THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 28 January
and close at noon on Wednesday 11 February 2026

AGENDA

1	**Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita** To approve	**eS 25/26 3A**
2	**Court Resolutions** To comment	**eS 25/26 3B**

e-S 25/26 3 A

Electronic Senate

28 January – 11 February 2026

Conferment of the Title of Emeritus / Emerita Professor

Description of paper

1. Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors who recently retired or whose retirement is imminent.

Action requested / recommendation

2. To approve. Please note that in the approval of the award of Emeritus/Emerita Professor via e-Senate, a nil response is regarded as assent. Members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations using the form available on the Senate Members Portal (Senate member access only). These comments will be added verbatim to the Senate Members Portal e-Senate page where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

Discussion

3. Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors listed below:

   Professor Tim Aitman, School of Genetics and Cancer
   Professor Stuart Anderson, School of Informatics
   Professor Alan Archibald, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
   Professor Karen Blissitt, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
   Professor Val Brunton, School of Genetics and Cancer
   Professor Peter Doerner, School of Biological Sciences
   Professor Stephen Gilmore, School of Informatics
   Professor Chris Gregory, School of Regeneration and Repair
   Professor Simon Harley, School of GeoSciences
   Professor Ian Harper, School of Social and Political Science
   Professor Andrew Hudson, School of Biological Sciences
   Professor Lesley McAra, School of Law
   Professor Velda McCune, Institute for Academic Development
   Professor John Mason, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Research
   Professor Dies Meijer, School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Research
   Professor Stewart Mercer, School of Population Health Sciences
   Professor Simon Parsons, School of Chemistry
   Professor Sheila Riddell, Moray House School of Education and Sport
   Professor Perdita Stevens, School of Informatics

4. The Special Minutes are attached as an appendix.

Resource implications

5. None.

Risk management

6. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

7. The use of the gendered titles ‘emeritus’ and ‘emerita’ may not align with an individual’s preferences. The Senate Support Team will respect an individual’s preference in title designation.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

8. Those Professors who have been conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita will be contacted by Senate Secretariat in due course.

Author Senate Support, January 2026
Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute
Professor Tim Aitman, MB, ChB, DPhil, FRCP, FRCPE, FMedSci, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Molecular Pathology and Genetics

Professor Tim Aitman retires from the Chair of Molecular Pathology and Genetics in the School of Genetics and Cancer on 31st January 2026.

Professor Aitman has been Director of the Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine (2015-now), one of the 3 units of the Institute of Genetics and Cancer. He has supported the careers of many colleagues including Professors Sara Brown, Helen Colhoun and Riccardo Marioni. He is also Honorary Consultant Physician in NHS Lothian.

Professor Aitman's own research uses genome technology and information to develop innovative approaches to diagnosis and management of rare and common diseases, including liquid biopsy analyses in cancer, and to translate these advances into routine healthcare for patient benefit. He has authored >100 publications and patented a liquid biopsy panel for identification of toxicity arising from radiotherapy treatment of prostate cancer. In addition, he has patented a unique method for capturing cell-free DNA that is the basis of a company that he co-founded, BioCaptiva, that spun out from the University of Edinburgh in 2021.

Since his appointment, Professor Aitman has always promoted genomics in Edinburgh. This resulted in a £7.8 Million investment in genome sequencing by the University of Edinburgh. This investment supported another application from Tim as co-PI for the Scottish Genome Partnership programme (2014-2020), with a £4.2 Million extension in 2020 for further development of clinical genome testing in the Scottish NHS. Tim was also PI of the successful £2.1 Million bid (2015) to the MRC for the establishment of a Node for Molecular Pathology Research at the University of Edinburgh.

In 2021, Professor Aitman was awarded as PI a multi-investigator grant application to the COVID-19 Rapid Response panel of the MRC, entitled "TestEd: Developing and evaluating an affordable whole-system approach for early detection of viral infections in workplaces and communities". The TestEd laboratory tested more than 165,000 samples with detection of more than 800 cases of COVID-19 from asymptomatic carriers of the virus. The TestEd team received the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine's Award for Innovation in May '21 and the University's Principal's Medal in January 2022.

Professor Aitman has founded One Health Genomics Edinburgh (OHGE) in 2023. This network now has over 900 members, with University-wide meetings occurring every 1-2 months, providing a forum for collaboration and discussion.

Professor Aitman is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh, and of the Academy of Medical Sciences and Society of Biology. He has served on several external advisory boards, including currently a European Research Council Advanced Grant panel. He was Specialist Adviser for the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee's Inquiry into Genomic Medicine and is currently the Regional Champion for Scotland for the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Aitman plans to continue contributing to the Unviersity's goals and missions in a number of ways:

- as Chair of the Executive Group of OHGE, he will host and co-organiser OHGE meetings and support upcoming grants. In addition, a major clinical genomics

meeting with the Scottish NHS is in planning with Edinburgh leaders in the field for 2026. The sum of these activities will help significantly to enhance the University's profile in basic, clinical and translational genomics, helping to drive the University's strategic aspirations in this field.

- as an ambassador for the University in the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, for which he has been the Regional Ambassador for Scotland for the last four years and am now a co-opted member of Academy Council.
- continue to represent and enhance the University's profile nationally and internationally by his membership of grant panels. For example, he currently is member of the European Research Council's Advanced Grants Panel LS4 and has been a co-opted panel member in the past two years of other grant agencies including the Cancer Research UK Clinical Research Panel.
- continue his own and the University's national and international presence in translational genomics research by continuing and completing ongoing liquid biopsy and rare disease research projects, and by continuing to publish high profile publications in these fields.

Special Minute
Professor Stuart O Anderson, BSc
Emeritus Professor of Dependable Systems

Professor Stuart Anderson is an exceptional candidate for the title of Emeritus Professor, combining intellectual distinction, sustained leadership and deep institutional commitment. He completed his BSc in Computer Science at Heriot-Watt University in 1974, followed by periods of doctoral study and a research fellowship before taking up a lectureship there. He then held a research fellowship with the Programming Methodology Group in Göteborg in 1983, at that time the leading centre for work on Intuitionistic Type Theory, before returning to Heriot-Watt and subsequently moving in 1986 to a lectureship in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1992 and to a Personal Chair in Dependable Systems in 2011, reflecting the calibre and impact of his work.

Professor Anderson's research has been consistently at the forefront of the design and analysis of complex computer-based systems. His work evolved from a focus on mathematical verification systems to a broad, interdisciplinary approach spanning science, engineering and the social sciences, leading to deep collaborations with colleagues such as Donald MacKenzie and Robin Williams, and more recently with Kathrin Cresswell in the Usher Institute. He led the Dependability Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration based in Edinburgh, which brought together five UK university centres over six years, and has educated and influenced the next generation of researchers, supervising around 25 PhD students over his career.

From the early 1990s onwards, Stuart has made outstanding contributions to the development of the School of Informatics and the wider University. He was the Informatics representative on the "Stanford Bridge" proposal team, which laid the foundations for the highly successful Edinburgh–Stanford link connecting the School to the Stanford innovation ecosystem, and he led the Informatics contribution to the British University in Dubai, successfully steering the Informatics programme through the Dubai Ministry of Education approval process. He oversaw the hiring of the School's first Business Development Executives and worked with them to develop the ProspeKT proposal, securing funding for the first Director of Commercialisation and a comprehensive Informatics innovation programme, and he authored the successful SFC-funded Digital Health Innovation Centre proposal, creating a focal point for digital health innovation. Beyond Informatics, he has twice served as Director of the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) and played a central role in the proposal for the National e-Science Centre, acting as its first Regional Director. He has also been a strong and visible champion for equality, diversity and inclusion, most recently leading the School's successful Athena Swan Silver application.

As Director of Teaching, Professor Anderson has been instrumental in shaping the School's teaching and learning environment. He led major developments in teaching delivery, most notably the 2007 colocation of teaching across the School, coordinating stakeholders, contributing to the design of teaching spaces and introducing the "one-stop shop" teaching organisation for staff and students. In 2020, he coordinated the School's rapid transition to virtual teaching, championing the establishment of the Informatics Learning and Teaching service to support staff and students through this transformation.

