**IRSA Research Forum**

The IRSA Research Forum event will be held in the [Royal Irish Academy](http://www.ria.ie/), Dublin from **1pm – 5pm, Friday 8th April**. The core theme of the forum is **“Researcher careers; Ireland, Europe and the future”.** Problems addressed will be career prospects and career path as well as funding concerns for the future, while all the major funding bodies will be present. A list of the Forum's main objectives can be found in the following document: [Forum Objectives](http://www.irsa.ie/documents/Forum_Objectives.pdf)

**Programme**

The programme for the forum is as follows:

* **12.30 -**Registration & break out session sign-up (max 25 per session)  
  Tea/Coffee & Biscuits
* **13.00 -**Welcome address - Gordon Dalton
* **13.10 -**Speakers on Policy x 4 (15 mins each incl. questions/discussion):
  + **Mr Stefaan Hermans** - Head of Unit within the Directorate "European Research Area" in Directorate General for Research
  + **Fiona Kernan** - European Research Council (ERC)
  + **Patrick Cunningham** - Chief Scientific Advisor of Ireland and head of ESOF 2012
  + **Iain Cameron** - British Research Council and Vitae
* **14.10 -**Coffee break (Tea/Coffee & Biscuits)
* **14.30 -**RSA Speakers x 3 (10 mins each incl questions/discussion)
  + **Gordon Dalton** - President of IRSA
  + **Chris Thompson** - UK Research staff Association
  + **David Finger** - Board of Directors of the National Postdoctoral Association.
* **15.00 -**Panel Discussion (chaired by Gordon Dalton). The panel session will consist of 10 questions addressing buring issues for Irish researchers:
  + 6 questions to be prepared and forwarded to panelists in advance.
  + Chair to ask question followed by 10 minutes discussion between panelists and floor, then move on to next question.
  + 4-5 additional questions to be prepared by IRSA
  + Panel Members:
    - **Conor O'Carroll** - IUA
    - **Martin Hynes** - IRCSET
    - **Stephen Simpson** - Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
    - **Brendan Dollard** - Enterprise Ireland
    - **Padraic O'Murchu** - Intel
    - **Kevin McCarthy** – Assistant Director General office
    - **Don Thornhill** – National Competitiveness Council
    - **Martin Shanahan** – Forfas /IBEC
    - **Dolores Cahill** - Chairperson of the Advisory Science Council Task Force on Researcher Careers
    - Representative from UKRSA and/or VITAE
* **16.00 -**Move to Break out sessions (Tea/Coffee available)
* **16.10 -**Break out sessions (5 min analysis of issues, 30 min discussion, 10 min summary and outcomes)
  + **1. Academic Research Career Paths?**  
    Chair – TBC  
    Panelists / Invited Guests - Jerome Kelly (HEA), Fiona Kernan (ERC),   
    Dolores Cahill (UCD-Research Careers Framework & ASC), Stephen   
    Simpson (SFI), Martin Hynes (IRCSET)  
    Discussion
  + **2. Transferring to Industry**  
    Chair – TBC  
    Panelists / Invited Guests – Brendan Dollard (EI), Don Thornhill (Forfas), Kevin McCarthy (Assistant Director General Office), Martin Shanahan (Forfas/IBEC), Padraic O’Mhurchu (Intel)  
    Discussion
  + **3. Barriers to Researcher mobility**  
    Chair – TBC  
    Panelists / Invited Guests – Aidan Hodson (DETI), Stefaan Hermans (DG for Research Office)  
    Discussion
  + **4. Engaging with stakeholders**  
    Chair – TBC  
    Panelists / Invited Guests – Chris Thompson (UK-RSA), David Finger (American Research Staff Association), Conor O’Carroll (IUA), Patrick Cunningham (Chief Scientific Advisor), Iain Cameron (British Research Council)  
    Discussion – Issues arising in engaging with: other researchers, University hierarchies, Funding agencies, Government, Advisory committees etc.  
    Effective communication via LinkedIn/Facebook/Twitter etc.
* **16.55 –**Summary of outcomes from Break out sessions – Gordon Dalton
* **17.10 –**Wine reception with hot canapes

**Guests**

In addition to the panel member there will be a number of guests in attendance, including:

* **Jerome Kelly** – Department of Education
* **Nicholas Canny** – Outgoing president of the Royal Irish Academy and Irish representative of the European research council

**Registration**

If you wish to register please contact Sara Morrissey at [smorri@computing.dcu.ie](mailto:smorri@computing.dcu.ie) 

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