, RCUK invests around £3bn in research covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines, including the medical and biological sciences, physical, mathematical and engineering sciences, social sciences, economics, environmental sciences and the arts and humanities.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The UK research base is recognised as excellent and world-leading, and this reputation has been achieved through continued development of the people within it. It is not only the impact of research, but the impact that highly skilled individuals have on the economy and society that has created this inspiring global position.

RCUK encourage researchers to communicate with the wider public about their work and, where possible, involve the public with the research they are undertaking. Working in schools and talking about research is another way of demonstrating the importance of research to our future.

It is essential that we inspire the next generation to ensure that UK research continues to have strong global position. Working in partnership with UK business means that cutting edge technologies and developments reach the wider public as quickly as possible. Strong collaborations between research and business also make the UK an attractive base for international companies to conduct research and development.

A strong research base will help to secure the long-term prosperity of the UK. By supporting talented people, their expertise will reach a wide audience and the effects of their research will continue to have an impact in the future.

IMPACT

Research has an impact on all our lives. Whether it is an invention that makes our lives better or a breakthrough in experimental science that leads to more questions about the origins of the universe, research is important. Impact arises from the application of knowledge, skills and experience developed in the course of research. It depends on the people who apply their research, or who can see the potential of discoveries made by others.

RCUK supports a wide variety of people who have an impact, including Dr Jenny Tillotson, Senior Research Fellow at Central St Martins, who was inspired by working as a buddy with HIV and AIDS sufferers and created a "wearable emotional support system". Jenny has pioneered a new way of combining technology and fashion to deliver fragrance through clothes. The "e-scent" button technology is now being commercialised and has attracted the interest of a major UK retailer.

By working with a younger audience, researchers are able to help inspire the next generation to follow in their footsteps. During his



long and respected career, Martyn Poliakoff, Professor in Chemistry at the University of Nottingham, has worked with researchers around the world to develop applications for Green Chemistry, creating cleaner, more sustainable ways of using and disposing of chemicals.

He has also dedicated a large part of his work to widening interest in chemistry and engineering in young people, and developed the "Periodic Table of Videos", which explains the elements in a more accessible way.

Other researchers use their expertise to highlight a variety of ecological issues affecting the world today. The plight of the bumblebee made front-page news in 2006 when Professor David Goulson first took his research out into the wider world. As a conservation biologist, he had become frustrated by the gulf between academic research and "practical, on-the-ground conservation". He decided to translate what he had learned into practical conservation measures and launched the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in May 2006, which now has a membership of more than 6,000 people.

BEYOND RESEARCH

The experience of doing a PhD has a significant impact of the perceived employability and career decisions of doctoral graduates. Over 90% feel their PhD experience enables them to make a difference in their workplace. Of the 4,500 Doctoral graduates funded by RCUK each year, over half will move out of higher education and take their skills into the wider economy.

UK researchers are very highly regarded by businesses around the world. Their specialist knowledge, skills and experience in working creatively and independently, makes researchers highly

employable across a wide range of occupations. Today, UK researchers work with some of the biggest global names in business including Samsung, Siemens, GlaxoSmithKlein, Boeing, the BBC and Rolls Royce. Over 80% of Doctoral graduates are using their research skills, even though many work in roles which are not classified as research.

RESEARCH COUNCILS UK

Research Councils UK is the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils:

- » · Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- » · Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- » · Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC)
- » · Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- » · Medical Research Council (MRC)
- » · Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
- » · Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

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For more information about the RCUK Framework for the

Future: Excellence with Impact, visit:

Website: www.rcuk.ac.uk/framework