



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

PROMOTING **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**
FOR **POLICY AND PROGRESS**

INTRODUCTION

By Professor Ole Petersen CBE FMedSci FLSW MAE ML FRS
 Academic Director, *Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub*



Welcome to our Annual Report 2018, highlighting our latest achievements in meeting the priorities set out in our Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

Founded in 1988 and marking our 30th anniversary in 2018, Academia Europaea is a non-governmental association. Our members are leading scientists and scholars who collectively promote research, learning and education. We now have almost 4000 members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Wroclaw, and the latest, Tbilisi. Our own hub, hosted at Cardiff University, joined the network in 2016.

In 2018, the Hub set itself five major objectives for our third year of operation. Firstly, to build on and maximise our impact in the European-funded SAPEA project and to apply our skills and experience in science for policy more widely. Secondly, to continue to build our website presence and to engage effectively through other channels of communication, including social media. Thirdly, to run a successful programme of Hub events, in partnership with other organisations. Fourthly, to attract a wider range of stakeholders to our events, for example, other universities and government in Wales. Lastly, we aimed to develop relationships within Cardiff University, with a view to partnering in new project consortia.

Sound progress was made in all of these areas, as we describe in this report. In the SAPEA project, we led the coordination of a new topic, *Making Sense of Science*, building on our successful experience with the first evidence review led by us, *Food from the Oceans*. We have applied our experience in science for policy more widely, partnering with Swansea University to run a very successful event in September, resulting in a comprehensive published report.

On a personal note, I was delighted to see so many colleagues and friends at the *Physiology and Pathophysiology 2018* event in March, and at the Academia Europaea 30th Anniversary hosted at the Royal Society in September. I would like to thank Sir John Skehel for his very active engagement as Chair of the Hub Steering Group. My thanks also to President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Professor Colin Riordan, for his great support.

Professor Ole H. Petersen

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018



Lead coordination of the *Making Sense of Science* evidence review for the European Commission Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, as part of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)



An expert panel debate, *Science for policy: a European perspective*, hosted at Swansea University's exciting new Bay Campus



A major international symposium, *Physiology and Pathophysiology 2018*, with 90 delegates travelling to Cardiff from across the world to mark the 75th birthday of Professor Ole Petersen, the Hub's Academic Director



A key organising role for Academia Europaea's 30th anniversary celebration at the Royal Society in London

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Our achievements are set out in the context of the five priorities in the Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

PRIORITY 1:

Establish a major role in supporting policymaking in Europe

The Hub led coordination of a new evidence review, *Making sense of science under conditions of complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity*. Due for publication in mid-2019, this initiative of the European Commission Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) addresses policymakers using scientific advice. The Hub has been involved actively in all phases of the work.



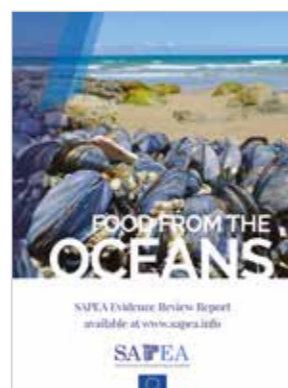
In June, Professor Ole Petersen and Louise Edwards participated in a scoping workshop with topic experts, hosted at the European Commission in Brussels. The Hub then coordinated nominations and the selection of an expert working group, which met three times between September and December at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Academia Europaea was represented at the meetings by Cardiff staff Professor Ole Petersen, Louise Edwards and Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera.



Members of the *Making sense of science* panel (Left to right: Johannes Klumpers [Head of the European Commission's SAM Unit], Ortwin Renn [Chair of the SAPEA Working Group on *Making Sense of Science*], Nicole Grobert MAE [Member of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors], Richard Catlow MAE [Vice-President, Royal Society])

An expert panel discussion on *Making Sense of Science* was organised by the Cardiff Hub for the Academia Europaea 30th anniversary event at the Royal Society in September.

Following our successful coordination of the *Food from the Oceans* evidence review and the delivery of the report to the European Commission at the end of 2017, the focus in 2018 was on promoting awareness and uptake of the report, together with measurement of impact. We ensured that it was promoted at a range of different events. These included 10 different European countries and countries beyond Europe (Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and the USA), reaching several thousand academics, policymakers and other stakeholders.