He intends to continue his work on information infrastructures for health and care, focusing on integrating machine learning and managing patient-generated data for the prevention of chronic conditions, and will remain engaged with ISSTI, the Usher Institute and PhD supervision. His record of scholarly achievement, strategic leadership, innovation and enduring service is of the highest calibre, and the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor would appropriately recognise his exceptional contributions.

Special Minute
Alan L. Archibald B.Sc, Ph.D, MRSB, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Mammalian Molecular Genetics

After graduating from the University of Edinburgh with a B.Sc in Biochemistry in 1973, Professor Archibald joined the ARC Animal Breeding Research Organisation (ABRO) as a research assistant. He completed his Ph.D through part-time study with the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (RDSVS) in 1981 and joined a newly established molecular biology group at ABRO. As ABRO evolved into The Roslin Institute he progressed to a research group leader position. He was promoted to lead the Department of Genomics & Bioinformatics (2000-4) and subsequently to Head of the Division of Genetics & Genomics at The Roslin Institute in 2004. He was awarded an Honorary Chair by the RDSVS in 2002. On incorporation of The Roslin Institute into the University of Edinburgh in 2008 he was awarded a Personal Chair in Mammalian Molecular Genetics and continued to lead the Division of Genetics & Genomics until 2018.

Professor Archibald's research has dissected the genetic control of complex traits, including production efficiency, product quality and host responses to infectious disease in farmed animals, mainly pigs. He is recognised as a world leader in the field of farmed animal genetics and genomics research and has developed key resources to enable such research. He co-led the first international farm animal genome project - the EC-funded pig gene mapping project. He also co-led the international Swine Genome Sequencing Consortium that established the draft pig genome sequence, led the subsequent generation of the revised high quality reference genome, and is active in the international collaboration to create haplotype-resolved complete pig genome assemblies. He contributed to the leadership of the sheep genome sequence project and was a co-initiator of the international Functional Annotation of Animal Genomes consortium. His group are currently releasing high quality reference genomes for other suid species. He co-led ARK-Genomics, the UK Centre for Functional Genomics in Farm Animals, from 2000 until its integration into Edinburgh Genomics in 2013. His research has been funded with competitive grants from diverse government and charitable funders as well as pig breeding companies.

He has achieved significant impact in selective animal breeding through the development of predictive genetic tests. For example, his development of genotyping tools to detect single nucleotide polymorphisms in pigs and Atlantic salmon has enabled the implementation of genomic selection in these species.

His research on genetic modification has also delivered impact. For example, he designed the strategy to produce human alpha-1-antitrypsin in sheep milk. PPL Therapeutics took this product through to clinical trials before the company was broken-up. More recently, he led the use of genome editing to create pigs that are resistant to infection with Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome Virus. These pigs have recently been approved by the US Food & Drug Administration for human consumption with royalty income flowing to the University and the research team.

He has made other valuable contributions to his field. For example, he served on research committees for diverse funding councils and multiple advisory committees and as Assistant Editor (1983-94) and Editor (1994-2004) of the journal Animal Genetics. He was awarded the 1997 Royal Agricultural Society of England Research medal for research work of benefit to agriculture. In 2016, he was one of the first elected as a Fellow of the International Society of Animal Genetics. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2005.

On his retirement Professor Archibald will continue to contribute to the University, through mentoring junior colleagues at Roslin, continued engagement in genetics and genomics research, and through his role as a Trustee of the Roslin Foundation. His request for Emeritus status has the full support of the Interim Director of the Institute and Head of School.

Special Minute
Professor Karen Blissitt BVSc, PhD, DVA, Dip ECVAA, SFHEA, MRCVS
Professor Emeritus of Equine Cardiology and Anaesthesia

Professor Blissitt has worked at the University of Edinburgh since 1986 and is internationally renowned for her work in equine cardiology, veterinary anaesthesia and education.

Clinical: Following the award of her PhD in 1993 Professor Blissitt started an equine cardiology referral service at the Dick Vet Equine Hospital which she has developed into a world leading centre for equine clinical cardiology and cardiovascular research. She has also partnered with colleagues in Newmarket and Edinburgh to provide an electrocardioversion service for horses with atrial fibrillation. This service is used by 5 UK and Irish Veterinary Schools and 10 UK and Irish Veterinary Hospitals. For 35 years, Professor Blissitt provided 24 hour specialist anaesthesia and analgesia care for animals referred to the University's Veterinary Hospitals as part of the anaesthesia service, whilst providing post graduate teaching at undergraduate and Diplomate level.

Research: Professor Blissitt has obtained over £860,000 in research funding and cost reductions on essential equipment used for veterinary anaesthesia and equine cardiology. She has 37 peer-reviewed publications and over 58 examples of other public outputs which include abstracts, proceedings and course notes for among others, the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), Veterinary Cardiovascular Society (VCS) and the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA).

Education: Professor Blissitt has received 5 undergraduate student nominations for teaching excellence, acted as personal tutor for over 20 students and has been awarded Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Authority. She has also demonstrated excellence in post-graduate education which has included successful supervision of PhD (n=2), MSc (n=2) and professional Doctorate students (n=1), clinical Diplomats (n=13) and numerous clinical Certificates and undergraduate student research projects. Professor Blissitt has designed and delivered practical continuous professional development in equine cardiology and echocardiography for 20 years, initially at Edinburgh, and subsequently at the Animal Health Trust and British Racing School, Newmarket, educating and supporting over 600 practicing veterinary surgeons.

Collegiality: Professor Blissitt has made significant contributions to the University as convenor for post graduate clinical training scholars (residents) (2017-2022), exam board chair MSc Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (2017-2026) and member of PSAC (2017-2022). She was involved in the project to build the new Large Animal Surgical Facility and was instrumental in the success of the DVetMed program. Professor Blissitt represented University of Edinburgh at St Georges Annual Veterinary Clinical Meetings in 2013.

Outreach: Professor Blissitt has given numerous invited presentations nationally and internationally. BEVA (1992,1993,1997, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2021); VCS (2007, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018); AVA (2005, 2022). External appointments include Royal Veterinary College, London, external examiner for BVetMed Finals part 2 and 3, 2003-2005, Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Anaesthesia Board (2004-2006) and AVA (2003-2006). RCVS examiner for the Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia (2005-2007) and Certificate in Veterinary Cardiology (2008), Chief Examiner in Veterinary Cardiology (2010) and Veterinary Anaesthesia (2007). External examiner PhD (2007) Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark; (2026) University of Milan. Membership of the assessment board for appointment of Professor (2020) and Senior Lecturer (2007) Swedish University of Agricultural Science Uppsala. Abstract Editor for the

Journal of Veterinary Anaesthesia (1988 – 1999). Abstract Editor, Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (JVAA) (2000–2003) and Assistant Editor (2003 – 2006). Professor Blissitt has organised a number of national and international meetings including VCS (1991); AVA (1998), World Congress of AVA held in Scotland (2009). Instrumental in forging the link with Gaeltec UK to develop transvenous electrocardioversion catheters for use in horses following a worldwide shortage.

Future involvement: Professor Blissitt has been awarded a grant December (2025) from the AVA Foundation Trust for pathological studies to compliment her work developing an oesophageal Doppler probe for monitoring cardiovascular function in anaesthetised horses. This work will be undertaken by Dr A Malbon, and Professor Blissitt will present the feasibility of monitoring with oesophageal Doppler at the AVA Spring meeting in Liverpool in 2026 and subsequently aim to publish in JVAA. Professor Blissitt is currently working on publications with Professors Keen and Shaw and will continue to be involved in electrophysiological studies aimed at improving knowledge and treatment of atrial fibrillation in horses.

Special Minute
Professor Val Brunton, BSc, PhD
Emerita Professor of Cancer Therapeutics

Professor Val Brunton retires from the Personal Chair of Cancer Therapeutics in the School of Genetics and Cancer on 31st January 2026.

