Association for European Life Science Universities

2nd Announcement

see para 5 for the keynote speakers and panel members

6th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2016

The Life Science University in the 21st C Global World

Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 October 2016
to be held at The Pand, Ghent University Onderbergen 1, Gent, Belgium

This annual Forum aims to provide university decision makers from ICA's member universities with the opportunity to meet, to discuss current issues in life science universities and to exchange views on these issues with relevant stakeholders in industry, government and NGOs. This Forum follows the successful Forums from 2011 to 2015 .

1. FORUM FOCUS

We will discuss how life science universities should respond to the global drivers for change in agriculture, and the food and non food value chains to deliver graduates who have the knowledge, skills and competences to be the leaders in their future careers. How should the higher education role of life science universities adapt to the needs of the 21st Century?

Life science universities need to respond not only to these global drivers but also to the opportunities for the greater use of digital instruments, new teaching methods, upcoming transnational education, distance learning, internationalisation at home and globally in the delivery of education. In the final session we will focus on how the management of our life science universities should respond to be resilient in the face of ever changing demands in the delivery of their education role.

The three Forum themes are:

- Challenging Life Science Universities to Deliver Leaders for a Global World
- Preparing the Student for the Global World
- Leadership and University Management in the Global World

Forum Format: Each Forum theme will be addressed by two keynote speakers followed by a panel of ICA members giving their experience, and then round table discussions in the conference room (5 - 8 people around a table) with a report back from each table.

2. FORUM THEMES

Challenging Life Science Universities to Deliver Leaders for a Global World

The keynote speakers will address the expectations for agricultural and life science universities in delivering leaders to address the global challenges as set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identified in the COP21 Paris Agreement, November 2015.

The panel discussions and the following roundtable discussions will focus on how life science institutions should respond in developing their degree programmes to deliver the future leaders in the transformation of agriculture, the food sector and the bio-economy. This focus in no way negates the importance of the remit of agricultural and life science universities and faculties for research and innovation in addressing these global challenges but the focus of this Forum is on education.

Employers place ever greater focus on generic competences in the graduates they seek to recruit and demand that universities address these competences in the university curriculum. Universities also recognise the need to place greater emphasis on high level engagement with analysis, synthesis and creativity in the Bachelor and Master degree programmes away from the emphasis on the transfer of knowledge.

- What encapsulates life science university education in 21st C and what are the key attributes?
- How should life science universities respond to the global challenges as set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identified in the COP21 Paris Agreement, November 2015?
- How can life science universities respond effectively to the changes in demand from employers and from new student groups.

In the last 30 years universities have moved from being an elitist education system to which only a minority of school leavers gained access to a mass education system to which 50 percent aspire access and success. Widening access also requires universities to cater for students, who do not have all the appropriate entry requirements, through induction programmes.

- Have life science universities responded effectively to these changes in demand during the last two decades?
    - in research themes for research led education?
    - in education?
    - in the third mission of universities (dialogue with society, technology transfer,…)

Universities will be in competition with other certificated courses online such as provided by EdEx, Coursera and similar providers providing nano course to full length degree

programmes which have long been provided by Open Universities. This competition is likely to become ever more challenging in the years ahead.

- What actions should universities take?
- What are the unique selling points of a life science university campus education?

Preparing the Student for the Global World

The ever enlarging and invasive digital environment opens space for innovation in teaching and for students learning. The lecturers' role is changing from knowledge transfer to being facilitators in their students' learning. Students can access their lecturers' courses online, access open online learning resources from the global internet and courses such as MOOCs. We now talk about blended learning, the flip classroom and peer to peer learning.

- What are the expectations of students for their learning environment?
- Are the academic staff adequately prepared to deliver education in this new and rapidly emerging learning environment?
- How should the staff development needs be addressed?

Students need to be prepared to work in the ever shrinking global world – international experience can be gained through mobility and international experience at home with global perspective in the curriculum and the presence of international students. Universities benefit from engagement in joint degree programmes through sharing expertise and the international engagement of their staff.

- How should mobility be managed for the greatest student benefit?
- How should universities and the accreditation systems adapt to recognise credits obtained at foreign universities?

Leadership and University Management in the Global World

In a globalised world the role of the life science Rector or Dean carries many challenges. On both the operational and strategic levels there are demands to secure and develop university functions and activities. The core function of the life science university is to deliver education and skilled graduates to society to address the challenges of 21st C as enumerated by the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- How do we plan for resilience in changing expectations and in the face of unforeseen change in the educational environment of the university? What are the implications for management and organizational structure of the university? In this context several issues can be considered including:

- what is the role and contribution of non-university partners and what general role does the on-going dialog with society play? How should university leaders and academic staff engage to ensure an effective interaction?

- does transnational education make the university system more resilient and what are the specific challenges and benefits? Various models are envisaged, e.g. complete branch campus with permanent staff, to a model which involves flying in staff in block teaching?

- is collaboration between universities in education – sharing of expertise – effective? An example is the model of the Erasmus Mundus joint programmes.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

White paper: Important visions for the life science university education in the global world of the 21st C. Delegates will be asked to develop the list during the Forum with a final discussion in the closing session.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

The Forum seeks to attract those who in are in charge of strategic decision making in Universities /Faculties of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The ICA Board invites Rectors, Vice Rectors and Deans, or persons of equivalent status in their university, college, school or faculty being responsible for education, research and innovation to participate in the Forum.

5. OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 25 October

17.00	**ICA General Assembly**
19.00	**Boat Trip and reception in the Pakhuis**

Wednesday 26 October

9.00	**Welcome**
9.15	**Session 1: Challenging Life Science Universities to Deliver Leaders for a Global World** Keynote 1: **Richard Ellis**, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Reading, UK Keynote 2: **Guido Van Huylenbroeck**, Former Dean Faculty of Bioscience Engineering & currently Academic Director for Internationalisation, Ghent University, BE **/continued**

	Panel members to include: **Doru Pamfil,** Former Rector University Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, RO **Miroslav Veskovic,** Former Rector University of Novi Sad & currently International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations Unit, European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre, BE **Roundtable discussions and report back to the group**
13.00	Lunch
14.00	**Session 2: The Student in the Global World** Keynote 1: **Lesley Wilson**, Secretary General, European University Association, BE Keynote 2: **Tiny van Boekel,** Director of the Education Institute/Dean of Education, Wageningen University, NL. **Panel members to include:** **Barbara Hinterstoisser**, Vice Rector for Teaching and International Affairs, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna & Chair of the ICA-Edu Standing Committee, AT **Agnieszka Kita**, Vice Dean for Research and Development, Faculty of Food Science, Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, PL **Representative** of the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS), BE **Roundtable discussions and report back to the group**
20.00	Forum Dinner

Thursday 27 October

9.00	**Session 3: Leadership and University Management in the Global World - Balancing operational responsibilities and strategic development** Keynote 1 and Moderator for the session - tbc **Panel members to include:** **Stefano Cesco**, Dean Faculty of Science and Technology, Free University of Bozen – Bolzano, IT **Jukka Kola**, Rector University of Helsinki, FI **Roundtable discussions**

12.00	**Report Back & Closure** Could ICA support the reinforcement of the management of life science universities? Is there a demand for short term workshops? 10 important visions for the life science university in the global world of 21st C?
13.00	**Lunch**

There will be four Panel members in each session – further Panel member swill be invited.

6. CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Dr Simon Heath for more information at clues@abdn.ac.uk