

Opportunities and challenges in science, technology & innovation

Foundation Future Leaders Annual Conference

19 November 2025

Location: i3 building ([link](#)) at Liverpool Hope University
Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD

19 NOVEMBER 2025	
09:00 – 10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and welcome <i>Introduction: Gavin Costigan, Chief Executive, Foundation for Science and Technology</i> <i>Welcome from Professor Claire Ozanne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool Hope University</i>
10:15 – 11:45	Plenary #1: Regional Science and technology: achievements & challenges Speakers: <i>Liam Robinson, Leader, Liverpool City Council</i> <i>Professor Richard Jones, University of Manchester</i> <i>Liz Shutt, Programme Director, Insights North East</i> <i>Gareth Cross, Deputy Director of Science, Research and Evidence, Welsh Government</i> Chaired by a member of the Foundation Future Leaders Scheme
10:45 – 12:15	Keynote Speaker <i>Professor David Nutt, Chief Scientific Officer, Gaba Labs Research and former Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Misuse of Drugs.</i>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch

13:15 – 14:30	<p>Parallel Breakout Sessions: Preparing for tomorrow's challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health - <i>external presenter TBC</i> • Energy - <i>external presenter Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect</i> • AI - <i>external presenter TBC</i> <p>Each session will have a chair and a rapporteur from the Foundation Future Leaders Scheme, and will also each have one external expert/provocateur to give a 15 minute presentation/challenge to start the conversation.</p>
14:30 – 15:00	Tea/Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Plenary #2: Barriers to Successful Science. Technology & Innovation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p><i>Simon Hepworth, Director of Knowledge Exchange, Research England</i> <i>Shomari Lewis-Wilson, Senior Manager, Research Culture and Communities, Wellcome Trust</i> <i>3rd and 4th speakers TBC</i></p> <p>Chaired by a member of the Foundation Future Leaders Scheme</p>
16:30 – 16:40	<p>Conference close</p> <p><i>Gavin Costigan, Chief Executive, Foundation for Science and Technology</i></p>
16:40 – 18:00	Drinks reception
18:00	Close of Conference