Professor Brunton has 35-years of research experience and >160 publications in the fields of cancer research, drug discovery and disease models. In the last 10 years, she has received ~£12M in research funding as PI or co-I (including CRUK, BBSRC, Breast Cancer Now, DEBRA, Sarcoma UK, CSO and industrial partners). Her lab has broad expertise in preclinical testing of anticancer therapeutics, including drug combinations and immunotherapies, and on the study of their effect on the tumour immune microenvironment. She has been involved in both the preclinical and clinical development of several drug (e.g., co-contributor on the development and licensing of NPX900 by Nuvectis Pharma). The lab uses a range of protein/peptide technologies, genetic intervention and high-definition biological analysis including mouse models of cancer and quantitative intra-vital imaging that permits visualisation of multiple cancer cell phenotypes in vivo. This provides information on the molecular regulators of cancer processes linked to invasion, metastasis and survival in the tumour environment, and allows the monitoring of drug efficacy and mechanism of action of new molecularly targeted agents to enable identification of more effective treatments.

Professor Brunton has supervised 30 PhD students and >10 masters students. She has supported visiting students through the Erasmus + scheme and British Council as well as summer internships for undergraduate students. She has mentored post-docs and supported successful Fellowship and grant applications (Wellcome (Sir Henry Dale), European Commission, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Tenovus) and is currently a participant in the UoE Mentoring Connections programme.

Professor Brunton was Director of Postgraduate Studies at Edinburgh Cancer Research (UoE) from 2011-2022 where she was responsible for the well-being and academic progression of all post-graduate students in the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre and was external examiner MRes Cancer programme (University of Newcastle).

Professor Brunton is co-founder of the European Lobular Breast Cancer Consortium established in 2018 to promote understanding, diagnosis and treatment for women suffering from invasive lobular breast cancer. Previously she has had active roles in the British Association for Cancer Research and was co-organiser of a series of workshops on the use of preclinical models.

Professor Brunton is directly involved in outreach activities and actively promotes the group's research including the use of animals in research. She has hosted patient advocate groups and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for Lobular Breast Cancer UK, a charity established to support patients with lobular breast cancer.

Professor Brunton plans to continue contributing to the University's goals and missions as co-investigator on the UKRI grant "Predicting Oxygen and Drug Kinetics at the Micrometre Scale in Glioblastoma" which runs to 2028 and is led by Prof. Bernabeu (Usher Institute). Her remit was to provide experimental data for Prof. Bernabeu's team to model tumour vasculature and map this to areas of hypoxia and collagen deposition. From January 2026 onwards, Prof. Brunton will provide guidance on the experimental approaches and interpretation of data as well as the overall direction of the project and assist with publication of data from the project.

Special Minute
Professor Peter W Doerner, Dipl Biol, Dr. *rer. nat.*
Emeritus Professor of Applied Biology

After growing up in the Philippines, Switzerland and Germany, Peter Doerner graduated from Oldenburg University in Germany in 1981 with a Diplom Biologie degree. After a brief stint in the biotechnology industry, he returned to Oldenburg University for his Dr. *rer. nat*. (PhD) in Applied Biology which he obtained with distinction in 1987. Peter then started a Post Doc at the Salk Institute in La Jolla., and after two years, he joined as staff scientist. During this time, he started his own group in Plant Growth Control after obtaining funding from the US Department of Agriculture. He initiated a very successful new research direction in plant cell cycle control aimed at understanding how the natural environment cued growth and cell cycle regulation in plants.

In 1999, Peter joined ICMB at the University of Edinburgh as Lecturer in Plant Sciences and continued this research in plant growth regulation while also being on the scientific advisory board of the agritech startup Akkadix in California. His group's work led to several successful international collaborations in Germany and France. He secured funding from the BBSRC, Leverhulme and the French National Science Foundation (CNRS) which also supported long-term research visits in labs in Berlin and Grenoble. Following on from his international collaborations, he developed a stronger interest in developing simple, frugal technologies for use in "lower- and middle-income countries" (LMIC) which would allow researchers there to benefit from insights from basic and applied research to deliver impact and outcomes in local crops. Peter initiated a very successful collaboration with a leading researcher in AI/ML, Sotirios Tsaftaris, and together with scientists and agronomists in Ethiopia they secured funding from BBSRC's GCRF scheme to deliver methods for characterising root systems of chickpea, a key high-protein crop in the arid tropics.

Teaching and mentoring the next generations was always important for Peter. He also enjoyed being Course Organiser and was the Honours Programme Organiser for Developmental Biology, latterly "Development, Regeneration and Stem Cells" for 15 years and developed several new courses. He was also very engaged in post-graduate training the next generation of scientists and mentored 17 PhD students and many MSc and visiting students.

The very successful collaboration on chickpea root systems stimulated Peter's interest to further contribute and provide leadership to the University's internationalisation and globalisation efforts. From 2017 until 2021, Peter was the Director of International Engagement (DoIE) for the School of Biological Sciences. His engagement led to the University's agreement with Zhejiang University to initiate a Joint Centre for Engineering Biology at the International Campus in Haining. In addition to international student recruitment and collaboration agreements in Chile, USA, Malaysia and China, Peter was very keen on developing a more substantial engagement with India. The opportunity arose when the state government of Gujarat approached the University to explore its appetite to jointly develop and establish a Biotechnology-focussed University (GBU) in Gujarat. After reaching a collaboration agreement, Peter stepped down from his DoIE role to fully concentrate on leading a team to develop the bespoke curriculum for the five Biotechnology Programmes at GBU and to provide academic leadership to the new university. The completed curriculum was handed over in 2024 and in 2025, Peter started to step away from this role to resume research in the lab.

Peter's plans for the future include continuing several research projects that were pursued less actively during his full-time commitment to the GBU project. Peter still enjoys travelling and engaging abroad, and with more time available, he is strengthening his efforts to

collaborate internationally in research (India, China) and education (India), to support the University's partnership with GBU and engagement with the HE system in India. He is very interested in establishing tangible international collaborations with impact and outcomes in the food systems space. He will also spend more time with his family in the UK and France.

Special Minute
Professor Stephen Gilmore, BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Software Systems Modelling

We wish to recognise the outstanding academic and collegial contributions of Professor Stephen Gilmore through the award of the title of Emeritus Professor of Software Systems Modelling. Over a distinguished career spanning more than three decades, Professor Gilmore has made exceptional contributions to the fields of software systems modelling, performance analysis, and formal methods, as well as to the life and governance of the University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics.

Stephen Gilmore graduated from the Queen's University of Belfast in 1986 with a first class honours degree in Computer Science. A deep interest in Hoare's ideas of program correctness and verification of computer systems led him to study for a PhD investigating methods for formal specification and verification of modular software systems. The Queen's University of Belfast awarded his PhD in 1990.

His first academic position was at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. From there, he moved to the University of Edinburgh to take up a lectureship. He was honoured to join the world-renowned Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science, a research institute that brings together researchers with interests in proof, semantics, logics, and calculi for reasoning about the safety and correctness of computer systems.

He began a long-running collaboration with Professor Jane Hillston FRS FRSE, the inventor of PEPA, a stochastic process algebra used for modelling and reasoning about the performance of computer systems. Following Hillston's Markovian semantics for the language, he created the first implementation of the PEPA language in a software tool to compile a PEPA model into an equivalent continuous-time Markov chain matrix representation. This software enabled numerical analysis of performance measures such as throughput and utilisation and was used in Hillston's influential doctoral work, advancing the adoption of PEPA across the modelling community.

In parallel, he began a collaboration with the AESOP performance modelling group at Imperial College London. Working with these collaborators, his own PhD students, and other students in Edinburgh's PEPA group, he pioneered a second generation of PEPA modelling tools. These developments extended the framework to transient analysis and stochastic model checking, enabling new insights into dynamic system behaviours that could not be obtained from stationary analyses alone. Professor Gilmore's research interests later broadened to encompass discrete and continuous simulation of systems, particularly through Gillespie methods used in stochastic chemical kinetics. This interest led to a productive collaboration with the Centre for Systems Biology at Edinburgh, managing a software development team that built parallel simulation and parameter estimation tools for complex biological models.

Within the School of Informatics, Professor Gilmore was an exceptional educator and colleague. He taught a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, contributed to curriculum development and innovation, and mentored many successful doctoral students. He also played a vital role in academic administration, serving as course organiser, Director of Teaching, and serving as REF coordinator for the School's 2014 submission, where his leadership and analytical rigour were widely valued.

Professor Gilmore's research, teaching, and service have left a lasting imprint on the School of Informatics and on the broader field of software systems modelling. The title of Emeritus Professor is a fitting recognition of his enduring scholarly achievements and his contributions to the University community, links with which he intends to continue to hold as an Emeritus Professor.

