



Harkness Fellows Association

Harkness Events

Sir Paul Nurse

President of the Royal Society; Nobel Laureate

GREAT IDEAS OF BIOLOGY

Wednesday 26th February 2014

The Patrons Room, The Smith Centre, Science Museum, South Kensington

(The entrance to the Smith Centre on the north side of the Science Museum, on Imperial College Road, just around the corner from Exhibition Road)

6.30pm for 7pm: £20 (HFA members) £23 (non-members)

£15 special price tickets for second and further guests.

It is a pleasure to welcome Sir Paul Nurse to talk to Fellows and their guests.

Three of the great ideas of biology are the gene theory, the theory of evolution by natural selection, and the proposal that the cell is the fundamental unit of all life. When considering the question of what is life these ideas come together, because the special way cells reproduce provides the conditions by which natural selection takes place allowing living organisms to evolve. A fourth idea is that the organization of chemistry within the cell provides explanations for life's phenomena. A new idea is the central role that information management plays in generating biological organization.

Paul Nurse is a geneticist and cell biologist who has worked on how cell division is controlled and how cell shape and cell dimensions are determined. He is President of the Royal Society and Director of the new Francis Crick Institute in London and has served as Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK and President of Rockefeller University. He shared the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and has received the Albert Lasker Award and the Royal Society's Royal and Copley Medals. He was knighted in 1999 and received the Legion d'honneur in 2003.

There will be a reception from 6.30pm; wine, soft drinks and light snacks will be on offer before and after the talk. This will be a fascinating lecture by one of Britain's most eminent and influential scientists so please put the date in your diary, and let Lizzie know as soon as possible if you can attend. Guests are, of course, most welcome. There is no specific dress code for the Smith Centre.

The next Harkness event is Sir Stephen Wall on 'Britain's role in Europe' to be held at Brooks' on 9 April 2014. Full details to be circulated in due course.

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