Australia’s finest scientific minds to converge on Canberra

Scientists from across the country will arrive in Canberra next week to participate in the 11th annual Science meets Parliament [SmP].

Organised by the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies [FASTS], the two day event brings together 160 women and men working across all scientific disciplines for meetings with Ministers, Members and Senators.

Ms Anna-Maria Arabia, Executive Director of FASTS, says “SmP gives scientists and politicians an opportunity for direct conversations about how science is addressing some of the major issues facing Australia.

“SmP brings Australia’s scientific community right into the heart of government. Not only does it give politicians a chance to discuss issues of interest to them and their electorate, it allows them to better understand how important science and innovation is economically, socially and politically,” she said.

Highlights [complete program follows]

Tuesday 9 March
12.40pm Media Conference – Meet the Scientists
Location: Parliament House [Senate Courtyard or level 2 Senate near Mural Hall if raining]

7.30pm Dinner – hosted by Robyn Williams AM
Keynote address: Mr Peter Yates, Chair – Australian Science Media Centre and the Royal Institution of Australia
Location: Parliament House, Great Hall

Wednesday 10 March
11am ** PIC FAC ** Media Opportunity – Minister and PhD students
Senator the Hon Kim Carr will meet science communication PhD students from ANU’s National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science
Location: Parliament House, Senate Alcove, level 2

12.30pm Mr Chris Mooney, author of the New York Times best-selling The Republican War on Science - dubbed "a landmark in contemporary political reporting" - and Unscientific America
Location: National Press Club, Barton

4.00pm Public Forum – hosted by Dr Norman Swan, ABC Radio National
Innovative health solutions using nuclear techniques – why isn’t Australia keeping up with the world?
Panel: Dr Ron Weiner, ANSTO Radiopharmaceutical Institute; Prof Rod Hicks, Centre of Molecular Imaging, Peter McCallum Cancer Centre; Professor Dale Bailey, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Royal North Shore Hospital
Location: Parliament House, Main Committee Room

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

Andrew Heslop 0404 038 106

Released 05.03.2010
# PROGRAM – DAY 1

**Tuesday 9 March, Members Dining Room, Old Parliament House**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30 – 9.30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9.30-10.30 am | **Welcome & Overview**  
• Dr Cathy Foley, FASTS’ President: Overview of SmP  
• Anna-Maria Arabia, FASTS’ Executive Director: Housekeeping; Warm up exercise - The players, the system, who influences who |
| 10.30 -11.00 am | Morning tea                                                          |
| 11.00 – 11.20 am | **Guest Speaker**  
• Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research |
| 11.20am – 12.20pm | **Meet the Press - a day in the life of a journalist- what they need to turn your science into news.**  
MC: Niall Byrne, Science in Public  
Presentations from:  
• Alison Carabine, ABC Radio National Presenter  
• James Massola, Canberra Times Political Reporter  
• Mark Riley, Channel 7 Reporter |
| 12.20 – 1.20 pm | Lunch: meet the scientists you will be sharing meetings with, find other members of your Cluster Group |
| 1.30 – 3.00 | **Policy in the making. Working with Government Departments**  
• Presentation by Patricia Kelly, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research [20 min + 10 min Q&A]  
• Roundtable, Research Workforce Strategy |
| 3.00 - 3.15pm | Afternoon tea                                                        |
| 3.15- 4.15 pm | **Conveying your message to politicians**  
• Richard Denniss, Executive Director, The Australia Institute  
• Martin Callinan, Policy Director, Australian Academy of Science  
• Tim Dixon, Prime Minister’s speechwriter |
| 4.15-4.45 pm | **Practice delivering your message. Deliver your message in the time it takes for a sparkler to burn**  
• Lyndal Byford – Australian Science Media Centre  
• Niall Byrne – Science in Public |
| 5.00 pm     | Close                                                               |
| 7.00 – 7.30 pm | Pre-dinner drinks in Marble Foyer, Parliament House (enter via Public Entrance) |
| 7.30 pm | Dinner, Great Hall, Parliament House (DRESS: Lounge Suite)  
• **MC:** Robyn Williams  
• **Welcome:** Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; and Dr Cathy Foley, FASTS’ President  
• **Keynote Address:** Mr Peter Yates, Chairperson Australian Science Media Centre and Royal institution Adelaide |
## PROGRAM – DAY 2