Our work on public engagement has been particularly innovative. In partnership with SAPEA, the SAM Unit and Cardiff-based agency *science made simple*, we designed a set of infographics for distribution across the world. With the cooperation of the European Commission, it was handed out at 28 European Maritime Day events in 15 countries across Europe. We also launched an electronic version of the infographics to support over 1300 events across the globe for World Oceans Day on 8th June, which was celebrated in 140 countries at over 1,500 events.

Our partnership with the Cardiff University Library Services on systematic review to support evidence-building has continued to develop. In March, we hosted a small group of staff from the European Commission's Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) Unit to meet with staff of the Cardiff Hub and University Library

Services. In April, the Hub hosted a SAPEA workshop on evidence review methods, including sessions on open science, reproducibility and systematic review.

The Cardiff Hub had a major role in sustainability planning for SAPEA, this work being led by Academia Europaea for the consortium. Ole Petersen represented AE on the working group and Louise Edwards (Hub Manager) and David Coates (AE Executive Secretary) formed the secretariat. An interim report is due in January 2019.



Infographics created to engage the public

PRIORITY 2:

Showcase outstanding regional research

Objective:

Raising the profile of outstanding research within our region and beyond, particularly by Academia Europaea members, including work led by us in the SAPEA project.

In 2018, we continued to develop our website, both in terms of functionality and content. Over the year, our usage data shows continuous improvement compared to the same period last year (see Performance Indicators on page 11). Our web-based interview series proved very popular, with new interviews from MAEs Professor John Tucker of Swansea University and Professor Christopher Smith of University of St Andrews.

We have invested more time in social media activity, which is successfully driving traffic to our website. Twitter activity has been particularly effective and is currently in the top three sources of directing traffic to our website (after direct searches and Google searches). Since last year, impressions (the number of times a tweet appears in someone's timeline) have increased by 25%



“ I loved the idea that AE was an academy representing and celebrating the academic world of Europe”

Professor John Tucker MAE, Swansea University
Image courtesy of the Royal Society



“ I am extremely honoured to be a member of the Academia Europaea, which upholds the values of interdisciplinary excellence and international exchange that are so important to me”

Professor Christopher Smith MAE University of St Andrews

and engagement by 15%. In September, we became active on both Facebook and LinkedIn and we are starting to see impressions and engagement.



In 2018, we increased our range of printed and online publications. We published Academia Europaea's 30th anniversary commemorative brochure, launched at AE's 30th Annual Conference in Barcelona in November. We also designed and published a full report on *Science for policy: a European perspective*.

PRIORITY 3:

Engage with our membership

Objective:

Reaching out and engaging our regional and AE membership with our work, particularly through the SAPEA project.

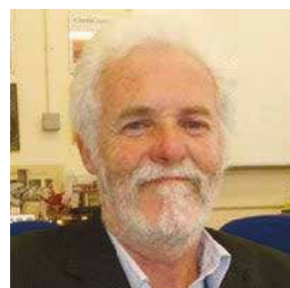
Cardiff University's Professor Graham Hutchings was selected by an independent panel for SAPEA's international working group on *Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)* that produced an Evidence Review Report for the European Commission. His Cardiff colleague, Professor Mike Bowker, participated in a CCU expert workshop held in January, in Brussels. Professor Bowker presented the findings of the CCU report at our *Science for Policy* event at Swansea University on 4th September.



30th anniversary tea party at Darwin College Cambridge 12 April 2018. From left to right: Arnold Burgen (AE Founding President), David Coates (AE Executive Secretary), Greg Winter (Master of Trinity College), Geoffrey Lloyd, Ole Petersen (AE Vice-President), Olga Kennard (Burgen), Tom Blundell, Brian Heap, Balazs Gulyas (and guest), Michael McIntyre, Alex Boksenberg, Mary Fowler (Master of Darwin College), Marylin Strathern and Ron Laskey



Professor Graham Hutchings
FRS FLSW MAE



Professor Mike Bowker FLSW

In September, more than 80 members of Academia Europaea (MAEs) gathered at the Royal Society in London to mark the Academia Europaea's 30th anniversary. The whole Cardiff Hub team attended and supported the event, from the early planning stages onwards.

In November, over 100 members of Academia Europaea attended Academia Europaea's 30th Annual Conference, *Building Bridges*, in Barcelona which took place in November 2018. The event, organised by the Barcelona Hub, was held at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), home to the Barcelona Knowledge Hub. Professor Ole Petersen and Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera represented the Cardiff Hub in Barcelona.