Special Minute
Professor Chris Gregory BSc PhD
Emeritus Professor of Inflammatory Cell Biology

Chris Gregory has been Professor of Inflammatory Cell Biology at the University of Edinburgh since 2001. During this period, he has also served as Director of the MRC Centre for Inflammation Research between 2016 and 2021. He will retire from the University in 2026.

Chris obtained a first-class BSc and PhD from the University of Sheffield during which he studied ultrastructural and functional features of cytotoxic T-lymphocytes (CTL) and natural killer cells. He subsequently moved to the University of Birmingham, initially joining Professor Alan Rickinson's group, developing his career-long interest in cancer immunology and in particular B-cell lymphoma. During this time, he performed important studies on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and its role in Burkitt's lymphoma, characterising CTL responses in immunosurveillance and inter-relationships between EBV and normal or malignant B lymphocytes. Chris went on to establish his own research group at the University of Birmingham making seminal discoveries in relation to how EBV latent proteins drive apoptosis resistance in B cells. This led to another of the major research interests of Chris's career: the study of apoptosis. Chris's group went on to characterise the molecular mechanisms of B-cell resistance to apoptosis following EBV infection by showing how EBV-expressed latent membrane protein 1 increased expression of the anti-apoptotic molecule bcl-2, hence providing one of the first examples of how infection manipulates the regulation of apoptosis to drive pathogenesis. In 1997 Chris moved to a chair at the University of Nottingham and developed a further key strand of his research career by studying the role of macrophage clearance of apoptotic cells, a process termed efferocytosis, and how this impacts the tumour microenvironment. Another seminal study identified the key role of the macrophage cell surface marker CD14 in mediating efferocytosis and how dichotomy in CD14-mediated responses could drive inflammatory or in the case of efferocytosis anti-inflammatory responses. Further mechanistic insights were provided through the identification of intercellular adhesion molecule 3 (ICAM-3) as a key protein expressed by apoptotic human B cells that leads to their recognition and subsequent phagocytosis by macrophages.

After his move to Edinburgh Chris's research has continued to identify key mechanism of apoptotic cell recognition and clearance and how these regulate inflammatory responses. These observations have been key to understanding how apoptotic cells shape the tumour microenvironment and impact immune responses to cancer, including how they influence recruitment of macrophages via the expression of the macrophage chemoattractant fractalkine and drive anti-inflammatory responses. In exciting and paradigm-shifting observations Chris's research challenged the concept that apoptosis development in the tumour microenvironment was beneficial by demonstrating a novel pro-oncogenic role for apoptotic B cells through the accumulation and activation of tumour-associated macrophages. In further recent work he has demonstrated important roles for extracellular vesicles in modulating inflammatory responses and most recently in identifying how platelets take up extracellular

DNA in cancer cells. Since routine liquid biopsy practices remove platelets, this important observation has highlighted how existing diagnostic procedures may miss key information in oncology.
Collectively Chris's research has demonstrated key mechanisms of apoptosis and efferocytosis, critical roles for apoptotic cells in the modulation of inflammation and important consequences of these processes for the tumour microenvironment and pathogenesis of lymphoma, as well as the regulation of inflammation in development and disease. He has

consistently published in leading journals such as Cell, Nature and Science and presented regularly at leading Keystone, Gordon and EMBO conferences. Chris's research concepts have been developed in a series of high-quality reviews with collaborators and a recent book (Advances in Experimental Biology and Medicine Volume 1481- Gregory, Wood and Ravichandran (Editors) Doi 10.1007/978-3-031-92785-0). Chris and colleagues have formed the ECDC (Edinburgh Cell Death Collective) to further research into these areas within the Institute for Regeneration and Repair. Chris has also developed patents and spinouts to further his scientific discoveries around apoptosis and related areas.

Chris has contributed generously to numerous citizenship roles. He has acted on scientific advisory boards for international institutions and also been invited to international universities as a visiting professor. Chris has trained multiple scientists and clinician scientists and worked tirelessly for research charities such as Leukaemia Research UK, for which he has served on training and scientific research committees, including as chair. His period as director of the MRC Centre for Inflammation Research (CIR) oversaw the planning of a new home for CIR in the strategically aligned Institute for Regeneration and Repair and he supported approximately 250 staff in CIR, including multiple early career scientists and colleagues on independent fellowships. During his leadership CIR achieved major funding success from UKRI, Wellcome trust and other charities and industry. For his roles he has been recognised by the prestigious Principal's Medal for Exceptional service to the University of Edinburgh.

Despite retirement Chris will continue to pursue further investigation of cancer immunology and further his discoveries on emerging areas such as the functions of extracellular vesicles. He will continue with informal mentorship of early career colleagues and support of more senior colleagues, who have benefitted from Chris's wisdom over many years.

Special Minute
Professor Simon L. Harley BSc MA PhD FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Lower Crustal Processes

Professor Harley is retiring from his University of Edinburgh position on 31 January 2026, having been appointed 37 years ago as a lecturer (1988) and promoted to a personal Chair in 1997. Prior to this he was a Lecturer at the University of Oxford, with a BSc from the University of New South Wales (1978) and a PhD from the University of Tasmania.

Throughout his time in Edinburgh, he has been a core member of the Geology/Earth Sciences degree team. He has played a major role in many rounds of curriculum development, and in designing and course organising numerous and diverse lab and field-based courses, most notably the NW Highlands and Mull fieldtrips. He served as Geology BSc degree programme coordinator for seven years.

Professor Harley has contributed substantially to the School of GeoSciences management. He has served as Head of the Institute of Earth Science (2002-2005), Assistant Head of School (2001-2002), Academic Head of Facilities (2019-2022), Deputy Head of Earth and Planetary Science Research Institute (2012-2016), Chair of the Research Grant Assessment Panel (2015-2017), and Senior Tutor and Director of Students (2012-2015). He was leading PI of the NERC NC Ion Microprobe Facility from 2013 to 2022, raising support of ~£7M. In College, he has served on the Senior Tutor Committee (2012-2015) and the Academic Progression Committee (2012-2015).

Professor Harley is recognised as a major scientist of international standing in both metamorphic geology and Antarctic science. He ranks in the top 0.05% of geoscientists globally in terms of citations. He pioneered the quantification of high and ultra-high temperature metamorphism using an integrated experimental, theoretical and natural rock approach. His research has recognised and promoted the importance of ultra-high temperature (UHT) metamorphism as a major facet of the response of the lithosphere to geodynamic processes. Prof. Harley further developed mineral based PT, PT fluid and geochronological (zircon, monazite) methods to determine the evolution of high-grade terranes and orogens.

Professor Harley has also been a pioneer in Antarctic Earth Science. Here, he has promoted international awareness of East Antarctica as an outstanding geological region preserving a rich record of early Earth evolution and extreme crustal metamorphism. His work defined the PT time histories of UHT metamorphic terranes and their significance for understanding crustal processes, as well as the geological, metamorphic and amalgamation history of East Antarctica. He was formally recognised as an ISI ‘Highly Cited Researcher’ in 2006, and as Scholar GPS ‘Highly Ranked Scholar - Lifetime’ in Metamorphism, 2024.
Professor Harley has been awarded numerous Medals, including the Schlumberger Medal of the Mineralogical Society of GB and Ireland (2015), and the Imperial Polar Medal (2002). He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE) in 1998.

Professor Harley wishes to continue ongoing collaborative research involving several members of the School of Geosciences. He is developing new research as a CoI on a newly submitted NERC grant, will continue PhD supervision, and intends to calibrate new ion microprobe analytical methods whose development will be further aided by a new grant application that will be wide interest to the research community. He wishes also to continue to assist in teaching and training of UG and MEarthSci students.

Special Minute
Professor Ian Harper PhD, MA, MBBS
Emeritus Professor of Anthropology of Health and Development

Professor Ian Harper was hired as Lecturer in Social Anthropology in 2004. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2007 and to Professor of Anthropology of Health and Development in 2014. He received his PhD from SOAS in 2003 for his thesis 'Magic, Mission and Medicalisation: An Anthropological study into Public Health in contemporary Nepal'. He received his MA Medical Anthropology from SOAS in 1995, and his MBBS at Charring Cross Hospital Medical School, University of London in 1986.

