

CHANCELLOR'S COURT OF BENEFACTORS

# *Court Matters*

2020–21



# CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD



Despite the global emergency, Oxford has remained steadfast in its mission of advancing knowledge for the greater common good and helping build a better world.

— The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH  
Chancellor, University of Oxford

Like the rest of the world, Oxford has passed through a year of tremendous upheaval. And as it has done throughout many centuries, the University has put itself to the service of others, to the betterment of a world that has been so hard hit by the pandemic. Colleagues have made enormous efforts to adapt to new ways of working, supporting one another and ensuring that, wherever they are in the world, our students continue to receive excellent teaching. The pandemic has shown the very best the University can do.

Oxford's contribution to the fight against COVID-19 has world-changing potential. Our distinctive research methods have led to the development of a vaccine that can be provided at minimal cost and stored at normal fridge temperatures. It is certain to be a mainstay of the global recovery, especially in less wealthy nations. It is a remarkable achievement, produced in record-breaking time.

This success is thanks to national and global efforts from members of the public, international partnerships, governments and to the commitment and generosity of visionary supporters such as those represented in the Chancellor's Court. So many people have made possible Oxford's vigorous response to the coronavirus and also helped to continue the rest of the University's vital research and teaching under new and challenging circumstances.

Despite the global emergency, Oxford has remained steadfast in its mission of advancing knowledge for the greater common good and helping build a better world. For example, our benefactors are supporting the University's new Academic Futures programme, a series of scholarship initiatives to improve equality, diversity and inclusion in our graduate student body. The Black Academic Futures programme, which will provide up to 10 new scholarships to Black UK research students, is one of the linchpins of this continuing effort.

The last year has also seen the endowment of a new Oxford college, the first in 30 years, thanks to a transformational gift from the Reuben Foundation. Reuben College will serve as a new base for interdisciplinary research into key issues of our time, such as artificial intelligence, environmental change and cellular life. Furthermore, 2021 began with the announcement of an extraordinary gift from Ineos. The new Ineos Oxford Institute for Antimicrobial Research will tackle arguably the greatest post-COVID economic and healthcare challenge we face – bacterial resistance, caused by overuse and misuse of antibiotics – carrying on the great legacy of those who discovered and developed penicillin in the last century at Oxford.

You have honoured us with your friendship and wise counsel. I look forward to continuing our partnership as, together, we help move the world toward days of brighter hopes and opportunities for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH.

The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH  
Chancellor, University of Oxford

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# Celebrating Court members’ IMPACT

World-leading, innovative research and teaching  
made possible by philanthropic support

## DISCOVERING THE UNKNOWN

For millennia humans have sought to unravel the mysteries of the universe, yet still only around 4% of what makes up the universe is known to modern physics. The Oxford University Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys (OHCAS), supported by Sir Michael and Lady Hintze, is at the forefront of efforts to change this. The centre tackles some of the biggest questions of modern astrophysics, such as: What is the universe made of? What is the origin of galaxies? How do galaxies evolve?

The centre seeks to address these questions by taking part in major international surveys such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the Vera Rubin Observatory and the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT). A thriving team of Hintze Postdoctoral Fellows and Hintze Graduate Scholars, led by Professor Roger Davies, works across three strands of activity: galaxy evolution, the dark universe and the transient universe.

The galaxies group has measured the masses of the black holes that nestle in the cores of galaxies. The dark universe researchers have examined the impact of black hole ejecta from active galaxies on their evolution and on the large-scale distribution of galaxies. The transients team has made spectacular radio observations of high-energy plasma being ejected from a black hole.

### A new view of the Milky Way’s centre

Hintze Fellow Dr Ian Heywood received global attention when, in collaboration with staff at the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory, he made this striking image of the centre of the Milky Way galaxy, using the Observatory’s MeerKAT telescope. The image includes several supernova remnants, regions of massive star formation, and filamentary structures that are signposts to the shocks and magnetic fields in this active region of the Milky Way.

The image is two degrees across – 800 light years at the centre of the Milky Way – and shows the large and small scale structures that surround the black hole in the centre of the Milky Way. This black hole has a mass four million times that of the sun, a measurement recognised by the award of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez, which was shared with Professor Roger Penrose of the Mathematical Institute for fundamental theoretical work on black holes.

Thanks to the support of Court members Sir Michael and Lady Hintze, images like Dr Heywood’s can inform researchers at OHCAS and around the world about how black holes feed themselves and how they influence their environments.

