

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01BST SUNDAY 18 JULY

NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

The Biochemical Society announced today (Sunday 18 July) that Sir Philip Cohen FRS FRSE from the University of Dundee will become its next president in January 2006. Sir Philip, Royal Society Research Professor, is director of the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit and director of research at the university's School of Life Sciences.

Commenting on the appointment of the new president, Professor Peter Downes, chairman of the society said, "Sir Philip is arguably the UK's leading biochemist and an iconic figure in UK science. His contribution to our understanding of the roles of protein phosphorylation in cell signalling is legendary. It is a privilege to have him as our president."

Sir Philip obtained his PhD in biochemistry at University College London and joined Dundee University in 1971. Amongst his many achievements, Sir Philip has been essential in the development of world-class biochemistry at Dundee University.

The society also announced today that Professor Martin Humphries is to take up the appointment of vice-chairman in January 2005. Professor Humphries is professor of biochemistry and Wellcome Trust principal research fellow in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Manchester. His research focuses on a molecular dissection of cell-matrix interactions and in particular, structure-function studies on adhesion molecules and integrin receptors.

"Martin Humphries is one of those rare people who combine scientific excellence with academic leadership. These are the qualities the Biochemical Society needs as we tackle ambitious programmes reflecting the changing attitudes towards scientific publishing and scientists' responsibilities in the public domain," said Professor Downes.

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Notes to Editors

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