Professor Harper was a trained medical practitioner who worked in hospital medicine and general practice in the UK, including in the Outer Hebrides. For three and a half years he managed a tuberculosis control project in Nepal, and for two years worked with NGOs throughout India in supporting community health programmes. His experiences of practicing medicine and public health in such diverse cultural and political situations led him to study medical anthropology.

Professor Harper's outstanding contributions to the University of Edinburgh were informed by his training in both medicine and anthropology and professional experience in international development. He co-founded the MSc Medical Anthropology, MSc International Development, and the BMedSci Anthropology and Sociology of Medicine. In 2015 he founded the Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology, consolidating his many years of work to situate the University at the cutting edge of research and teaching in medical anthropology. The Centre is now one of the largest concentrations of Medical Anthropologists in Europe.

Professor Harper's research has explored TB control, public health, and development in South Asia, and has been funded by ESRC, DfID, and the Wellcome Trust. He has published widely across medical anthropology, South Asian studies, and international development, with collaborators around the world. His commitment to the discipline stretches beyond University of Edinburgh, where he has served as the Head of Social Anthropology. He was the Ethics Officer for the Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) committee, where he also co-founded the postgraduate-led Anthropology Matters Journal. He led many cross-institutional collaborations including the Edinburgh-Durham Annual Medical Anthropology Postgraduate Workshop and the Scottish Training in Anthropological Research (STAR) doctoral retreats with the University of St Andrews and the University of Aberdeen. Professor Harper was also secretary of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council.

Across all areas of his work, Professor Harper has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to his discipline, his colleagues, and his students. He has supervised twenty-two PhDs who have gone on to leave their own marks across academia and practice. His exceptional ability to bring staff and students together to foster interdisciplinary intellectual community has been held up as a model of best practice in the School of Social and Political Science.

Professor Harper looks forward to gathering in, like autumn; slowing down, spending more time in the hills, and volunteering with the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, with whom he is a Trustee. He also looks forward to more quality time with family and friends, reading, writing, photography, and, as they say in Nepal, 'herau,' which means leaning into it and seeing what happens.

Special Minute
Professor Andrew Hudson BA PhD
Emeritus Professor of Developmental Genetics

Andrew Hudson graduated in 1984 from the University of Oxford with a BA in Botany, though he spent much of his time learning about genetics and development. He went on to a PhD at the John Innes Institute in Norwich to examine transposons in snapdragon plants, mobile DNA that can insert into genes to reveal their functions and act as molecular tags to identify their sequences. Supported by the Royal Society, he moved to a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute, Cologne, joining a team that had transposon-tagged a master regulator of maize kernel colour. A junior research fellowship at Peterhouse and lab space provided by John Fincham in the Department of Genetics at Cambridge allowed a return to the UK and snapdragons, and the beginning of independent research that aimed to understand why plant cells that form leaves behave differently to others. Because identifying suitable leaf mutants took time (plants can only be hurried to a limited extent) he also began investigating a gene that subsequent collaboration with biochemists showed was needed to insert magnesium ions into the centre of the chlorophyll molecule, clarifying the functions of related genes involved in bacterial chlorophyll and vitamin B12 synthesis.

On moving to Edinburgh in 1990, he and a growing research group identified the first key regulator of leaf development, used it to propose how interaction between upper and lower cells drives the lateral growth that flattens leaves and petals (a model that has yet to be refuted) and to uncover more of the genetic network that directs leaf and petal growth. An increasing interest in the evolution of form led to use of natural variation between snapdragon to identify genes responsible for their differences in leaf and flower shapes and hairiness and the selection that may have driven their diversity, which necessitated reconstruction of the evolutionary history of the species and their genomes and developing methods to study genes in non-model species along the way. Current research uses this approach to understand development and evolution of plant hairs and includes recent identification of a waterproof sticky compound secreted from hairs that protects plants from insect pests and the gene responsible for its production.

Andrew Hudson has played a critical role in leadership and management of Plant Sciences in Edinburgh. He served two terms as Head of the Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences, during a period of growth in size, funding and student satisfaction. The collegial ethos he promoted made IMPS a particularly supportive and happy place to work. He managed the Joint Infrastructure Fund award which supported Refurbishment of Rutherford in 2005-7. His commitment to supporting staff and students is illustrated in his work setting up the School's first EDI Committee and co-ordinating its successful application for Athena Swan Silver award. Andrew's teaching has been key in linking molecular and whole plant approaches and he has taught at every level over his long career, including leading the Plant Sciences Honours programme, running field courses and being an exceptionally diligent and committed personal tutor. He was the Gatsby tutor at Edinburgh and has mentored many students from undergraduate through to successful careers in Plant Science. For the last 15 years he has directed the Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants MSc programme with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He has tried to convey the power of genetics and the fascination of biological development and its evolution to several thousands of undergraduates over the years and has supervised 26 PhD students.

His plans for the future are to complete his current research on plant hairs, supporting finishing PhD students, and applying for a collaborative grant with a physicist at Heriot Watt. He also plans to develop a new gene editing technology which he has been testing in tomato and believes will be effective across flowering plants. This has the potential to be a spin-out company. He will also continue to do some teaching with occasional lectures and support for the Plant Science Field trip.

Andrew Hudson has been the lynchpin in the University of Edinburgh's strong reputation in plant developmental biology, and a dedicated and hardworking colleague. Honouring Andrew with the award of Emeritus status will acknowledge his contributions to our understanding of plant development, the service he has provided to the university and support his future work, allowing the School of Biological Sciences and the University to continue benefitting from his experience and insight for many years to come.

Special Minute
Professor Lesley McAra MA, PhD, FRSE, CBE
Emeritus Professor of Penology

Professor Lesley McAra retires from her Personal Chair in Penology in April 2026, after an academic career spanning over 30 years in the School of Law. Professor McAra graduated in 1981 with a first-class honours degree in Political Science from the University of Edinburgh. She completed her doctorate at the Open University and worked as a researcher in the Scottish Office, before joining the University in 1995 as a Lecturer in Criminology, thereafter being promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2005 and to a Personal Chair in 2009. She was awarded a CBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours List for services to Criminology and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2021.

Lesley's intellectual scholarship has focused primarily on the sociology, efficacy and philosophy of punishment. Her doctoral study, *Parole in the penal system: towards a relational theory of penality,* significantly advanced knowledge on the functioning of the penal realm as an ecosystem and the implications of this for understanding penal transformation. Over her academic career, her research made further strides in advancing understanding of youth crime, juvenile justice and the sociology of punishment. As Co-Director of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, with her great friend and colleague Professor Susan McVie, she managed and mentored over 30 research and administrative staff, and contributed to over 100 publications and 200 conference papers. Her article on the adverse effects of youth justice system contact on young people's offending outcomes remains one of the most heavily cited papers published in the European Journal of Criminology.

As a research leader, Lesley has raised millions of pounds in research grants from the Economic and Social Research Council; the Nuffield Foundation; and the Scottish Government. Under her stewardship, the Edinburgh Study has had major policy and legislative impact within Scotland, making a positive difference to the lives of thousands of children and young people, and influencing debates on the age of criminal responsibility in the UK and internationally. The scientific standing of her work is evidenced by the many prizes which Lesley won (jointly with McVie) including the Howard League Research Medal (2013), the Chancellor's Award for Research Impact (2016) and the ESRC Prize for Outstanding Public Policy Impact (2019).

During her academic career, Lesley has made a resounding impact on the life and work of the University of Edinburgh. Her major focus has always been on student support and staff mentoring and development, with a strong belief that these are foundational to institutional excellence. She supervised 18 PhD students to completion, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers in academia or criminal justice practice. In 2009, she founded the Empirical Legal Research Network, bringing together researchers from across the university whose work touches on legal phenomena. In 2011, she became the Dean and Head of the Edinburgh Law School, the first woman to hold the role since its inception in 1707. Within this role, she established (with alumna Karina McTeague) the *Edinburgh Foundation for Women in Law* to help address gender inequalities within the wider profession and create the conditions for women to succeed in this field. She led a major period of transformation for the School as it became one of the largest and most research intensive Law Schools in the UK and oversaw the re-design and refurbishment of the Law School estate, which designed a built environment fit for a leading international Law School.