**Wednesday 10 March, Parliament House**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7.30am – 8.30am | **Breakfast Briefing 1: International Year of Biodiversity:** *So what’s biodiversity done for me? Why biodiversity matters: the economic, social and environmental perspectives.* Senate Alcove, Level 2, Parliament House Welcome: The Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts Facilitator: Tom Arup, Journalist, The Age. Panellists:  
  • Prof Jeff Bennett, Director Environmental Economics Research Hub, ANU. The impact and importance of biodiversity on the economy.  
  • Dr Brian Walker, Research Fellow CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems & Program Director and Chair of the Board of the Resilience Alliance. Biodiversity in our lives: from insects to ecosystems.  
  • Dr Tony Press, Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC. A case Study: Krill, small but significant. |
| 7.30am – 8.30am | **Breakfast Briefing 2: Open access:** *Australian research for whom?* House of Representatives Alcove, Level 2 Parliament House Facilitator: Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow ANU Participants:  
  • Ms Paula Callan – e-research access coordinator, QUT  
  • Dr Marcus Nicol - Director of Evaluation and Reporting for NHMRC  
  • Mr Paul Reekie – CSIRO Publishing |
| Commencing 8am | **Meetings with politicians**  
These will take place throughout the day. |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | **Morning tea – FASTS Headquarters, Ministerial Wing** |
| 11.00am – 11.20am | **PIC FAC ** Senator the Hon Kim Carr will meet science communication PhD students from ANU’s National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. Senate Alcove, Level 2, Parliament House |
| 11.40am and 11.55am | **Leave for National Press Club Lunch and Address** – please be prompt  
Buses depart from Parliament House underground public car park |
| 12.00 – 1.30 pm | **FASTS 25th Anniversary Special Event**  
**Nationally televised Nation Press Club Lunchtime Address – 16 National Circuit, Barton** Chris Mooney, author of *The Republican War on Science* and *Unscientific America* is flying in from the USA to address SmP delegates at the National Press Club.  
Globally the integrity and validity of science is being placed under question largely as a result of the climate change debate. The negativity surrounding science is palpable and is having a detrimental impact on decision makers and young scientists’ career decisions. In Australia policy action by government has already stalled as a result of this negativity and the community is losing confidence in the scientific research effort. Restoring confidence in the peer-review process and the scientific profession, and raising a deeper awareness of the importance of the scientific endeavour requires a joint effort. As the funders, producers, reporters, advocates or consumers of science, we all need to take some responsibility. Collectively, we must ensure we remain a nation driven by knowledge, not by doubt.  
Chris Mooney will make an important contribution to this debate. He is abundantly qualified to discuss the importance of distinguishing legitimate research from ideology and unsubstantiated opinion. |
<p>| 12.30pm – 2.00pm | <strong>Lunch for participants unable to attend the National Press Club will be served in the FASTS rest area, Ministerial Wing</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.40pm</td>
<td><strong>Buses</strong> return from National Press Club to Parliament House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 – 3.45pm</td>
<td><strong>Afternoon tea</strong> – <strong>FASTS Headquarters, Ministerial Wing</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4.00 – 5.00pm| Public Forum in collaboration with ANSTO [Main Committee Room, Parliament House]  
**Innovative health solutions using nuclear techniques – why isn’t Australia keeping up with the world?**  
**Moderator:** Dr Norman Swan  
  - Dr Ron Weiner, Head, ANSTO Radiopharmaceutical Institute  
  - Prof. Rod Hicks, Director, Centre of Molecular Imaging, Peter McCallum Cancer Institute  
  - Professor Dale Bailey, Principal Physicist, Dept of Nuclear Medicine, Royal North Shore Hospital. |
| 4.15 and 5:15pm | **Buses depart for Canberra Airport. If you’re leaving after this time please arrange a taxi.** |
Science meets Parliament 2010

Platinum Sponsor

Australian Government
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Gold Sponsors

Australian Academy of Science
Australian Government
Australian Government
Australian Research Council
Australian Synchrotron

Silver Sponsors

Australian Government
Australian Institute of Marine Science
GROUP OF EIGHT UNIVERSITIES
National Tertiary Education Industry Union

Science meets Parliament 2010