[www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/research)

# EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

Every day provides a reminder of the power, perils and promise of professional journalism. As the world and the media environment changes at a breakneck pace, the fundamental ambition of journalism – to seek truth and report it – remains as important as ever.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ) explores the future of journalism worldwide and connects the practical challenges faced by reporters, editors and media executives with research by Oxford academics. As people move from offline to online platforms, journalism often struggles to cut through the noise and reach beyond a relatively elite audience to a wider public. The societal implications of this are enormous. At its best, journalism historically has made public debate and politics more informed and inclusive. But progressively, the risk is that it will serve the few, while leaving the many increasingly disengaged and susceptible to misinformation.

Over the last 35 years, the RISJ has hosted more than 600 journalists from almost 100 countries through its fellowship programmes. Every year, its leadership development programmes are attended by dozens of editors and news media executives. The institute analyses some of the big issues facing journalists and news media and their role in our societies. Through these programmes, the RISJ annually helps hundreds of journalists to develop their craft. The institute's alumni go on to mentor their colleagues and often rise to lead their organisations. From Mark Landler's rigorous reporting on Brexit and the COVID-19 crisis as London bureau chief of *The New York Times* to Supriya Sharma's award-winning work as Executive Editor of *Scroll.in India*, they represent much of what is best of journalism.

The RISJ receives core funding from The Thomson Reuters Foundation,

a member of the Court, as well as support from other funders who share the belief that journalism matters, and that it can matter even more if journalists learn from one another and from leading research.

Professor Rasmus Nielsen, Director of the RISJ, says: 'We hope to expand our work to, firstly, reach more journalists and editors from the global south, not only to benefit them but also their peers from more privileged countries. Secondly, we aim to launch a new series of tailored programmes which will connect journalists with Oxford academics researching the big issues of our time, from artificial intelligence to climate change to migration to public health. We look forward to working with like-minded people who believe we need – and can get – better journalism in the future than we had in the past.'

[reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk](https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk)



(Above) US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden leave after the 59th Presidential Inauguration, January 2021

(Left) Journalists are silhouetted as they wait outside of a courtroom

## EXAMINING AMERICA FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

In this turbulent moment for the United States, the Rothermere American Institute (RAI) brings together Oxford's expertise across a range of disciplines to offer calm analysis of how America has reached the place it has, where it might be going and why it matters.

Named after Court member the Rothermere Foundation, the RAI is Oxford's centre for the study of the US and its place in the world. Under the Directorship of Professor Adam Smith, the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History, the RAI has expanded its public programming and attracted global audiences.

The past year has seen the launch of the RAI's podcast, *The Last Best Hope?*, which examines America from the outside in. The title of the podcast is a quote from Abraham Lincoln, who called the United States 'the last best hope of earth', the classic formulation of the powerful and enduring idea that America matters because of what it stands for. It is a reminder of the importance of knowing how the rest of the world has seen America, as well as how America has seen the rest of the world, a task that is easier with the sense of perspective and context that is possible from Oxford.

For Professor Smith, the new podcast is an effective way of making up-to-date scholarly analysis as lively and engaging as possible. He sees the podcast as being similar to a stimulating tutorial, bringing together academics and journalists to discuss topics such as the country's history of protests and insurrection, what can be learned from the aftermath of the Civil War today, and the prospects for Joe Biden's administration.

Since its founding 20 years ago – thanks to the generosity of the Rothermere Foundation and the Rhodes Trust – philanthropy has played an important role for the RAI. Over the years, the RAI's John G Winant Visiting Professorship of American Government has been funded by Court member Joan Winant, her late husband, Rivington Winant, and his late brother, John.

Mrs Winant says of supporting the RAI: 'My husband Rivington and I felt there was a real opportunity to gain fresh insights about the US from an outsider's perspective. Oxford has a long-standing tradition of stellar scholarship, and it's been wonderful to be involved with the RAI.'

[www.rai.ox.ac.uk](https://www.rai.ox.ac.uk)

● Much has been achieved over the last 20 years, and the RAI's role in understanding the US is particularly important now at a time of such uncertainty. ●

— The Rothermere Foundation

# VIRUSES, VACCINES AND VISION

• Determination and perseverance move the world; thinking that other people will do it for you is a sure way to fail. •

— Educator **Marva Collins**: a quote often cited by **Professor Sarah Gilbert**, Saïd Professor of Vaccinology and lead researcher on the vaccine programme

Prior to 2020, it would have been inconceivable that life could change so drastically in just a few short months. Over a year has passed since the new strain of coronavirus and the highly contagious, and sometimes fatal, disease that it causes – COVID-19 – was first discovered.