In 2015, Lesley was appointed as Assistant Principal for Community Relations, leading the University's civic agenda. Working closely with colleagues in CAM, she oversaw the first two University Community Plans. She was particularly proud that Edinburgh was the first of any

Scottish University to create and publish such plans. In this role she also helped drive the establishment of the Centre for Homeless and Inclusion Health, led projects to promote digital inclusion, student social enterprise, and community engaged learning, and persuaded the University to sign up to the Scottish Government's Social Impact Pledge. Since 2018, she has continued to support colleagues in SRS on social impact, most recently chairing the University's Civic and Social Responsibility Committee which is leading the refresh of the University's overarching Social and Civic Responsibility Plan.

Between 2018 and 2022, Lesley took on the major role of inaugural Director of the Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI). Entrusted with leading the creation and successful implementation this complex and high-profile project, she established a vision for EFI founded on the principle of data driven innovation for social good. Over a period of five years, she built the team and requisite infrastructure to meet challenging City Region Deal imperatives (relating to research, education, innovation and entrepreneurship) and worked to align the design for the built environment (in the former Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh) with EFI's intellectual programme. This critical foundational activity enabled the delivery of many City Region Deal targets well in advance of deadline and has created a strong community of practice comprising academics, professional services staff and key external partners. Her overall contribution to this conceptual and infrastructural project is a major legacy to the University of Edinburgh.

Since 2022, Lesley has been Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH). With the IASH team, she has instituted new mentoring and development for early career scholars, driven new partnerships (including with the University of Ghana and the Centre for Social Sciences in Kolkata, India on the theme of women's global leadership); and supported external engagement across IASH's fellowship on the theme of future justice> She has also successfully completed a project on Decoloniality, which was awarded a global prize for Leadership in Practice and Community in 2025 (from the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes – a network of over 300 institutes world-wide).

In retirement Lesley will continue to contribute to the RSE Justice Leaders' Network, and complete a series of commissions with her colleague and research partner Susan McVie. As a recipient of the Fellowship of IASH (awarded to former Directors) she will continue her mentoring roles and commitment to staff development, and as an Emerita she will give support to community engagement in the Law School and wider University. Finally, in addition to spending more time with her beloved husband Rod and her wider family, Lesley aims to take up the piano again with the ambition of passing grade 8 (after a break of more than 40 years!), as well as watercolour painting and cycling.

Special Minute
Professor Velda McCune BSc PhD
Emeritus Professor of University Education

Professor McCune has been an active member of the University community for most of her adult life. She completed her undergraduate Psychology degree with the University in 1995 and followed this with an ESRC funded PhD in the University's Centre for Research on Learning and Instruction. She then contributed to the University across a range of roles from Tutor and Research Associate through to Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute for Academic Development (IAD). She achieved her personal chair in 2019.

Professor McCune's main research interests are in higher education learning and teaching. Foci for her work include: designing curricula to respond to global challenges; interdisciplinary teaching and learning; innovative online and hybrid education; inclusive practice in higher education; assessment and feedback; approaches to learning and studying; and teacher and student identities. Her internationally recognised work is widely cited in the research literature and also informs educational development practice in many countries. She has published extensively across the main journals in her field as well as contributing to editorial and refereeing processes. She is currently working with colleagues to write up findings from a large funded research project by the Research Council of Norway and led from the University of Oslo focused on interdisciplinary higher education1. She is one of the authors of a key recommended text for educational development programmes, which has recently published a third edition2.

Professor McCune has made an extensive contribution to enhancing learning and teaching across the University. She led, designed, and accredited the highly regarded University of Edinburgh Continuing Professional Development Framework for Learning and Teaching. As lead for the Learning and Teaching Team in the IAD, she has successfully guided educational development work across the University through changing times and challenging circumstances. She has contributed expertise to Senatus Education Committee over many years. She is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has supported other senior colleagues to achieve the same status. She has made valued and well recognised contributions to teaching and doctoral supervision in Psychology, the Moray House School of Education and Sport and the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

Professor McCune has maintained a strong commitment to social and environmental justice throughout her career. This was recognised by a Social Responsibility and Sustainability Changemaker Award in 2018. More recently, she has contributed extensively to developing the learning and teaching aspects of the University's Regenerative Sustainability Strategy and its precursors.

Professor McCune will remain in Scotland after her retirement. She intends to continue to write about the ways in which higher education can best prepare students to engage with global challenges. She will maintain her connections with scholars in Edinburgh, nationally and internationally to consider this topic.

Special Minute
Professor John O. Mason, BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Molecular Neural Development

John Mason's long association with the University of Edinburgh began in 1979 when he enrolled in the University's BSc Molecular Biology programme. After graduation in 1983, he moved to Cambridge for his PhD, working at the MRC's renowned Laboratory of Molecular Biology where he first developed his life-long interest in understanding the control of gene expression. After completing his PhD in 1987, he was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the European Molecular Biology Organisation to support a postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Harold Varmus at the University of California at San Francisco, where he first became interested in understanding embryonic development. He returned to the University of Edinburgh in 1991, initially at the Centre for Genome Research in the College of Science and Engineering and then to a lectureship in Physiology in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine in 1996, rising to the award of a personal chair in Molecular Neural Development in 2020.

John's research on the molecular mechanisms that control embryonic development of the brain has been continuously funded for over 30 years including substantial grants from the BBSRC, MRC, Wellcome Trust, Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain and others, totalling in excess of £10m. Using genetically modified animal and human stem cell based models, his research has made a major contribution to our understanding of how the brain develops during embryogenesis and how mutations in specific genes involved in controlling brain development can lead to neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism. He has shared resources generated in his lab including novel transgenic strains with many research teams around the world. His work has led to the publication of more than 70 primary research papers and several well-cited review articles. He has given invited talks on his research in the UK, Europe, USA and Asia and has served as a member of multiple grant panels in the UK, USA and Netherlands. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology in 2019.

John has supervised more than 40 PhD students at Edinburgh, a number of whom have gone on to develop their own successful research careers in academia or commercial environments internationally, a particularly rewarding aspect of his experience. He has been appointed as external examiner for degree programmes at King's College London and the University of Strathclyde and has examined 24 PhD theses at other Universities in the UK, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore.

John has taken a leading role in the teaching of genetics and molecular and cell biology topics within Biomedical Sciences for almost 30 years, including the creation of a successful new honours programme in Anatomy and Development. To accompany one of his undergraduate courses, he co-authored an award winning textbook on developmental neuroscience, which ran to two English language editions (2011 and 2017) and a simplified Chinese translation (2020). He has contributed to enhancing the educational experience at the University by chairing internal programme reviews in several disciplines.

In his retirement, John plans to maintain an active role in research, through continued involvement with collaborative projects in Edinburgh and elsewhere. He plans to spend his spare time visiting places not yet seen.

Special Minute
Dies Meijer PhD
Emeritus Professor of Cellular Neurobiology

Since 2013, Dies Meijer has held the Chair of Cellular Neurobiology at the University of Edinburgh. He began his scientific career in Developmental Neurobiology as a staff scientist in the department of Genetics, Erasmus University Rotterdam where he initiated molecular and cellular studies on glial cell development and myelination in the peripheral nervous system. He demonstrated that myelin formation by Schwann cells is governed by a complex transcriptional hierarchy that involves the POU domain transcription factors Pou3f1 and Pou3f2. A central question in the field has been, 'how do cell-cell interactions drive these genetic hierarchies that effect cell differentiation'? In pursuit of this question, his lab identified a novel signalling molecule, LGI4, that is produced by Schwann cells and, through binding of an axonal receptor (ADAM22), allows myelination to proceed. This novel signalling molecule is a member of a small family of proteins that are involved in different aspects of nervous system development and function. The Meijer lab developed tissue specific gene knock out tools and generated conditional gene knock out alleles for these genes in mouse models to advance our knowledge on their role in development, nervous system function and disease. With his arrival in Edinburgh, his work focused on structure-function relationships of the LGI4 molecule and the role of LGI3 and LGI2 in voltage-gated potassium channel biology. Through the work of his many trainees, he unveiled an LGI-ADAM code that determines the position and density of these channels in neurons. These pivotal findings provide insight in how neuronal excitability is regulated and how dysregulation leads to neurological diseases such as epilepsy and myokymia.

