

**Opportunities and Challenges in Science, Technology and Innovation
Foundation Future Leaders Conference 2025**

Wednesday 19th November 2025

09:30– 18:00 (in person) / 10:00 – 16:40 (online)

Speakers include:

Professor Charlotte Deane, Executive Chair, Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council [TBC]

Professor Claire Ozanne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool Hope University

Liam Robinson, Leader, Liverpool City Council

Professor Richard Jones FRS, Chair of Materials Physics and Innovation Policy, The University of Manchester

Helen Turner, Director, Midlands Innovation [TBC]

Gareth Cross, Deputy Director of Science, Research and Evidence, Welsh Government

Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect

Simon Hepworth, Director of Knowledge Exchange, Research England

This is the annual conference organised by the [Foundation Future Leaders](#). It is open to all, and specifically targeted at early- to mid-career professionals from the civil and public sector, from industry and from the research community, with roles in science, technology and innovation.

At the conference, we will have a keynote address, and two plenary sessions focussed on a) developments in regional science and innovation, and b) barriers to success in UK science, technology and innovation. There will also be three breakout discussion sessions, focussed on health, energy and AI.

The conference is free to attend and all are welcome, either in person in Liverpool, or online.

We are hugely grateful to Liverpool Hope University and the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 for supporting this event.

Participating in person

The event is being held in the i3 Building, Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD. A summary of the agenda is shown below.

09:30 – 10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and welcome
10:15 – 10:45	Keynote Speaker
10:45 – 12:15	Plenary #1: Regional Science and technology: achievements & challenges
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:30	Parallel Breakout Sessions: Preparing for tomorrow's challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• AI
14:30 – 15:00	Tea/Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	Plenary #2: Barriers to Successful Science. Technology & Innovation
16:30 – 16:40	Conference close
16:40 – 18:00	Drinks reception

A copy of the full agenda is available on the [event page of the website](#).

The event and reception are free, and we very much hope that you can join us.

To register to attend **in person**, please click [here](#).

If you have any trouble registering for this event, please contact us on office@foundation.org.uk

Silman Fund

The Foundation has a very small fund to support people with potentially additional costs of attending Foundation meetings to be able to participate – such as childcare costs or sign language interpretation – along with PhD students. All the details and application forms can be found [here](#).

Participating Online

You can also participate online via YouTube Live.

To register to follow the livestream, please click [here](#).

Foundation Future Leaders scheme

This event is being organised by the [2025 Foundation Future Leaders](#). This is an annual scheme which brings together early- to mid-career professionals in science and technology from the civil and public sectors; from industry; and from the wider research community.

[Applications for the 2026 scheme are now open](#) and the deadline is 25th November 2025.

If you would like to discuss the Foundation Future Leaders scheme, please contact Gavin Costigan (gavin.costigan@foundation.org.uk)