

# Oxford University Scientific Society — Michaelmas Term 2014

## ‘Fusion: A New Dawn’

**Colin Bruce — Wednesday, 15th October  
2014**

**at 8.15pm in the Inorganic Chemistry  
Lecture Theatre on South Parks Road**

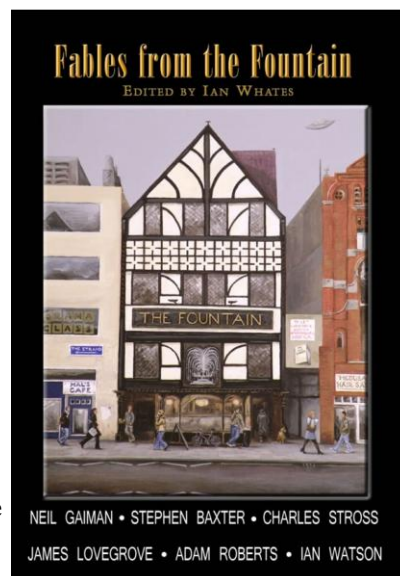
### **Abstract:**

Something's stirring in the world of fusion. Even as the Big Science programs involving giant magnetic bottles and giant lasers continue to go nowhere, alternatives are becoming respectable. And funding for them is flowing from sources ranging from the US government to some very tech-savvy billionaires.

Cheap, safe energy from fusion would solve the world's biggest problems. Come along to learn about the challenges, the opportunities, and the latest developments.

### **About the Speaker:**

Colin Bruce is the author of popular science books translated into over a dozen languages. He has done research for organisations including the European Space Agency and the MoD.



## ‘Human pheromones: are we the scented ape?’

**Dr Tristram Wyatt — Wednesday, 22nd  
October 2014 at 8.15pm in the Inorganic  
Chemistry Lecture Theatre  
on South Parks Road**



### **Abstract:**

Pheromones are powerful sex attractants in moths, dogs and many other animals but what about humans? Sadly, despite what you see advertised on the Internet, there is no robust evidence of human pheromones to make you irresistible. Nonetheless, smell is important to us. Come to hear why the search for our elusive human pheromones is still on and where we should go next in the hunt.

### **About the Speaker:**

Dr Tristram Wyatt is a researcher at the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford and an Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford. He studies how pheromones evolve across the animal kingdom and is the author of the book *Pheromones and animal behavior* (2014, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press).

## ‘The Dark Net: what happens under the conditions of anonymity?’

**Jamie Bartlett — Wednesday, 5th November 2014 at 8.15pm in the Inorganic Chemistry Lecture Theatre on South Parks Road**



### **Abstract:**

Bartlett will talk about his new book *The Dark Net*, an exploration of some of the net's most shocking and unexplored subcultures. This includes the worlds of uncensored drugs markets; internet trolling; neo-Nazis, child pornography, bitcoin and crypto-anarchy. He will examine how people behave under the conditions of real or perceived anonymity online, and what it means for society today.

### **About the Speaker:**

Jamie Bartlett is the Director of The Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, a collaboration between Demos and the University of Sussex. His work focuses on the ways in which social media and modern communications and technology are changing political and social movements, with a special emphasis on terrorism and radical political movements. Jamie's recent book *The Dark Net* about internet subcultures was published in August 2014 by Random House. He is also a writer for the *Daily Telegraph* on technology.

## ‘Choices and chances: Dorothy Hodgkin's path to the Nobel Prize’

**Georgina Ferry — Wednesday, 19th November 2014 at 8.15pm in the Inorganic Chemistry Lecture Theatre on South Parks Road**



### **Abstract:**

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin started out as a chemistry undergraduate at Oxford in 1928, and won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1964. Half a century later, she remains unique as a British woman scientist who has been honoured at the annual ceremony in Stockholm. Was she lucky to succeed in the male-dominated world of chemistry? Or did she make some good decisions as she planned her career?

### **About the Speaker:**

Georgina Ferry is a science writer, author and broadcaster based in Oxford. Inspired by the life and career of Britain's only female Nobel prizewinning scientist, she wrote the biography *Dorothy Hodgkin: A Life* (1998: reissued by Bloomsbury in 2014). Three further books, including a biography of the Nobel prizewinner Max Perutz, have since appeared, and she wrote and produced a play, *Hidden Glory*, to mark Hodgkin's centenary in 2010. Ferry edited the Oxford University alumni magazine, *Oxford Today*, from 2000–2007, and is deputy chair of the trustees of Science Oxford.

# **‘Vaccines against Malaria and Ebola’**

**Professor Adrian Hill — Wednesday, 26th November 2014 at 8.15pm in the Inorganic Chemistry Lecture Theatre on South Parks Road**

**Abstract:**

Interested in humanity's fight against the Ebola (and Malaria) epidemic?

Dr Hill's detailed analyses of HLA polymorphism and malaria susceptibility in African children led to an interest in vaccine development, particularly assessing T cell-inducing vaccines against malaria. In 2014 his group led the first clinical trial of a monovalent Ebola virus vaccine aimed at targeting the outbreak strain of Ebola virus in West Africa.

**About the Speaker:**

Professor Adrian Hill is Director of the Jenner Institute in Oxford, and Principal Investigator of the Oxford Ebola Vaccine Trial.