Oxford's response to the pandemic has already delivered better treatments, more understanding and a range of tools to help to control the spread of the virus. Population-level vaccination programmes of Oxford's vaccine have been underway since January, promising a return to a semblance of normal life.

## Perfectly positioned to respond

COVID-19 is not the first disease to pose a global threat: globalisation and increasing population have amplified risks of rapid transmission of pathogens.

Decades of world-leading research have given Oxford's researchers a keen awareness of the risk posed by 'Disease X'. This awareness has been embedded into high-threat infection research programmes in Oxford and across the world through its partnerships in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The University's team had the foresight, the innovative technology and the experience to understand and respond immediately to the risk that the new coronavirus presented.



(Left) Scientist prepares a 'Flow Cytometer' for use. This machine can be used to study different immune cell populations following vaccination.

(Right) Doctor taking a blood sample prior to vaccination, at one of the portable clinics set up to support the COVID-19 vaccine studies at the University of Oxford.



## A vaccine for the world

Prerequisites for a vaccine capable of controlling a pandemic include the ability to ship, store and produce it at low cost. By January 2020, Oxford's team already knew that the viral vector, ChAdOx1, which had been tested in clinical trials for many diseases, including influenza and tuberculosis, fitted the bill. This vector was used to create Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine, ChAdOx1 n-Cov-19. By April, it was in human trials.

A vaccine is only useful if it is accessible, so working with a production and deployment partner was vital. Oxford found that partner in AstraZeneca, which began manufacturing large amounts of the vaccine 'at risk' – before the vaccine was proven to be effective – to compress the timeline. The partnership agreement includes guarantees that distribution would be equitable and affordable, and that neither Oxford nor AstraZeneca would make a profit from the vaccine during the pandemic.

In addition to its vaccine, Oxford also produced the first evidence of an effective treatment through its ongoing drug trial, RECOVERY. In June 2020, the low-cost drug dexamethasone was found to reduce death by up to one third in hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19.

• COVID-19 will not be the last disease to challenge our way of life. The next Disease X is coming, it is imperative that we are ready for it. •

— **Sir John Bell**  
Regius Professor of Medicine and member of the UK government's coronavirus vaccine task force

## Funding the science

COVID-19 moved fast and so did Oxford's scientists. Creating and testing a vaccine is expensive, as is running large-scale drug trials, but thanks to the pivotal support of generous donors, the team was able to deliver results without delay.

The University is indebted to all 2,000 individuals, trusts and companies who gave their support. Particular thanks go to CCB Fellows Stephen and Caroline Butt, who donated a considerable sum early in the pandemic to Oxford's Coronavirus Research Fund, and to the Saïd family for endowing the post of Saïd Professorship of Vaccinology, held by Professor Sarah Gilbert.

## Pandemic preparedness

Throughout the pandemic, the University has proven its exceptional scientific capacity to make life-saving discoveries. Oxford is an innovator, and the team has already

started to assess the future and the need for a sustainable infrastructure to enable humanity to respond to the next global pandemic.

Oxford's vision is to develop a 'Centre for Emerging Infections and Pandemic Preparedness' to accelerate and expand its capacity to develop vaccines, therapies and technologies for existing and emerging diseases. This initiative will integrate disciplines from across the University, encompassing international partnerships, buildings, research programmes and scholarships to produce a globally focused pandemic response platform.

2020 is a catalyst for change, and by investing in innovative and sound science we can ensure resilience, economic stability and global health security now and for future generations. Together, we have a unique opportunity to shape the future of our global society.

*Written February 2021*

# Investing in the FUTURE

Oxford's strategic priorities aim to improve society through ambitious and ground-breaking research and initiatives, and philanthropic support plays a vital role in their success.

## ETHICS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A NECESSITY, NOT A LUXURY

Science can tell us the consequences of our actions but it does not tell us which goals we should pursue or what sacrifices are justified to achieve them.

— Professor John Tasioulas  
Director of the Institute for Ethics in AI

More examples of the ethical challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) arise every day; from face recognition to voter profiling, brain machine interfaces to weaponised drones, and the ongoing discussion about how AI will impact employment on a global scale.