There were a number of celebrations throughout the year to mark AE's 30th anniversary, which provided a number of opportunities to engage with our members. In April, Professor Ole Petersen and other founding members attended a tea party in Cambridge to honour Sir Arnold Burgen FRS, the Founding President of AE.



30th anniversary celebrations at the Royal Society. Left to right: First row, Professor Lars Walløe, Sir Arnold Burgen, Professor Eva Kondorosi, Mr Robert-Jan Smits, Professor Richard Catlow, Professor Jürgen Mittelstraß and Professor Sierd Cloetingh. Second row, Professor Nicole Grobert, Dr Johannes Klumpers and Professor Ole Petersen. Last row, Dr David Coates and Professor Ortwin Renn. Event image, courtesy of the Royal Society



Academia Europaea's 30th Annual Conference in Barcelona. MAEs networking in the IEC cloister

PRIORITY 4:

Engage with wider stakeholders

Objective:

Reaching out to and engaging with a wider group of Hub stakeholders, including local and European higher education institutions, regional and European political institutions, academies and the general public.

In March, the Cardiff Hub hosted a major international symposium, *Physiology and Pathophysiology 2018*, to mark the 75th birthday of Professor Ole Petersen, the Hub's Academic Director. The event attracted 90 delegates from across the world, many of whom had worked with or been mentored by Professor Petersen. They included world leaders in the field, with 13 Members of Academia Europaea including 5 Fellows of the Royal Society and 3 Members of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.



Chairs and speakers at the *Physiology and Pathophysiology 2018*, marking the 75th birthday of Professor Ole Petersen



Professor Pearl Dykstra (Deputy Chair of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors) and Professor Ole Petersen during the session on *Food from the Oceans* at the ALLEA Annual meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria



Louise Edwards, Hub Manager, represented SAPEA and Academia Europaea at the Lisbon Academy of Sciences in Portugal



Science for Policy panel of speakers. Left to right: Professor Ole Petersen, Dr Dion Curry, Professor Mike Bowker, Wendy Sadler MBE, Professor John Tucker, Professor Peter Halligan, Professor Robert Evans

In May, Professor Petersen presented on *Food from the Oceans* at SAPEA symposium, *Shaping European science advice: insights and experience*, held at the Bulgarian Academy in Sofia. The symposium was attended by up to 130 delegates from approximately 40 countries, including the Hub Manager, Louise Edwards.

Louise Edwards spoke at the Lisbon Academy of Sciences in May, at a meeting which brought together a number of Portuguese experts on the topic of *Food from the Oceans*, including the MEP Ricardo Santos. The European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors was represented by Professor Elvira Fortunato, who briefly introduced the Scientific Advice Mechanism and the work of the Group.

In 2018, we met our aim of reaching out to partner organisations to host events. An expert panel debate, *Science for policy: a European perspective*, took place in September at Swansea University's new Bay Campus. The Panel Chair was Professor John Tucker MAE. The new Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Peter Halligan, opened the session. Professor Ole Petersen gave an overview of the role played by academies in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), through the SAPEA project. SAPEA's achievements were illustrated by two case studies, one on *Carbon capture and utilisation*, presented by Professor Mike Bowker and the other on *Food from the oceans*, delivered by Wendy Sadler MBE, both of Cardiff University. The final panellists, Dr Dion Curry (Swansea) and Professor Robert Evans (Cardiff), provided a research perspective on the evolving field of science for policy. The presentations sparked an interesting and lively debate, with the audience expressing their views on a wide variety of issues. Participants also engaged with an exciting exhibition designed around the key themes. This event led to us publishing our first full post-event report, which was circulated widely.

In November, the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub hosted an Asthma UK meeting, *Curing and preventing asthma; where do we go next?* The meeting, held at Cardiff University, was chaired by Academia Europaea member and Founder Chair of the Clinical & Veterinary Section of Academia Europaea, Professor Stephen Holgate CBE MAE. Delegates specialising in this area of medicine attended from as far as San Francisco.



Dr Samantha Walker, Professor Ole Petersen CBE FRS MAE, Professor Sven-Erik Dahlén MAE and Professor Stephen Holgate CBE MAE at the Asthma UK meeting

The Hub also extended its civic and cultural connections in 2018. We were delighted to be invited to the opening of an art exhibition *Prisoner of War* by Bergen artist Bodil Friele at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay. Professor Ole Petersen, one of the invited speakers at the launch, highlighted the deep links between Cardiff and Bergen, established through the Academia Europaea hubs in both cities. The exhibition was opened by the Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Dianne Rees.



