Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell announced as British Science Association President-Elect

The British Science Association (BSA) has today announced that Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell is to be its next President. Nancy will take up the role in September, succeeding current BSA President, Professor Dame Athene Donald.

Her year-long term will begin at the British Science Festival 2016, hosted by Swansea University and supported by Siemens. She will deliver the annual Presidential Address and host the Festival dinner, on Thursday 8 September.

During her time as President-Elect, she will serve on the BSA’s Council, alongside immediate Past-President Sir Paul Nurse and current President Professor Dame Athene Donald. Nancy will become the BSA’s 178th President, and will help promote the organisation’s vision, in which science is seen as part of culture and society at large.

Nancy said: "I am delighted and honoured to be asked to take up Presidency of the British Science Association for the coming year. I’m looking forward to helping the Association with its goals of making science a fundamental part of society and culture, which is something I feel particularly passionate about."

Nancy is a Professor of Physiology and President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester – the first woman appointed to the role. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a former non-executive director of AstraZeneca. In 2009, she became the first president of the Society of Biology (now the Royal Society of Biology), and gave the 1998 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures on The Secrets of Life, which were broadcast on the BBC. Currently, Nancy is Chair of the EuroScience Open Forum 2016 (ESOF) Steering Committee. ESOF takes place in Manchester between 23 – 27 July.

Imran Khan, CEO of the British Science Association said: “Nancy Rothwell's scientific record and public service alone make her one of the UK’s foremost scientists, but she has also consistently championed the importance of public engagement with science.

"She is an excellent communicator in her own right, and also supports and enables others to work with the public. We’re delighted that she’s chosen to serve as our President for the coming year."
In 2012, Nancy was appointed co-chair of the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology. While, on its inaugural Power List in 2013, BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour named Nancy as the 15th most powerful woman in the United Kingdom. She has worked tirelessly to further the public’s awareness of science, and in particular, encourage women to pursue careers in science.

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For further information and interview requests, please contact:

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Notes to editors

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell will give the BSA’s Presidential Address at 16.00hrs on Thursday 8 September in the Taliesin Arts Centre at Swansea University. All festival events are free, but booking is required via: www.britishsciencefestival.org

Nancy will give a preview of her Address to the media at the BSA’s pre-Festival press launch on the morning of Wednesday 31 August. To register for a place, please contact the BSA press office.

The President of the British Science Association (BSA) is an advisory and supportive position, to help improve the quality and impact of BSA programmes and raise the profile of the organisation.

The President is not ex-officio a Trustee of the organisation but is invited to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting capacity, in addition to chairing General Committee.

About the British Science Association

The British Science Association (BSA) believes that science should be part of – rather than set apart from – society and culture, and owned by the wider community. Our programmes encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science, become ambassadors for science, and ultimately to be empowered to challenge and influence British science – whether they work in science or not.

Established in 1831, the BSA is a registered charity that organises major initiatives across the UK including British Science Week, the British Science Festival, regional and local events, the CREST Awards and other programmes for young people in schools and colleges. The BSA organises specific activities for professional science communicators, including a specialist conference and training.

For more information, please visit: www.britishscienceassociation.org
About ESOF

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) is a biennial, pan-European, general science conference dedicated to scientific research and innovation. Each conference aims to deliver stimulating content and lively debate around the latest advancements and discoveries in the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

ESOF brings together over 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists and educators from more than 90 countries, to discuss current and future breakthroughs in contemporary science.

Now in its seventh iteration, ESOF attracts thousands of delegates to the host city during the week of the conference, which, in 2016, will be held between 23 and 27 July in Manchester. ESOF is one of the best opportunities for everyone from leading scientists, early careers researchers, business people, policy makers, science and technology communicators to the general public to come together to find out more about how science is helping us advance today.

For more information, please visit: http://www.esof.eu/