

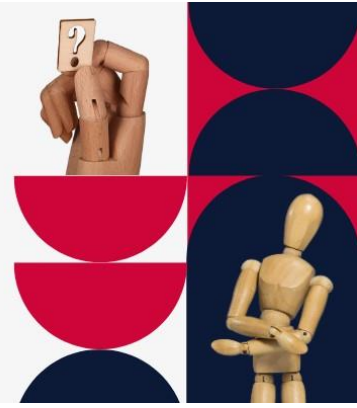


10 APRIL 2024 | 10h00 – 13h00

## UNICA RECTORS' PANEL

Hosted by Cardiff University

***UK and Switzerland and the European programmes***



### Biographies of speakers

**Rudolf K ALLEMANN, Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Head of the College of Physical Sciences & Engineering, Cardiff University | Chair**



Professor Rudolf K. Allemann is a Distinguished Research Professor, Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Head of the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering at Cardiff University. Professor Allemann is responsible for the University's international activities, partnerships, and global reputation. He leads on the development and implementation of the University's internationalisation strategy and has oversight of all international policy and activity intended to enhance the University's global reach and impact. Professor Allemann is a member of the University Executive Board. He received his first degree from ETH Zurich, followed by PhD work at Harvard University and ETH Zurich, and began his career as a postdoctoral researcher and Staff Scientist at the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London. He later became Research Group Leader and Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at ETH Zurich. In 1998 Professor Allemann moved to the University of Birmingham to become a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, before taking up the role of Professor of Chemical Biology in 2001. He joined Cardiff University in 2005 as a Distinguished Research Professor and became Head of the School of Chemistry in 2013. In 2017 he was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering. In 2019 he became Chair of the Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Group and in 2020 assumed overall responsibility for the University's global engagement activities. In May 2024, he will take on the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor International. He is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and currently holds a Visiting Professorship at the University of Manchester. Professor Allemann's pioneering research is at the interface of chemistry and biology and he has a long-standing interest in understanding the fundamental mechanisms that control enzyme function. His research group at Cardiff University apply a wide range of chemical and physical techniques to answer questions relating to the extraordinary catalytic power of enzymes, developing and applying chemical tools to probe and control biological processes in the laboratory and in live cells. Their work relies on an interdisciplinary approach at the interface of chemistry and fields such as biology, chemical ecology, material science, medicine and physics.

## **Wendy LARNER, President and Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff | Welcome words**



University Professor Wendy Lerner took up the post of President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University on 1 September 2023.

Previously she was Provost at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. She is a human geographer who has held academic positions at the University of Waikato, University of Auckland, and University of Bristol. Wendy is a Fellow of Royal Society Te Apārangi, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Fellow of the New Zealand Geographical

Society, and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She has been a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar and Fulbright Senior Fellow, and recipient of the Royal Geographical Society's Victoria Medal, New Zealand's Women of Influence Award for Innovation and Science, and the New Zealand Geographical Society's Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award and Medal.

Wendy has served as President of Royal Society Te Apārangi and Chair of the Fulbright New Zealand Board. She is a UCEA Board member and has joined the Social Partnership Council for Wales.

## **Frances WOOD, International Director, UK Research and Innovation**



Frances Wood is International Director at UKRI and is responsible for delivering on the UKRI strategy through international collaboration, including directed international funds, promoting UK participation in Horizon Europe and the UKRI Guarantee and the geo-politics of UKRI collaboration. She leads UKRI International including the four UKRI overseas offices (India, North America, China and Brussels).

Frances was previously the Regional Director for the Science and Innovation Network (SIN), covering Europe, Russia, Turkey and Israel based in the British Embassy Berlin. SIN builds partnerships and collaborations on science and innovation with governments and research communities across topics such as climate, global health, AI and research culture. Across her career at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Frances has led teams across a range of policy issues including economics, trade, climate, nuclear non-proliferation and research and innovation including as economic counsellor in the British Embassy in Seoul.

## **Alexander HASGALL, Head of International Funding Policy, Swiss National Science Foundation**



Dr. Alexander Hasgall is Head of the International Funding Policy Unit at the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) since January 2024. From 2017 to 2023, he has been Head of the European University Association Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE), a membership service of the EUA comprising 280 universities. Before EUA, he coordinated a programme of the Swiss Rectors Conference on Research Assessment in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Alexander Hasgall studied philosophy and history at the University of Zurich and Berlin and wrote his doctorate on the politics of memory related to the last military dictatorship in Argentina. In addition to his work in the higher education sector, he had working experience in the NGO sector, including human rights observer in Guatemala and as a freelance journalist.

## **Julian RANDALL, Head of the Research Office, University of Lausanne**



Julian RANDALL is the head of the University of Lausanne Grants Office, managing a 12 full time equivalents team who are responsible principally for supporting researchers to obtain national and international public funding. The team also handles European funding advice to all those based in our canton of Vaud. Before 2.5 years at the University of Lausanne, he was Head of the University of Fribourg Grants Office for 6 years and prior to that, worked over 9 years as a Swiss National Contact Point (NCP) with the Swiss equivalent of UKRI. It was as an NCP that he experienced Switzerland's three different statuses during H2020.

## **Roger Whitaker, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Enterprise, Cardiff University**



Roger Whitaker is the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Enterprise at Cardiff University and is responsible for delivering the university's Research and Innovation sub-strategy. Roger is the founder and Academic Director of [Supercomputing Wales](#) and has previously held the roles of Head of the School of Computer Science and Informatics (2009-2013) and Dean of Research for the College of Physical and Engineering (2012-2021). Roger's research focuses on the intersection of human and machine intelligence, spanning disciplines including psychology, sociology and engineering. His work in this area has been sponsored via EPSRC, IBM, EC, Dstl, US Army Research Labs and industry.