AI has transformative potential for many parts of life, but it also raises deep ethical questions that inevitably have to be confronted, on an individual and a societal level.

Oxford's Institute for Ethics in AI was established in June 2019 with the announcement of Stephen A. Schwarzman's gift to create a new centre for the humanities, which will provide a home for the institute. Almost overnight, the institute became a leading research hub in this important emerging field.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has shown that it is no longer enough just to follow the science. Value judgements often have to be made; for example, striking a compromise between prosperity and health. The institute is a radical attempt to bridge the divide between science and humanities, a challenge Oxford is uniquely placed to take on. The University has the largest philosophy department in the English-speaking world, and the study of philosophy at undergraduate level is also pursued in tandem with other subjects, in degrees such as PPE, computer science and mathematics.

Professor John Tasioulas, Director of the institute, says:

'AI is here to stay, so we must raise the level of debate around AI ethics and feed into the wider democratic process among citizens and legislators... AI ethics is a way to become clearer about the value judgements involved and to encourage a more rigorous and inclusive debate. AI ethics is not an optional extra or a luxury, it is absolutely necessary if AI is to advance human flourishing.'

Professor Tasioulas's vision is to bring the highest standards of academic rigour to the discussion of AI ethics, while also channelling this intellectual discussion into a democratic and collaborative space that all can participate in.

Promoting AI ethics globally as a field comparable to medical ethics is a critical part of the institute's ambition. There are numerous opportunities for philanthropists who wish to be involved in enhancing this exciting and emerging field at the Institute for Ethics in AI.

[www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/ethicsinai](http://www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/ethicsinai)



“I am enormously proud to be collaborating with the History of Science Museum, which is so uniquely placed to share the stories of Oxford science and to shine greater light on our endeavours to make the world a better place.”

— Professor Andrew Pollard FMedSci  
Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group  
and Chief Investigator of the Oxford  
COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials

## TELLING THE STORIES OF OXFORD SCIENCE

Never before has the impact and potential of science been so relevant, nor has the University’s research been so closely followed. Over the past 12 months, academics from across the University have been engaged in an urgent response to the coronavirus pandemic. The world has looked to Oxford for treatments and a vaccine to protect communities globally.

### History in the making

For almost a century, the History of Science Museum (HSM) has been collecting and sharing the stories of Oxford’s ground-breaking scientific discoveries. Exhibitions such as *Back from the Dead: Demystifying Antibiotics* (November 2016–May 2017), which told the stories of the Oxford researchers responsible for penicillin’s transformation from early promise to success, help to bring scientific achievements and the stories of researchers to the public. The global pandemic is history in the making and the HSM is playing a critical role in capturing and preserving it.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Dr Silke Ackermann, the Director of the Museum, in partnership with the Bodleian Libraries, has been collaborating with colleagues across the University on a rapid-response project, *Collecting COVID*. This project aims to preserve the material

