

The Learned Society of Wales & Royal Society of Edinburgh are joint sponsors of our Monday lunchtime session at Cytokines2026. With a focus on alternative careers for academics, the session will explore the careers of four panel members from venture capital, grant administration, scientific journalism, and the pharmaceutical sectors. Each of our speakers will discuss their career choices and opportunities, providing insights and perspectives to questions from the audience.

Meet the Panel:

Dr Freya Svedberg-Keating **Medicxi Ventures**



Freya is an Associate at Medicxi, a European life sciences venture capital firm. Previously, she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow in Martin Guillems' lab at VIB-UGent. Freya holds a BSc from the University of Edinburgh, a PhD in Immunology from the University of Manchester and an MBA from London Business School.

Dr Mariana Delfino-Machin **Medical Research Council (UK)**



Mariana trained as a developmental biologist and worked as a researcher/lecturer in the UK, Spain, the USA and Costa Rica. She has been a programme manager at the Medical Research Council (MRC) for 9 years, first covering the MRC's cancer portfolio (funding and strategy) and currently overseeing vaccinology and parasitology.

Dr. Yvonne Bordon **Nature Reviews Immunology**



Yvonne's fascination with the immune system developed during her undergraduate and PhD studies at the University of Glasgow. After completing her PhD studies exploring the role of chemokine receptors in intestinal immune responses, Yvonne joined the *Nature Reviews Immunology* editorial team, where she continues to broaden her knowledge and understanding of all things immunological.

Dr Theresa LaVallee **Coherus Oncology**



Theresa has more than 25 years of biopharmaceutical and research experience with a broad knowledge of drug discovery and development. She has advanced drugs and diagnostics in oncology, immunology, and inflammatory diseases from discovery through approval. Before joining Coherus Oncology as Chief Scientific and Development Officer, she was Vice President, Translational Medicine and Regulatory Affairs at the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI).