



Stephen Metcalfe MP and Chi Onwurah MP

Carol Monaghan MP and Layla Moran MP

welcome you to

## Parliamentary Links Day 2020

### Public Trust in Science

Organised by the Royal Society of Biology

on behalf of the science and engineering community



#LinksDay20

# Programme

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## **10:00 Introduction and housekeeping**

**Dr Mark Downs**, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Biology

### **Welcome**

**Stephen Metcalfe MP**, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

### **Parliamentary launch**

**Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons

### **Keynote address**

**Amanda Solloway MP**, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation

## **10:10 Panel discussion and Q&A**

**Professor Dame Anne Glover**, Royal Society of Edinburgh

**Sir Venki Ramakrishnan**, Royal Society

**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell**, Council for Science & Technology

**Sir David Spiegelhalter**, Cambridge University

## **11:00 Keynote address**

**Chi Onwurah MP**, Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

## **11:05 Break**

## **11:15 Keynote address and Q&A**

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**, Chair of the Commons Science & Technology Select Committee

## **11:35 Keynote address and Q&A**

**Sir Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser

### **Closing remarks**

**Stephen Metcalfe MP**, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

**Dr Mark Downs**, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Biology

## **12:00 Formal close**

**Dr Stephen Benn**, Director of Parliamentary Affairs, Royal Society of Biology

## Stephen Metcalfe MP

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### Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee



**Constituency:** South Basildon and East Thurrock

**Party:** Conservative

Stephen has been Member of Parliament for South Basildon and East Thurrock since 2010.

He is Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, which is Parliament's oldest and longest-serving All Party Parliamentary Group and is a major focus for the discussion and debate of scientific and technological issues.

Stephen is the immediate past Chair of the Science and Technology Select Committee and is passionate about promoting science, technology and engineering in his constituency. He has also campaigned for many years to protect green spaces from over-development.

A former local councillor, Stephen is a trustee of Age Concern Basildon, President of Northlands Park Community Association, Patron of the Basildon Education Services Trust and local Karate club, Maru Karate Kai.

You can follow Stephen on Twitter @Metcalfe\_SBE

## Chi Onwurah MP

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### Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



**Constituency:** Newcastle upon Tyne Central

**Party:** Labour

Chi was elected as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle upon Tyne Central in 2010. After a degree in electrical engineering in 1987, Chi worked in hardware and software development, product management, market development and strategy for a variety of predominately private sector companies in a number of different countries. During this time Chi also studied for an MBA and gained Chartered Engineering status.

Chi has previously been a shadow minister in the cabinet office, for culture media and sport and for business, innovation and skills. Since October 2016 Chi is a Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy.

You can follow Chi on Twitter @ChiOnwurah

## Carol Monaghan MP

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### Member of the House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee



**Constituency:** Glasgow North West  
**Party:** Scottish National

Carol was elected as a Member of Parliament in the general election in 2015. She has been on the Science and Technology committee since July 2015. Carol is currently Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education), an opposition position she has held since May 2015.

Carol studied at Strathclyde University, graduating with a BSc (Hons) in laser physics and optoelectronics in 1993. She had formerly been a physics teacher and head of science at Hyndland Secondary School.

Carol has been a member of the SNP since 2007 and said the Scottish referendum result gave her the drive to pursue politics.

Follow Carol on Twitter @CMonaghanMP

## Layla Moran MP

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### Liberal Democrats' Education Spokesperson



**Constituency:** Oxford West and Abingdon  
**Party:** Liberal Democrats

Layla has been the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon since 2017. She is also the Liberal Democrats' Education Spokesperson, an issue that she is deeply passionate about as a former physics and maths teacher.

She was the youngest head of year in her school's history and went on to lead curriculum development. She read physics at Imperial College London and holds an MA in comparative education.

She advocates evidence-based solutions to environmental issues like flooding and is a strong supporter of science innovation and investment.

She is currently running for leader of Liberal Democrats.

You can follow Layla on Twitter @LaylaMoran

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# Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP

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## Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons



**Constituency:** Epping Forest

**Party:** Conservative

Eleanor has been the MP for Epping Forest since 1997. She was elected a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons in October 2013 and elected as the first woman to hold the post of Chair of Ways and Means in 2020. Before becoming Deputy Speaker, Eleanor was a member of the influential Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee and Chairman of the 1922 Home and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Always deeply involved in parliamentary reform, she was a member of the controversial Joint Committee on the House of Lords, the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission. She has also held a variety of opposition spokesman roles – as Shadow Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Shadow Minister for Equality, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, Shadow Education Minister and Opposition Whip.

A graduate of Edinburgh University, where she was the first woman to be elected President of the Union, Eleanor worked as a solicitor in Edinburgh, in the City and in industry. She was until recently Chairman of the Society of Conservative Lawyers.

Eleanor was awarded her Damehood in HM the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2018.

# Amanda Solloway MP

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## Minister for Science, Research and Innovation



**Constituency:** Derby North

**Party:** Conservative

Amanda was first elected in 2015 and became a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Minister of State for the Department of International Development. She was re-elected in December 2019 and currently holds the Government post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). Amanda's responsibilities include: science and research, innovation, intellectual property, space, agri-tech and technology.

You can follow Amanda on Twitter @ASollowayUK

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## Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

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### Chair of the House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee



**Constituency:** Royal Tunbridge Wells

**Party:** Conservative

Greg is Chair of the Science and Technology Committee.

