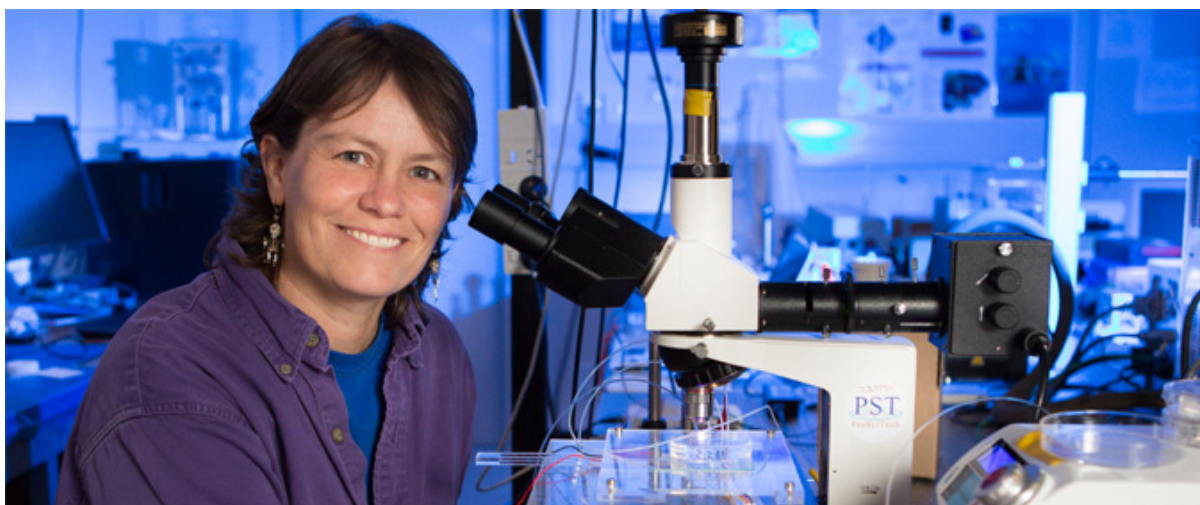


Keynote Lecture 1

What are universities for? Professor Cather Simpson

Director, the Photon Factory, School of Chemical Sciences and Department of Physics, the University of Auckland.



Universities all over the world are undergoing a dramatic transformation. In addition to the traditional, "ivory tower" pillars of discovering new knowledge and educating the next generation, universities now strive to have a positive economic influence on their cities, regions, nations and the rest of the world. In this presentation, I will discuss the evolution universities - and their professors - into important economic drivers. To illustrate, I will describe the path of the Photon Factory from its early (and rapidly aborted) incarnation as a blue-skies chemical dynamics lab into an outwardly facing research centre and innovation hub in which our fundamental science is complemented by targeted and fully-fledged, applied research. What are the benefits – and tensions – that come from commercially-facing contracts and entrepreneurial spin-offs like Engender Technologies? Should universities be developing technology to sort sperm by sex for the dairy industry?
