

Natural Sciences Stream

Including all disciplines that are part of MPLS (Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division at the University of Oxford) as well as the Medical Sciences.

Fri 19 Mar (half-day from 3 pm) and Sat 20 March (9 am to 12:30 pm) 2021

Online via Zoom

Senior convener: [Ard Louis](#) (Theoretical Physics)

Student co-conveners: Iona Lim-Manley (Biochemistry); Joy Choi (Biochemistry)

How can postgraduates, postdocs, and academics at the University of Oxford approach the natural and medical sciences as Christians? What does it mean to respond to a Christian vocation and to honour God in university life?

The Natural Sciences Stream includes talks on science and Christian faith including a panel of Christian academics on Friday afternoon. On Saturday the focus will be on the Medical Sciences.

The Natural Sciences Stream includes all MPLS disciplines as well as the Medical Sciences. It is one of five disciplinary streams that make up Seeking Wisdom, the spring conference of Developing a Christian Mind.

Past attendees are encouraged to come, listen to new talks, and take part in discussion with new attendees.

Friday 19th March

3 pm Welcome & Introduction

3:15 pm Science and the truthfulness of beauty: how the personal perspective discovers creation - Robert Gilbert (Nuffield, Biophysics)

4:15 pm Stretch Break

4:25 pm Panel of Christian scientists with Wilfrid Petnga, Robert Gilbert, Ard Louis

The following events are joint with all streams

7:30 pm All-Conference Celebratory Dinner - Enjoy a joint Zoom celebration dinner with postgraduates, lecturers, and faculty from all discipline streams. Featuring your choice of takeaway meal*, an interview with special guest speaker Alister McGrath, lively discussion groups, and an optional time of mixing and mingling with new and old friends via

Gather.Town. This event is designed to inspire attendees and give a sense of the larger Christian community at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes.

Saturday 20th March

9:00 am **Welcome & Introduction**

9:15 am **Diagnosis of our cultural environment** - John Gallacher (Cognitive Health; Director, Dementias Platform UK)

9:45 am **Large Group discussion and reflection*** - Chaired by Kezia Gaitskell (Histopathology) with Tim Maughan (Clinical Oncology) and Joshua Hordern (Christian Ethics)

10:30 Stretch Break

11:00 am **Small Group Discussion** - discuss responses to the questions posed at registration

11:45 am **Theological Reflections** - Chaired by Joshua Hordern (Christian Ethics, Harris Manchester College) and Tim Maughan (Clinical Oncology)

12:30 pm **Closing**

*Survey Questions:

What five key words would you use to describe the research/lab culture in which you work?	What would you diagnose as the major cultural problems in your research environment?	What would you diagnose as the major cultural strengths of your research environment?	What difference has the pandemic made to the research culture in which you work?	What are you most worried about for the future?
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