



INSTITUTE  
OF BIOLOGY

## BIOSCIENCES FEDERATION

### ***Press Release***

London, 23rd April 2009.

### **UK's leading biology organisations agree to unification**

Members of the UK's two leading biology organisations, the Institute of Biology (IoB) and the Biosciences Federation (BSF), have voted overwhelmingly in favour of unification to form a single organisation, the *Society of Biology*. This positive development takes the IoB and BSF a step closer to the creation of an organisation that combines the expertise of the learned societies and other biology organisations with the professional skills of the IoB and its individual members.

The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Beddington, said, "I am delighted to hear this news. The Life Sciences have suffered in the past through fragmentation. The future health and wealth of this nation will depend increasingly on progress made in the biological sciences, and it is excellent that the scientists involved are now all pulling together."

The move towards creation of the Society of Biology coincides with Lord Drayson's establishment of a team, within the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, which will carefully monitor the UK's standing in biotechnology and its applications. Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Chair of the Interim Council of the Society of Biology, said, "The vote of the membership demonstrates significant confidence in the work undertaken by many during the past few years to bring about this unification. The Society of Biology will have a sufficient critical mass to enable it to speak with authority over the breadth of topics covered by modern biology, and we look forward to working closely with Lord Drayson's team."

Professor Martin J Humphries, Chair of the Biochemical Society, said, "I welcome this decision because it will facilitate greater cooperation between the learned societies that represent UK Biology. The resultant synergies from these interactions will improve the ways in which learned societies represent their members, whether they are based in the UK or elsewhere in the world."

A clear majority of IoB members voted in favour of the move at the Institute's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held yesterday - April 22nd. Professor Raymond Dwek, who will be the last President of the IoB, said how pleased he was that the members had put the best interests of their science first. "The Institute's proud and productive 60 year history will make a valuable contribution to the development of the new body in the years ahead." Member Organisations of the Biosciences Federation voted without objection at their Annual General Meeting, held on the 15th April.

*Continues...*

The forthcoming integration of the Institute of Biology and the Biosciences Federation offers a unique opportunity to create the leading organisation for biology in the UK. For more information, see: [www.newbio.info](http://www.newbio.info).

## **Contacts**

Professor Alan Malcolm, Institute of Biology  
Email: [a.malcolm@iob.org](mailto:a.malcolm@iob.org) Tel: 020 7936 5915

Dr Emma Southern, Biosciences Federation  
Email: [esouthern.bsf@physoc.org](mailto:esouthern.bsf@physoc.org) Tel: 01223 400181/400189

## **Notes for Editors**

### **Society of Biology**

The forthcoming integration of the Institute of Biology and the Biosciences Federation offers a unique opportunity to create the leading organisation for biology in the UK. Our mission is to create a single unified voice for UK biology, representing the discipline and its practitioners. We will champion discoveries in biology and support their translation to health, economic, social and environmental benefit, promote understanding, learning and communication in biology, develop partnerships within the UK and overseas, and provide the widest possible support to our membership. Our goals are to build upon and develop the strengths of both IoB and BSF, and seize new opportunities to broaden our range of influence and scale of activities. For more information, see [www.newbio.info](http://www.newbio.info)

**The Institute of Biology (IoB)** is an independent and charitable body charged by Royal Charter to represent UK biologists and biology. It has around 12,000 individual members and over 50 specialist learned societies “affiliated” to it. The Institute’s Mission is to promote biology and the biological sciences, to foster the public understanding of the life sciences generally, to serve the needs of its members, to enhance the status of the biology profession, and to represent its members and the biology profession as a whole to government and other bodies in the UK and abroad. Website: [www.iob.org](http://www.iob.org)

**The Biosciences Federation (BSF)** is a single authority representing the UK’s biological expertise, providing independent opinion to inform public policy and promoting the advancement of the biosciences. The BSF is actively working to influence policy and strategy in biology-based research - including funding and the interface with other disciplines - and in school and university teaching. The BSF is also concerned about the translation of research into benefits for society, and about the impact of legislation and regulations on the ability of those working in teaching and research to deliver effectively. Member societies, of which there are 45 plus 9 Associate Members, cover the full range of biosciences from physiology and neuroscience, biochemistry and microbiology, to ecology, taxonomy and environmental science. Website: [www.bsf.ac.uk](http://www.bsf.ac.uk)

-Ends-