

**The next UKSPA member conference will be hosted by Imperial College White City Campus  
Thursday 17 and Friday 18 January 2019.**



Imperial College White City Campus first opened its doors in October 2016 and is part of an impressive re-development in West London. Imperial College last hosted UKSPA members four years ago and this event will be an opportunity to share progress and learning points as this development has moved from plan to reality.

White City is now quickly establishing itself as a pioneering quarter for arts, culture, innovation, science and learning – with resident organisations including the revamped Television Centre, White City Place (formerly BBC Media Village), the Royal College of Art and Imperial College London. Imperial's White City Campus is a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship at the heart of a vibrant area to live, work and play.

It is driving this evolution with a £2 billion investment in a new 23-acre site at the heart of the White City Opportunity Area. Multidisciplinary research facilities are opening at the northern section of our site, alongside space for businesses, accommodation for postgraduate students and a residential building.

Located in The Invention Rooms are a unique range of maker spaces, including the Advanced Hackspace, which supports students, staff and the wider community to access resources to develop new products. Meanwhile, plans for the southern part of the site, which will include more academic hubs and facilities for commercial and research partners, are underway.

**Programme**

<b>Thursday 17 January</b>			
11.00	Delegate Registration Opens		
11.30-12.30	Study Tours of Translation and Innovation Hub (The I-HUB) Invention Rooms and the White City Incubator.		
From 12.00	Lunch		
1:00	Welcome to UKSPA at Imperial College White City		
	The White City Project: Four years on. Eulian Roberts, CEO, Imperial Thinkspace		
	Imperial White City Incubator – The foundation of Entrepreneurship on the White City Campus. Graham Hewson, Head of Incubation, Imperial White City		
1.45	<p><b>City Led Innovation: Science and the City</b>  <b>Panel Session</b>  <b>Chair: Eulian Roberts</b>  <b>Panel Includes:</b>  <i>Kay Faulkner (Oxford Road Corridor Enterprise Zone Growth Manager, Manchester) Newcastle Helix. Michelle Duggan (Newcastle Science City Partnership Officer) David Hardman, Managing Director, Innovation Birmingham and Graham Hewson (Imperial white City)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do Innovation districts create and sustain business growth?</li> <li>- What are the wider lessons to be learned and how are links between Knowledge Districts and other innovation assets being developed?</li> </ul>		
3.00	Networking Break		
3.30	Parallel Sessions		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>1 Rethinking non-specialist buildings to create cutting-edge research facilities</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b></p> <p>Building C at Imperial College’s White City campus was primarily designed to house office accommodation.</p> <p>However, through an agile approach to laboratory design, Sheppard Robson has converted this office building into a new state-of-the-art facility for scientific research.</p> <p>In this session, Eugene Sayers of Sheppard Robson will address the challenges of, and opportunities for, creating highly specialist spaces within generic office buildings and spaces.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>2 Incubation and the City: Lessons from Bristol</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b></p> <p>The past four years have been pivotal for Bristol’s tech, digital and science start-ups.</p> <p>Nick Sturge (Engine Shed), Harry Destecroix and Patrick Fallon (Unit DX) will discuss the changes in incubation spaces and support behind the city’s success stories.</p> <p>At the UKSPA conference at Imperial four years ago, Nick Sturge looked at incubation and partner engagement in Bristol. This session will discuss and debate what has changed in Bristol &amp; Bath – a city-region with significant incubation assets, activity and ambitions.</p> <p>Unit DX is a science incubator in central Bristol. By bringing together specialist facilities with science-focused business support, the incubator has been instrumental in building a new scientific ecosystem in the city.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>1 Rethinking non-specialist buildings to create cutting-edge research facilities</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b></p> <p>Building C at Imperial College’s White City campus was primarily designed to house office accommodation.</p> <p>However, through an agile approach to laboratory design, Sheppard Robson has converted this office building into a new state-of-the-art facility for scientific research.</p> <p>In this session, Eugene Sayers of Sheppard Robson will address the challenges of, and opportunities for, creating highly specialist spaces within generic office buildings and spaces.</p>	<p><b>2 Incubation and the City: Lessons from Bristol</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b></p> <p>The past four years have been pivotal for Bristol’s tech, digital and science start-ups.</p> <p>Nick Sturge (Engine Shed), Harry Destecroix and Patrick Fallon (Unit DX) will discuss the changes in incubation spaces and support behind the city’s success stories.</p> <p>At the UKSPA conference at Imperial four years ago, Nick Sturge looked at incubation and partner engagement in Bristol. This session will discuss and debate what has changed in Bristol &amp; Bath – a city-region with significant incubation assets, activity and ambitions.</p> <p>Unit DX is a science incubator in central Bristol. By bringing together specialist facilities with science-focused business support, the incubator has been instrumental in building a new scientific ecosystem in the city.</p>
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5.00	Close of Day One		
6.30	Drinks Reception – I-HUB		
7.00	Early Evening Dinner – I-HUB		
9.00	Informal Networking		

<b>Friday 18 January</b>	
09.00	Coffee
09.30	<p>Keynote – Talk of the Town.</p> <p>Andrew Carter, Chief Executive, Centre for Cities.</p> <p>Since the Brexit vote, there has been a great deal of policy debate and focus on ‘left-behind’ towns, and whether consecutive governments have focused too much on cities at the expense of smaller places.</p> <p>But what is overlooked in these debates is the economic relationship between cities and towns, and how this should inform policy. Recent Centre for Cities research has explored the ways that the economies of cities, towns and villages interact. It shows that the impact of cities goes well beyond their boundaries – and that they shape the economies of the places around them.</p>
10.00	<p>Disruption or Distraction? The changing environment for flexible space</p> <p><b>Panel Session</b> : Chaired by David Hardman (Innovation Birmingham). Panellists Include:</p> <p><i>Tom Carroll (Head of EMEA Corporate Research, JLL)</i> <i>Grant Powell (CEO, Central Working)</i> <i>Jason Incles (MD, Accelerate Places)</i> <i>Eulian Roberts (CEO, Imperial College ThinkSpace)</i></p> <p>Is flex space here for good, or just the latest fashion? - What’s driving the growth of flexible workspace? - How is Europe’s flex space growing to meet demand? - What does the rise of flex space mean for investors and UK innovation locations?</p>
11.15	Networking Break
11.45	Parallel Sessions
	<p><b>3 The white city Incubator shared lab model - good practice and learnings from our mistakes.</b></p> <p>This session will focus on the case study of the White City shared laboratory and explore the successes and its issues by the lab manager Graham Hewson.</p> <p>Contribution from “Rebel Bio” on their programme and how it benefits from the shared facilities and “Cluster” Market who specialise in supporting early stage, lab based companies who need to access shared equipment, will also form part of this session.</p> <p><b>4 Science Parks: Research and Data</b></p> <p>This session takes a look at the results and also the findings of the Bidwells and Creative Places survey of large R&amp;D companies to understand their requirements and preferences as they look ahead to plans for the future. The organisations surveyed by YouGov were significant players, with widespread international representation. Over 80% of organisations employed more than 1,000 people globally while their focus stretched across business sectors, including pharmaceuticals, agri-industry, chemicals, energy automotive and aerospace. All had R&amp;D representation in the UK.</p> <p>Further presentations will include insights from John Leake in the use made of the Sci-Tech daresbury tenant survey and why (and how) this data is collected and used.</p>
12.50	Final Plenary Session
1.15-2.00	Lunch

## About our hosts

The UKSPA main sessions will take place in the Molecular Sciences Research Hub which is providing a new research home for the Department of Chemistry, the Molecular Sciences Research Hub is a state-of-the-art facility for chemical and molecular sciences. Bringing together up to 800 scientists, clinicians, engineers and commercial partners to collaborate under one roof in a way that they have never been able to before, advancing research in areas such as clean energy, chemical biology and personal healthcare.

Other sessions and tours will take place in the TRANSLATION & INNOVATION HUB (I-HUB) and the WHITE CITY INCUBATOR. The I-Hub is a new home for innovation and collaboration. Led by Imperial College ThinkSpace, these facilities targeted at supporting the co-location of organisations linked to specific research and development partnerships so that collaboration with Imperial is embedded from the start. The building is the first purpose-built co-location facility on Campus and provides space for organisations at all stages in their development, from wet-lab incubation, laboratory grow-on space, co-working facilities, to floors for larger scale-up businesses and established companies.

## Hotel

The main conference hotel is the Dorsett, Shepherds Bush.

<https://www.dorsetthotels.com/en/dorsett-shepherds-bush-london/index.html>

To book, please email e-mail [reservations.shepherdsbush@dorsetthotels.com](mailto:reservations.shepherdsbush@dorsetthotels.com) and quote “Imperial Innovation 17 January” to book rooms. The agreed room rate is £125 (inc VAT) for bed and breakfast.

Other hotels in the area include:

<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-7813-ibis-london-shepherds-bush-hammersmith/index.shtml>

## Transport to Imperial White City, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0BZ

The venue is easily accessible by public transport from Central London. The nearest underground stations are:

White City: on the Central Line

Wood Lane: on the Hammersmith & City and Circle Lines

[Transport information on Imperial College website](#)

[Map of White City Campus](#)

## Parking

Due to the city centre nature of the venue parking is limited and use of public transport is recommended. However if further assistance with parking is required please contact [louise.tilbrook@ukspa.org.uk](mailto:louise.tilbrook@ukspa.org.uk)