Amongst his funding for this research were prestigious awards such as the Netherlands Scientific Organization (NWO) VICI award, Dutch Cancer Research Fund, NWO program and project grants, Muscular Dystrophy Association and ELA Foundation de Recherche. His lab participated in the national consortium on Stem Cells in Development and Disease (SCDD) and its follow up, the Netherlands Institute for Regenerative Medicine (NIRM). He was a coordinator and participant in the European Community Network on peripheral nerve development and differentiation (NGIDD FP7). In the UK his work was funded through the Welcome Trust and BBSRC.

In addition to his scientific research, Dies Meijer has been actively involved in teaching at both the undergraduate as well as the postgraduate level. For five years he has been course director for the undergraduate Neuroscience course and for ten years director of the Honours elective course on Developmental and Clinical Neuroscience. He served on several exam boards during his career. He supervised many MSc and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, who all pursued careers in academia or industry.

Despite his retirement, Dies Meijer will continue to contribute as a mentor to the young faculty within the research community of the University of Edinburgh while he takes on new life challenges.

Special Minute
Professor Stewart Mercer MBChB, BSC (Hons), MSc, PhD, MRCGP, FRCGP, FFPHM, FRCPE, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Primary Care and Multimorbidity

Stewart Mercer joined the Usher Institute at University of Edinburgh (UoE) in January 2019 as Professor of Primary Care and Multimorbidity, moving from the University of Glasgow where he had been Professor of Primary Care Research since 2008. He is an Honorary Professorship in Primary Care Research at Manchester University, and Adjunct Professor of Primary Care at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was Professor of Primary Care research from 2007-2008. Stewart became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2023 by nomination.

After a BSc Honours degree (2.1) and a MSc (top student award) at Aberdeen University, he conducted basic research into obesity and insulin sensitivity at the Universities of Cambridge (PhD; Dunn Nutrition Laboratory and Darwin College) and Oxford (post-doctoral fellowship; Metabolic Research Laboratory) before reading medicine as a mature student at the University of Bristol. He trained as a general practitioner, subsequently gaining a series of academic fellowships from the Chief Scientist Office which allowed him to combine academic work with clinical work (which he continued until earlier this year).

Stewart was Director of the Scottish School of Primary Care (from 2014-2020), a Scottish Government-funded collaboration between nine Scottish Universities. Soon after joining the University, he was appointed Research Director of the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health and subsequently Acting Director of the CHIH (2020-2024). He played a foundational role in the £20 million grant from Legal and General to establish the Advanced Care Research Centre, and was Deputy Director of the ACRC PhD Academy (2020-2022), Academic Lead for the New Models of Care Work-package (2020-2025), and Deputy Director of the ACRC (2022 - 2025). He was also Co-Convener of Athena Swan for the Deanery of Molecular, Genetic, and Population Health Sciences from 2019-2023 and sat on the EDI Committee of the Usher Institute during the same time period. In 2025, he become a Co-Director of the Global Compassion and Empathy Initiative at the University.

Stewart's research focuses on the needs of patients with multiple long-term conditions (multimorbidity). He has extensively researched health inequalities and primary care ('the inverse care law'), and co-established the Scottish Deep End Project in 2009, a ground-up advocacy group led by GPs working in the most deprived areas of Scotland. He is internationally recognised for his work both in multimorbidity, and in empathic, patient-centred care. He helped establish a Global Empathy in Healthcare Network in 2023, which now has representatives from 10 countries including LMICs. He received a Life-Time Achievement Award by the Stoneygate Centre for Empathy in Healthcare at the University of Leicester in April 2024 for his research on empathy, which includes the development of the Consultation and Relational Empathy (CARE) Measure, which is now used in over 40 countries around the world. The CARE Measure is accredited for appraisal and revalidation for doctors in the UK, and is a compulsory component of workplace-based assessment of all GPs in training in the UK. It is also recommended for use by all healthcare professionals in the Scottish Governments Quality Framework.

Stewart has produced over 400 papers in his career, with an H-Index on Google Scholar of 90 (69 since 2020) and an i-10 index of 296. He has a total grant income (as PI or Co-I) of over £44 million. Since moving to UoE 6 years ago, he has produced 172 papers (153 published, 4 accepted, and 15 submitted). Stewart also teaches medical students at the University, and supervises and mentors numerous BSc, MSc, and PhD students and post-doctoral researchers.

Stewart plans to remain active in academia, and will be continuing some of his supervisory activities with PhD students and mentoring activities with middle-grade researchers. He will remain a co-director of the Global Compassion and Empathy Initiative between the University and Stanford University. He also plans to remain actively involved with the RSE as a Fellow.

Special Minute
Professor Simon Parsons, BSc, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Crystallography

Simon Parsons obtained a BSc in Chemistry from Durham University (1987) and a PhD from The University of New Brunswick (1992) as a Commonwealth Scholar in the field of inorganic synthesis under the supervision of Professor Jack Passmore. After two years at The University of Oxford as a SERC Personal Post-doctoral Fellow he moved to Edinburgh in 1993. After a period of three years (1995-1998) as manager of the Crystallography Facility in the School of Chemistry, he was appointed to a Lectureship in 1998, a Readership in 2004 and to a (personal) Chair of Crystallography in 2007. He will retire in January 2026.

Simon has led an internationally leading research group in the field of Chemical Crystallography. He is author or co-author of 596 papers in peer-reviewed journals and co-author of a popular textbook (*Crystal Structure Analysis: Principles and Practice*, OUP, 2009). He is the tenth most highly cited scientist in terms of H-index (91) and sixth in terms of i10 index (492) at the University of Edinburgh. He is in the top 30 (#26) of contributors to the Cambridge Structural Database. He was awarded the Lonsdale Medal of the British Crystallographic Association in 2015.

Simon was a pioneer in the study of the effects of high pressure on molecular solids, demonstrating its use in characterising energy landscapes and polymorphism in organic materials, and showing how the distorted structures obtained under extreme conditions reveal structure-property relationships in functional materials. This work also led to methodological break throughs, particularly in the use of area detectors in X-ray diffraction at high pressure and the analysis of high-pressure datasets. His computational work on twinning led to important early advances in the routine treatment of what had been widely regarded as an exceptionally difficult crystallographic problem. Simon's most highly cited work (>1600 citations) is in the field of absolute structure determination, which has enabled precise information on the handedness of chiral organic compounds to be obtained using X-ray diffraction.

Simon has been a highly valued colleague, showing excellent leadership as Convenor of the final years teaching committee, Head of Graduate School, Head of Inorganic Chemistry, and Chair of the Board of Examiners in the School of Chemistry, as well as acting as Chair of the College Library Committee and Director of the Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions. Beyond Edinburgh, he served as Vice President of the British Crystallographic Association, as a member of the International Union of Crystallography Commissions on Software and Electronic Publishing, and was for ten years Director of the Intensive Teaching School in X-Ray Structure Analysis. He has served as co-editor of *Acta Crystallographica Section B* and as a member of numerous advisory boards, awards committees and review panels.

Following retirement, Simon will continue to help his research students to complete their PhD research projects, the last with an estimated end date of Sept 2029. He is also a co-applicant on a recent Leverhulme grant application with colleagues at Strathclyde University (*Molecular cages as building blocks for responsive copolymers*, RPG-2026-094, requested end date March 2029) which aims to advance recent advances made in his group in *in situ* electron diffraction.

Special Minute
Professor Sheila Riddell BA (hons), PhD
Emeritus Professor of Education, Inclusion and Diversity

Sheila Riddell obtained an honours degree in English Literature from the University of Sussex (1975), and then qualified as an English teacher, working at Blandford Upper School in Dorset for seven years (1975 – 1983). In 1987, she completed a PhD at the University of Bristol in the field of gender and education. Her PhD thesis formed the basis of her first book, Gender and the Politics of the Curriculum, published by RoutledgeFalmer in 1992 and reprinted as a Second Edition in 2012. Following her PhD, Sheila worked as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh (1988 – 1989) on a Scottish Government project investigating the impact of new Scottish legislation (the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended) on the educational experiences of children with additional support needs. Much of her future work has focussed on the experiences of children, young people and adults with disabilities and other special needs.

