

# Royal Society Science and Industry

## FAPESP Week London 25-27 September 2013

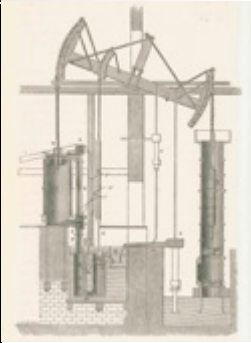
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# Science & industry – an historic legacy



Sir Humphry Davy PRS - Discovered potassium, calcium, magnesium etc. and invented the Davy Safety Lamp, which saved thousands of coal miners



James Watt FRS - Invented the steam engine, a major driver of the industrial revolution, which he patented in 1769



Michael Faraday FRS - Best known for research on electricity and magnetism, which forms the basis of modern electromagnetic technology used throughout industry

# Strategic Plan 2012-2017

The Society will;

- Emphasise that **much innovative scientific research is carried out in industry** and the public sector, as well as in academia;
- Ensure that scientists in industry and the public sector are able to **participate** in the Society's activities and that the Society is responsive to their needs;
- Further **encourage translational scientific work** through developing the Enterprise Fund and other initiatives, and identify opportunities for securing new science-based economic growth and wider societal benefits; and
- **Develop greater public awareness** and appreciation of the crucial role of science within industry and public services.

# Current industry activities: Labs to Riches

Annual Labs to Riches event celebrates the Royal Society's support for innovation in science and technology.

At the event there is a formal presentation of the Brian Mercer Awards

A selection of current Industry Fellows a selection of companies currently supported by the Royal Society Enterprise Fund and last year's Brian Mercer Award for Innovation winner also present posters of their work.



# Brian Mercer Awards

- Established in 2001 with a generous bequest from the late Brian Mercer OBE FRS
- Designed to promote innovation and fill the funding gap between scientific research and the exploitation of an idea through venture capital investment
- Feasibility awards – initial support of up to £30,000
- Innovation awards – up to £250,000

Professor Russell Morris

2012 Winner of the Brian Mercer Award

Uses novel method of trapping and releasing Nitric Oxide to assist wound healing



# Current industry activities

- Industry Fellowship scheme
- For scientists in industry who want to work on a collaborative project with an academic organisation – and vice versa
- Provides a basic salary for the researcher and a contribution towards research costs
- Originally started in 1979, current scheme started in 1994.
- 40 Industry Fellows in place at any one time

“My Fellowship is providing a very timely platform for much needed research into a fast-developing industrial process. The university has secured new research funding, and we continue to find new avenues of academic research in this area and to recruit new graduate students; the company has developed new applications and secured new customers; and perhaps above all, **I am enjoying the most scientifically productive phase of my career so far!**”



# Current industry activities

- **The Enterprise Fund** – provides equity finance and other support to start up companies with outstanding commercial potential founded on excellent science
- **Innovation and the Business of Science course** –helps researchers funded by the RS or BBSRC to understand the relationship between science and industry
- **Development** – long-standing funding relations with companies including Pfizer, BP, Rolls-Royce, Winton Capital Management, Microsoft Research and GSK
- **Main programmes** – e.g. **Royal Society Pairing Scheme**: for civil servants, MPs and scientists – helps to build bridges between parliamentarians and some of the best research scientists in the UK