The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Dianne Rees, officially opening the *Prisoner of War* exhibition

In October, the President of the Armenian Academy, Academician Radik Martirosyan, invited Professor Ole Petersen and his wife to attend the National Academy of Sciences Republic of Armenia (NASRA)'s 75th Anniversary. The event celebrated the achievements of Armenian scientists, scholars and artists. Professor



Panel discussion with the Armenian Prime Minister. From left to right: Graham Caie (Vice-President of ALLEA), Ole Petersen (Vice-President of AE), Tadej Bajd (President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Chunli Bai (President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Foreign Member of AE), Radik Martirosyan (President of NASRA) and Nikol Pashinyan (Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia). Image courtesy of the Press Office of the Armenian Government

Petersen gave a talk on Academia Europaea and its role in the European Commission's Science Advice Mechanism and participated in panel discussions with the Presidium of the Armenian Academy, as well as with the new Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan.

PRIORITY 5:

Ensure future sustainability

Objective:

Achieving ongoing sustainability of the Hub, beyond its initial funding period of 4 years.

The Hub also met its ambition to partner in new project proposals with colleagues at Cardiff University. In March, Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera represented the Hub at a networking event organised by Vision 2020, at Wales House in Brussels. The event facilitated consortia-building and matchmaking between academia and industry for Horizon 2020 energy calls. We participated in two consortia proposals for Horizon 2020 funding in 2018. We also secured extra funding from SAPEA for additional work undertaken in support of the project.



Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera, Executive Officer (Projects) presenting at a Vision 2020 networking event at Wales House, Brussels

Governance

The Cardiff Hub Steering Group meets annually and will hold its next meeting on 14th January 2019. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group:

- Yves Barde** MAE FRS
- Nora de Leeuw** FLSW MAE
- Dianne Edwards** CBE FLSW FRS MAE
- Theo D'Haen** MAE
- Donald Dingwell** ML MAE
- Stephen Holgate** CBE FMedSci MAE
- Genoveva Marti** MAE
- Colin Riordan** FLSW
- Sir John Skehel** FRS FMedSci MAE (Chair)
- John Tucker** FLSW MAE

Finance

Cardiff University has covered the salary costs of one FTE member of staff and one half-time member of staff, in addition to providing £10,000 for operating costs in the financial year 2018-19. The SAPEA project has also been a significant source of funding.

Resources

Staffing



Academic Director
Professor Ole H. Petersen



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer (to May)
Judith Lockett



Executive Officer (from June)
Juliet Davies



Executive Officer (Projects)
Esther Dorado-Ladera

Communications Analytics

INDICATOR	RESULT	PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMPARED TO 2017
Number of visits to the Hub website January-December 2018	5,303	↑ 27.05%
Number of pages viewed on the Hub website January-December 2018	19,018	↑ 71.75%
Number of new users	3,235	↑ 32.31%
Average number of times users were served a Hub Tweet in timeline or search results (per day)	308	↑ 25%
Number of active user engagements (e.g. re-tweets, likes) with the Hub Twitter account	1,545	↑ 15%
Number of new Twitter followers	238	↑ 70%
Number of Twitter media views	1,349	↑ 695%
Number of mentions on Twitter	37	↑ 68%
Number of Facebook users reached*	1,682	n/a
Number of engagements on Facebook*	312	n/a
Number of LinkedIn page views*	73	n/a
Number of LinkedIn unique visitors*	27	n/a
Number of LinkedIn impressions*	910	n/a
Number of LinkedIn engagements*	68	n/a

*Figures from September - December 2018



Acknowledgements

The Cardiff Hub would like to thank the following organisations for their support in 2018:

Agar Scientific
Alliance for Useful Evidence
Asthma UK
Cairn Research
Cardiff University
IMPACT
Learned Society of Wales / Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru
science made simple
Swansea University
The Learned Society of Wales
The Journal of Physiology
The National Academy of Sciences Republic of Armenia
The Royal Society
University of Wales Press
Wales Centre for Public Policy
Welsh Government

About Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988. Now has almost 4000 leading scientists and scholars as members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Wrocław.

Hosted by



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