After completing this project at Edinburgh University, Sheila was appointed in 1989 to the University of Stirling as a lecturer, and was subsequently appointed to a Personal Chair in 1995. In 1997, she moved to a Chair at the University of Glasgow, where she set up the Centre for Disability Research (CDR). CDR still continues to undertake important work on the position of disabled people in Scotland and further afield, working in close conjunction with disabled people's groups to identify priorities. In CDR, research projects were funded by many different bodies including the Greater Glasgow Health Board and the Scottish Executive Chief Scientist's Office. Voluntary organisations, such as Direct Payments Scotland, also contributed to the formulation of research questions and the conduct of research. During her time at the University of Glasgow, Sheila and colleagues won a number of ESRC awards (for example, The Meaning of the Learning Society for People with Learning Difficulties (1996–1998), the latter forming part of the ESRC's Learning Society programme.

In 2001, Sheila was appointed to a Chair at the Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, where she set up the Centre for Research in Education, Inclusion and Diversity (CREID) in 2003. Sheila was Director of CREID from 2003 until 2020, where she continued to win grants and build a research community. Over the course of her academic career, Sheila has been awarded about 80 research grants totalling c.£3 million. Examples of ESRC research grants held at Edinburgh University include the following: Autonomy, Rights and Children with Special Educational Needs: A New Paradigm (2017-2019) and Disabled People and Direct Payments (2004-2006). She has been involved in a number of major ESRC research programmes including The Future of the UK and Scotland Research Programme and The Learning and Teaching Programme. She has also collaborated with European colleagues on a number of cross-national studies (e.g. Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive and Vibrant Europe (2016-2019), and Religious Education in a Multi-Cultural Society (2008 - 2009).

Sheila has held international fellowships at a number of overseas universities such the University of Burgos and the University of Sydney. In 2014, she was awarded the Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professorship by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, receiving an honorary doctorate from this university in the same year.

In Scotland and the wider UK, Sheila has contributed directly to policy making, chairing or participating in a number of committees. For example, from 2014-2016 she was a member of the Diamond Committee reviewing student finance in Wales and from 2009- 2010, she was

a Member of National Equality Panel, chaired by Professor John Hills, London School of Economics. From 2007- 2009, she was a member of the Disability Rights Commission's Expert Panel on Fitness to Practise Standards in Teaching, Social Work and Nursing. Earlier, she was also commissioned by the Disability Rights Commission to work as drafter of statutory codes (Schools & Post-16) for SEN & Disability Act 2001 (Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act). Between 1995-97, Sheila chaired the Scottish Executive's Advisory Committee on the Education of Children with Severe Low Incidence Disabilities (The Riddell Report, published in1997). In recognition of her contribution to research and policy making over many years, in 2013 Sheila was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Sheila is the author or joint author of 20 books and 80 journal articles. Her latest book with Professor Lyn Tett, Dr Hazel Christie and Rachel King, Living and Studying at Home: Degrees of Inequality (published by Ashgate in 2025) investigates the experiences of commuter students in an elite university. The work for this book was supported by a grant from Edinburgh University

Following her retirement, Sheila intends to maintain close contact with researchers in Edinburgh University as well as in universities in Sweden and Spain. As earlier, she will maintain links with researchers at earlier stages in their academic careers and continue to be involved in research and publication. For example, a number of papers are planned in relation to the commuter students work, referred to above.

Special Minute
Professor Perdita Emma Stevens, MA, MSc, PhD
Emerita Professor of Mathematics of Software Engineering

Professor Perdita Stevens is an outstanding candidate for the title of Emerita Professor, with a record of intellectual leadership, field-defining research and sustained service to the School, the University and the international software engineering community. The conferment of this title would appropriately recognise both the depth and the breadth of her contributions, and the value of her continuing association with the University.

Professor Stevens joined the University in 1994 as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant and, since 2014, has held a Personal Chair in Mathematics of Software Engineering within the School of Informatics. Since 2024, she has also served as a member of Senate.

She trained initially as a pure mathematician, first at King's College Cambridge and then at the University of Warwick, before working as a software developer for BT in Glasgow. This practical experience of software development has informed her subsequent academic career, which has focused on software design and, in particular, on the use of models to help humans understand and manage complex software systems.

Together with Dr Rob Pooley, she co-authored *Using UML*, the first textbook on the Unified Modeling Language; much of her early research contributed to clarifying its semantics. More recently, her CUP book *How to Write Good Programs* similarly aims to present essential ideas concisely and accessibly. After retirement, she intends to complete another short book, introducing key ideas of modern software development to a general readership.

Furthermore, Perdita was instrumental in founding the field of bidirectional transformations within model-driven development, applying ideas originating in database theory and developed in programming language theory to the problem of maintaining sufficient consistency across the many decisions taken during the development of large software systems, without impeding the work of individual teams.

Within Informatics, Perdita has played a pivotal role in advancing the School's academic and strategic priorities through a series of significant leadership appointments, including Director of Computing, Director of Academic Staff Development, and, most recently, Director of Research. In the wider community, she has chaired programme committees for leading conferences such as UML, Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems and Fundamental Aspects of Software Engineering; she has chaired the steering committees of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software and of Bx, the Bidirectional Transformations community and event series; and she has served on the editorial boards of journals including *Theoretical Computer Science*, *Software and System Modelling* and *Science of Computer Programming*.

Teaching has always been central to Perdita's work. She has developed and taught several software engineering courses, favouring a flipped-classroom approach to foster students' critical thinking and to prepare them for a field characterised by rapid and continual change.

In retirement, Perdita plans to continue to converse with Informatics colleagues and to enjoy having time to learn and think about informatics topics away from her current central interests. She also looks forward to learning beyond informatics, particularly in biochemistry, where her son Robin works.

H/02/02/02
e-S: January - February 2026

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Electronic Senate

28 January – 11 February 2026

Chair Resolutions

Description of paper

1. This paper is presented to Senate for consultation in accordance with the procedures for the creation of Resolutions as set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

Action requested / Recommendation

2. Senate is invited to make observations on the following attached draft Resolutions:
   No.1/2026: Foundation of a Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems
   No.2/2026: Alteration of the title of the Mary Dick Chair of Molecular Veterinary Medicine

Background and context

3. Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled the University Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions and stipulates that Senatus Academicus, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest require to be consulted on draft Resolutions throughout the period of one month, with the months of August and September not taken into account when calculating the consultation period.

Discussion

4. There is funding in place for the establishment of a Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems. The alteration of the title of Mary Dick Chair is backdated as the current incumbent was appointed to the new title and this is a clerical catch up.

Resource implications

5. Funding for the Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems will be met by the Huawei Strategic Talent Fund for three years, after which it will be met from the School's core budget. This fund has been used previously for academic appointments. The industry funding is for 0.3 FTE, and it is proposed to initially appoint at this level, with a contract review once this funding ends. This recruitment has been approved by the Head of the College of Science and Engineering.

Risk Management

6. There are reputational considerations in establishing Chairs which are considered as part of the University's approval processes

Responding to the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development Goals

7. N/A

Equality and Diversity

8. Equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to chairs.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

9. Final Resolutions will be submitted to the Court meeting on 20 April 2026.

Consultation

10. The statutory process for the creation and renaming of Chairs requires consultation with Senate and the General Council prior to approval by the University Court.

Further information

Author(s)
Governance & Court Services
January 2026

Presenter(s) (if required)
N/A

Freedom of information
Open paper

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 1/2026

Foundation of a Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems

At Edinburgh, the Twentieth third day of April, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems.

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Chair of Large-Scale Database Systems in the University of Edinburgh.

2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.

3. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 February Two thousand and twenty six.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 2/2026

Alteration of the title of the Mary Dick Chair of Molecular Veterinary Medicine

At Edinburgh, the Twentieth day of April, Two thousand and twenty six.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Mary Dick Chair of Molecular Veterinary Medicine;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, provides that the University Court may, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and with the consent of the incumbent and patrons, if any, alter the title of existing professorships;

AND WHEREAS the Chair dealt with in this Resolution is in the patronage of the University Court itself:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. The Mary Dick Chair of Molecular Veterinary Medicine shall hereafter be designated the Mary Dick Chair of Physiology.

2. This Resolution shall come into with effect from 1 October 2020.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary