**IRSA Research Forum**

Dear ARCS members,

IRSA would like to invite you to the first research forum in Ireland organised by researchers. The very important line-up of speakers and panel will allow a great opportunity to interact with policy, admin and funding bodies, both from Ireland and Europe.

Places will be very limited, so please contact Sara (email address at bottom of page) to guarantee a place.

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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