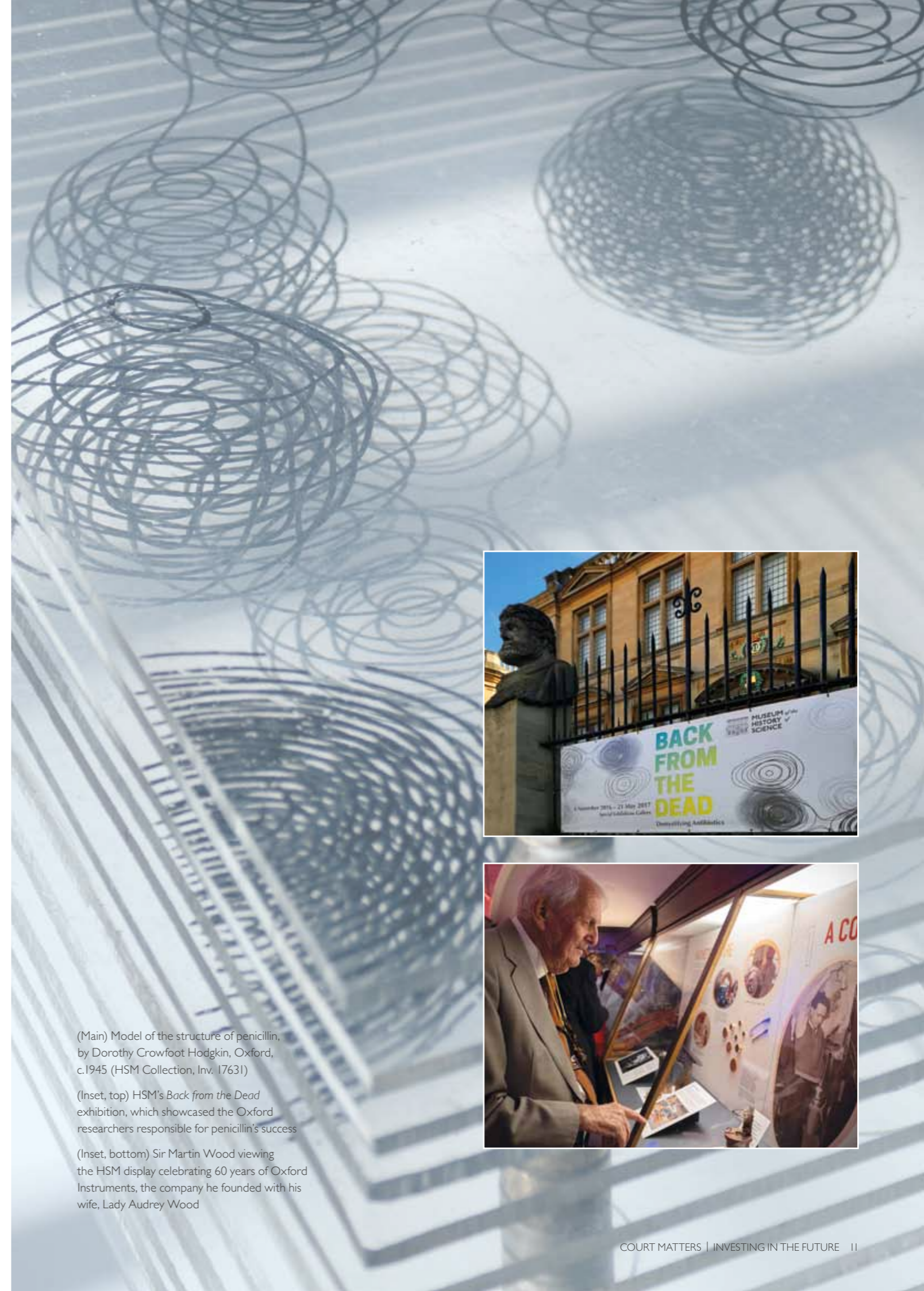
heritage and personal stories of Oxford’s COVID-19 response, from test kits to prototype ventilators and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine-related items.

### Looking to the future

Ahead of its centenary in 2024, the HSM is embarking on an ambitious strategy to redisplay and reinterpret its world-class collection, providing a platform for engagement with science in Oxford. The museum is creating the dedicated role of Curator of Modern Science to help achieve these ambitions and to lead a strategy for its contemporary collections. The Curator of Modern Science will work closely with colleagues across the wider University to gather the stories and objects which represent the research and achievements of its scholars. Not just the best-known discoveries, but also hidden gems from an array of material and stories across departments. Exhibitions at the museum, in situ in the departments where the research took place, and online will ensure that these stories are accessible to all.

The coronavirus pandemic has brought sharply into focus the relevance of science to society. The HSM illustrates the impact of contemporary science on everyday lives and Oxford’s contribution to the world.

[www.hsm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk)



(Main) Model of the structure of penicillin, by Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, Oxford, c.1945 (HSM Collection, Inv. 17631)

(Inset, top) HSM’s *Back from the Dead* exhibition, which showcased the Oxford researchers responsible for penicillin’s success

(Inset, bottom) Sir Martin Wood viewing the HSM display celebrating 60 years of Oxford Instruments, the company he founded with his wife, Lady Audrey Wood

# ABOUT THE COURT

While we were sorry not to be able to physically welcome our Chancellor's Court members to Oxford this year, we were delighted to be able to deliver instead an online series of engaging and stimulating talks. We remain enormously grateful to our supporters in helping to ensure the University remains at the forefront of teaching and research in these challenging times.

— The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH  
Chancellor, University of Oxford

The Chancellor's Court of Benefactors recognises and celebrates the most outstanding friends and supporters of the University and colleges. Membership of the Court is conferred by the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, and gives members an exceptional relationship with the University.

