

Public Communication of Science and Technology 2020+1 Virtual Conference | 24-27 May 2021

Overview

The **Public Communication of Science and Technology**, PCST, conferences take place every two years, bringing together practitioners, educators and researchers in the diverse and growing field of science communication.

Attendees from more than **60 countries** across the globe logged on virtually to attend the virtual event which ran from the 24 – 27 May 2021, which was originally due to take place in Aberdeen in 2020.

The theme of the conference was **Time, Technology and Transformation** and offered attendees the opportunity to share their interest in science communications and enable new connections between practitioners and researchers, across national and cultural boundaries.

The event was chaired by University's Chair in Chemistry, Professor Marcel Jaspars and Dr Heather Doran, Public Engagement Manager at the University of Dundee.

Keynote speakers at the conference included freelance science writer and former editor of Nature, Dr Philip Ball; Professor Emily Dawson from the Department of Science & Technology at University College London; Mara Entradas from the University Institute of Lisbon; Dr Marina Joubert from Stellenbosch University in South Africa; Professor Matt Nisbet from Northeastern University; Andres Roldan Executive Director at Parque Explora and Professor Mike S.Schäfer from the University of Zurich.

The conference, which should have taken place in May 2020 at P&J Live, was moved completely online due to Covid-19, however the organising committee worked extensively to ensure the programme was engaging as ever – with **359 presentations scheduled over four days**.

Leading up to the event, Professor Jaspars commented: "Myself and everyone involved in the organisation of the PCST conference are absolutely delighted that we will finally be able to host the event next week.

"It was a huge disappointment when the conference had to be postponed last year so it is really exciting that we are now ready to go!

"It's not easy moving everything online for an event of this size which attracts so many delegates from around the world, however the organising committee and the team at the University have worked extremely hard to ensure that Aberdeen will still be putting on a first class event for all the attendees.

"It's also great news that Aberdeen will have the opportunity to host the next conference in person. The city has a lot to offer and we will look forward to sharing it with attendees in 2025."

Key Information

Dates	24- 27 May 2021
Location	Bespoke Platform provided by Venue AV
Delegates	667 International Delegates

It's been a real team effort from all partners to pivot from a face to face event to a fully virtual version. I was delighted with the engagement from delegates with the activities available through the bespoke conference platform and post event via the on-demand availability. While it's not been the same as having everyone in Aberdeen, there was a real buzz about the event, and some of the elements from this virtual event will remain and be developed for future PCST Conferences. We can't wait to start work on the 2025 event.



Nicola Pearce, CPD Services Manager at the University of Aberdeen