Greg was Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the last Parliament. Earlier ministerial posts included Minister of State for Universities, Science and Cities, held between 2014 and 2015.

Born in Middlesbrough, Greg attended the local St Peter's Comprehensive, South Bank. He went on to study economics at Cambridge University and was awarded his PhD at the London School of Economics. Before being elected to Parliament in 2005, he worked for Boston Consulting Group and held posts as the BBC's head of commercial policy and Conservative Party's director of policy.

You can follow Greg on Twitter @GregClarkMP

## Sir Patrick Vallance FRS FMedSci FRCP

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### Government Chief Scientific Adviser



Patrick is government chief scientific adviser (GCSA) and head of the Government Science and Engineering (GSE) profession.

Patrick was President, R&D at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) from 2012. Prior to this, he was senior vice president, medicines discovery and development. He joined the company in May 2006 as head of drug discovery. He was a member of the GSK Board and the Corporate Executive Team.

Prior to joining GSK, he was a clinical academic, professor of medicine and led the Division of Medicine at UCL. Patrick has over 20 years' experience of basic and clinical research, and was a consultant physician in the NHS.

He was elected to the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1999 and to the Royal Society in 2017. He was on the Board of the UK Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR) from 2009 to 2016. He is an Honorary Fellow at UCL and holds honorary degrees from Imperial College London, Glasgow University, University of York and St George's, University of London. He was a non-executive director and board member for UK Biobank and a non-executive board member for Genome Research Limited but stepped down in taking up the GCSA role.

## Professor Dame Anne Glover DBE FRS FRSE

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### President, Royal Society of Edinburgh



Anne pursued a research career at Aberdeen University where she studied the diversity and function of microbes in soil, the development of sensors to detect environmental pollution and how we respond to stress, which has particular relevance to how we age. She is currently a special advisor to the Principal at the University of Strathclyde and the President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Anne was the first chief scientific adviser to the President of the European Commission (2012-2015) and was the first Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland (2006-2011).

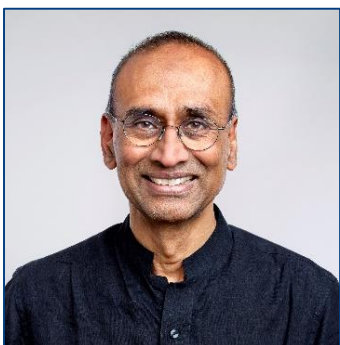
She became a Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) in 2008 and has worked hard to support women in SET. In 2009, she was awarded a CBE by the Queen in recognition of her services to environmental sciences and in 2015, she became a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services to science in the UK and Europe.

You can follow Anne on Twitter @AnneGlover\_EU

## Sir Venki Ramakrishnan FRS

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### President, Royal Society



Venki is a structural biologist, best known for his pioneering work on the ribosome. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2003 and later became the society's first Indian-born president (2015).

After gaining a PhD in physics in 1976, he spent two years studying biology as a graduate student while making a transition from theoretical physics to biology.

As a postdoctoral fellow, Venki worked on ribosomes at Yale University.

He continued this work from 1983-95 as a staff scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Venki then moved to the University of Utah before moving to the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

In 2009, Venki shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Thomas A Steitz and Ada E Yonath, "for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome".

# Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS FMedSci Hon FRSB

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## Co-chair, Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology



Nancy was appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester in July 2010, the first woman to lead the university or either of its two predecessor institutions. She is also professor of physiology, and has previously held an MRC Research Chair, as well as holding university positions as Vice-President for Research and as Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

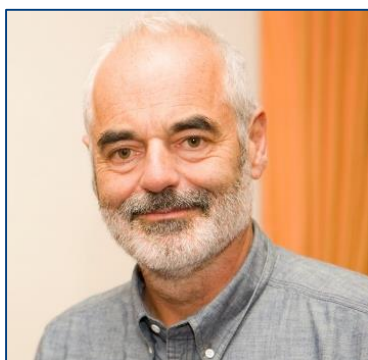
Nancy's research in the field of neuroscience has contributed towards major advances in the understanding and treatment of brain damage in stroke and head injury. She was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in June 2004 and made Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in June 2005.

Nancy was the founding President of the Royal Society of Biology. She is currently co-Chair of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, Chair-elect of the Russell Group, a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, Chair of the Oxford Road Corridor Board, and a member of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership Board, the UK Dementia Research Institute Board and the Industrial Strategy Council.

# Sir David Spiegelhalter FRS

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## Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk, Cambridge University



David is a statistician and Winton professor of the public understanding of risk in the Statistical Laboratory at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge.

David was research assistant in Brunel University in 1976 and then visiting lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, 1977–78. After his PhD, he was a research assistant for the Royal College of Physicians; he was based at the University of Nottingham, where his PhD supervisor, Adrian Smith, had been appointed a professor.

From 1981 he was at the Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit at Cambridge. He has been an honorary lecturer at the University of Hong Kong since 1991. He has also been a consultant for GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis and the World Anti-Doping Agency. He played a leading role in the public inquiries into children's heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the murders by Harold Shipman. Between 2007 and 2012 he divided his work between the Cambridge Statistical Laboratory (three-fifths) and the Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit (two-fifths). He left the MRC in March 2012 and now works full-time at the Statistical Laboratory as the Winton professor of the public understanding of risk.

You can follow David on Twitter @d\_spiegel