# Science and industry programme

## A Year of Science and Industry

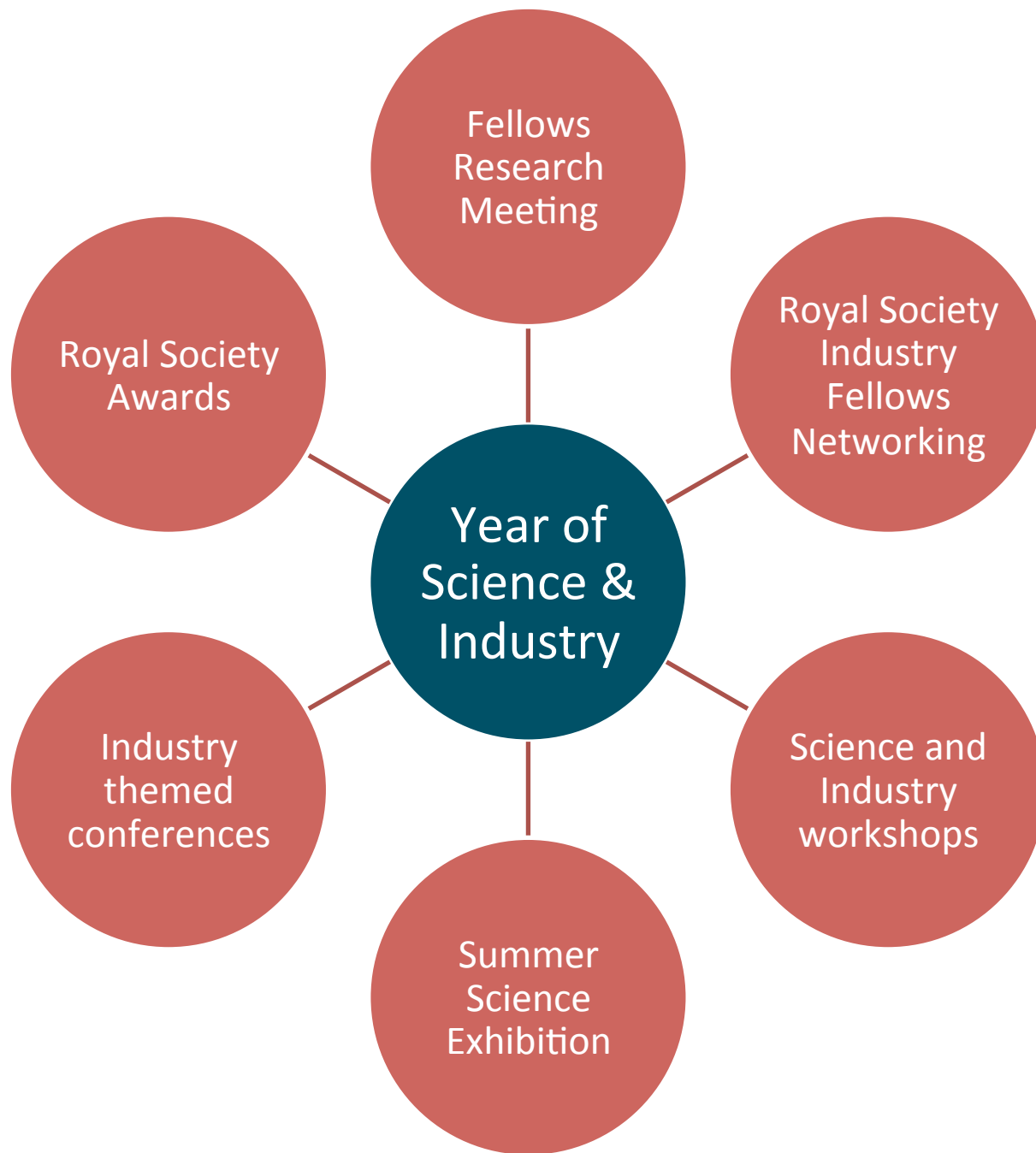
- A series of activities with a focus on industrial science and its application – including public lectures, scientific meetings, exhibitions

## A Voice for Industrial Science

- Coordination between activities being undertaken by the Science Policy Centre with regard to the Comprehensive Spending Review, and new events with representatives from the leading UK R&D sectors to strengthen communication and engagement with industry to better identify and understand key industrial science priorities, and to support and promote effective translational science

## Election to the Fellowship

- A proactive mechanism is needed for seeking candidates of the highest calibre from industry for election to the Fellowship and for Royal Society medals and awards, similar to the Proactive Membership Committee of the Royal Academy of Engineering.



# Science policy

## Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing

June 2012

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# Royal Society – science and industry: a way forward

- High level group addressing RS objectives:
  - build and maintain links across industry
  - better understanding/support for industry
  - build industry-academia interface for translation
  - make strongest case for investment in science base
- Report November 2013, embed actions into RS objectives and procedures

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**[royalsociety.org](http://royalsociety.org)**

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