## Enhance your experience

Court members' participation in life at the University is warmly welcomed, and members are encouraged to be as in touch and as involved as they wish to be. Membership of the Court should enhance your experience of Oxford, bringing you closer to the research, academics and students.

Andrea Roger and Miranda Chalk, Senior Donor Relations Executives in the University's Development Office, act as the liaison point for Court members. Andrea and Miranda can help by answering questions, making introductions or organising visits. They also welcome suggestions from members.



## CONTACT FOR COURT MEMBERS

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## Keep connected

Regular communications ensure that Court members are at the forefront of the University's latest developments and research. Throughout 2020 and 2021 the latest news about Oxford's research into COVID-19, and invitations to exclusive online events, have been shared with Court members. Additionally, the regular e-newsletter *Oxford Perspectives* shines a spotlight onto some of Oxford's world-leading research and shares important news from across the University.

If you are currently not receiving these email communications but would like to, or if you have ideas for content you would like to see in the future, please contact Andrea and Miranda.

## Engaging events for members

It is always enjoyable meeting members of the Court at special events – whether in the UK or in countries around the world. Adapting to the challenges of the pandemic meant bringing members together online in 2020, with the Chancellor's Court Annual Meeting being held virtually in October for the first time.

Although disappointing not to see treasured friends in person, it was wonderful that so many members from around the world could join and participate: one of the benefits of offering an online programme which will continue beyond the pandemic.

We hope that you will be able to attend future gatherings of the Court in the coming year, either online or in person.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Chancellor's Court Online:**  
**Can AI be ethical?**  
**Thursday 6 May 2021**

Please contact Andrea and Miranda to find out more.

**Chancellor's Court Autumn Meeting Online**  
**Monday 4 – Friday 8 October 2021**

Programme will be available in early summer.

# AWARDS & HONOURS

Throughout the centuries, extraordinary philanthropists have made gifts that have contributed significantly to the life and work of the University of Oxford. The remarkable generosity of supporters continues to transform lives and society around the world today. To acknowledge this invaluable support, the University is delighted to honour and recognise its donors in a variety of ways, which includes membership of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors.

## The Clarendon Arch

The names of some of the University's most outstanding philanthropists are engraved on the slate tablets under the Clarendon Arch, near the Bodleian Libraries. These include important historical figures, such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, and some closely associated with Oxford's history: Sir Thomas Bodley and John Radcliffe.

These sit alongside individuals and organisations that have supported the University in more recent times. Today, this honour is made on the recommendation of the University Council.

## NEW INSCRIPTIONS 2021

- Mr Nigel Blackwell
- The Goldman Sachs Foundation
- Hill Foundation
- The Inamori Foundation
- Khazanah Nasional Berhad
- Alfred Landecker Foundation
- Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust
- The Tetsuya Nakamura Memorial Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Dr Leonard S. Polonsky
- Simon, Joyce, David, Debra Reuben and family
- Mr Chris Rokos
- Mr Stephen A. Schwarzman

## Fellowship of the Court

The CCB Fellowship recognises members of the Court who have provided exceptional philanthropic benefactions to Oxford. Known as CCB Fellows, members of this distinguished group are making a long-lasting difference to a multitude of academic priorities.

## NEW FELLOWS 2020–21

- Mr Stephen Butt and Mrs Caroline Butt
- Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust, represented by Mr Max Mosley
- Mr David Reuben
- Mr Simon Reuben
- Mr Stephen A. Schwarzman

## Sheldon Medal

The Sheldon Medal is the University's highest mark of distinction which recognises individual benefactors whose contributions have made a transformative, strategic difference to the University. The medal is named after one of Oxford's early benefactors, Gilbert Sheldon, who graduated from Trinity College in 1620. During his tenure as Chancellor of Oxford (1667–9), his benefaction supported the construction of the Sheldonian Theatre.

## HOLDERS OF THE SHELDON MEDAL

- The late Lord Wolfson, *Chairman of the Wolfson Foundation*
- Mr Wafic Rida Saïd
- The late Dr James Martin
- Sir Michael Moritz and Ms Harriet Heyman
- Lord and Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover
- Sir Leonard Blavatnik
- Mrs Mica Ertegun
- The Trustees of the Garfield Weston Foundation
- Mr John McCall MacBain O.C.





If you have any comments or questions about the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors, or are a member requiring assistance, please get in touch with:

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