## LINDEMANN TRUST

# **ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2024

Welcome to this issue of our Alumni newsletter. We hope that you enjoy these updates about the Trust's activities over the past few months. Firstly, we are delighted to report that the Trust has received its first sponsorship for a schools' outreach event. Following the continued success of our Science Days for Year 6 state Primary schoolchildren a generous donation was made to enable a further such day later this year. We are now seeking further support of £2,500 for each event which ensures the attendance of Year 6 pupils from up to six schools from disadvantaged areas. The response of the pupils and their teachers has been very rewarding – and our speakers and presenters also find the occasion stimulating and enjoyable. It's amazing how engaged the children are and the excitement and quality of the question sessions is a perfect demonstration of this. If any of you would like to come and observe then please do contact us and we can give you dates and places for the upcoming Lindemann School Science Days (our next is in Wimbledon on 5th June - details below).

Meanwhile we have more cautious news about the Lindemann Postdoctoral Fellowships going forward. The combination of our decision to offer two-year instead of one-year Fellowships and future adjustments to the stipend is putting a strain on resources. There is no doubt that it was right to move to two-year Fellowships but budget planning for the future will be impacted and we are actively working to ensure the best possible strategy going forward, especially given the quality and competitiveness of our annual applications. Once again, this year, the Fellowship Committee had an almost impossible job in deciding whom to appoint from a stunning shortlist of candidates – a very full shortlist notable also for its equal number of women and men, and you can read details of our current and outgoing Fellows below.

## Inaugural Lecture from Themis Prodromakis

In March, James was pleased to travel to Edinburgh, on behalf of the Lindemann Trust, to attend the inaugural lecture of Lindemann Alumnus, Themis Prodromakis. Themis is the 10th Regius Chair of Engineering at Edinburgh, which is the oldest such chair of Engineering in the UK and is renowned for its history of visionary engineers. Themis discussed groundbreaking technologies and shared his vision of the future of AI, presenting some of his team's efforts over the past 20 years in: emerging semiconductor devices, low-power AI chips and bio-interfacing systems.

## Fellows' updates

We're delighted to have selected John
Cattermull as our outgoing Fellow for the

coming year. John is coming to the end of his PhD at St Catherine's College, Oxford, in Materials Chemistry and will be heading out to Stanford in the coming months. His research aims to develop a new class of cathodes for Lithium-ion batteries, using novel synthetic methods and expertise in detailed structural characterisation to design fluoride-based materials.

Meanwhile, Martha Gibson, who you may remember was featured in our previous newsletter, has now completed her Fellowship and returned to the UK to take up a position at PetroStrat Ltd in Conwy, Wales, as a Palynologist Staff Stratigrapher. She tells us "PetroStrat reached out to offer me this position after seeing me present at the AASP-The Palynological Society meeting at the University of Kentucky in June 2023. My Lindemann Trust Fellowship at West Virginia University, and the opportunities being based in the USA has afforded me, have been essential in helping me seek employment."

## Outreach in Cambridge

In March, we were delighted to host six Primary Schools at Magdalene College for an Introduction to Science Day. 240 Year 6 pupils from Winhills Primary St Neots, Trumpington Meadows Primary, Fawcett Primary, St Luke's C of E Primary, Braybrook Primary Academy Peterborough, and Milton Road Primary joined us for a series of bite-size science talks, aimed at encouraging discussion and inspiring an interest in the relevance that science plays in our everyday lives. Dr Nelson Lam, Lindemann alumnus and Junior Research Fellow at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, presented 'Chemistry in Colour': using water boiled from a red cabbage to test whether everyday household products are an acid or a base. Astronomer, Julia Sisk-Reynes, from the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, mesmerised the children with a talk on black holes. And Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene College, Dr Maria-Romina Ivan, showed how maths can be used to win games.





#### **Upcoming Events**

- Introduction to Science event for Year 6, Wednesday 5th June, London. If you would be interested in presenting, please let us know.
- Alumni Lunch: Saturday 7th September, Christ Church College, Oxford.
   Speaker: Dr Tim Craggs, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield; Founder and CEO at Exciting Instruments Ltd; and Lindemann Alumnus, 2010.