

# Careers in Science Policy Dr Eva Sharpe

Making the discoveries that defeat cancer

### Careers in Science Policy

My career path



What a career in policy involves



How to move into a career in policy



### My background Career pathway



Scientific	
2002 - 2005	BSc Biological Sciences at University of Edinburgh
2005 - 2006	MRes in Biomedical Sciences at Imperial College London
2006 – 2010	PhD at Imperial College London
Policy	
2010	Policy Internship at the Royal Society of Biology
2011 – 2013	HE Policy Officer at the Royal Society of Biology
2011 – 2013	HE Policy Officer at the Royal Society of Biology
2013 – 2016	Science Information and Policy Manager at the ICR
2016 – 2018	Senior Policy and Engagement Manager at the ICR
2018	Six month secondment to the Greater London Authority
2018- present	Head of Policy and Engagement at the ICR

### What is science policy?



#### Policy that uses science as evidence base

Eg. Climate change, GM crops, breast cancer screening



#### Policy that affects how science is done

Eg. science funding, legal regulations and governance, reporting requirements



### Policy that affects how scientific innovation is taken to patients

Eg. NICE processes, cancer drugs funding mechanisms

### My role Aims and objectives

To give the ICR a strong and consistent voice on research policy to influence the development of policy in high-priority areas which affect our work.



# My role Topics that I'm working on

- Patient data in research
- Gene patenting
- Big data
- Regulation of clinical trials
- Access to childhood cancer trials
- Animals in research
- Research funding
- How universities collaborate with industry
- How to speed up access to new drugs on the NHS





# Working in policy Day to day

- Meetings, networking and conferences
- Reading policy reports and articles
- Research and evidence gathering
- Working with expert groups
- Writing briefing notes
- Responding to consultations
- Organising events
- Blogging about policy



# My role Developing positions

#### Building a framework of policy positions to allow the ICR to take a consistent approach to communicating about policy



#### The use of patient data in research

Position Statement from The Institute of Cancer Research, London

#### Summary

Access to patient data is vital for the research conducted at The Institute of Cainer Research (ICR). Patient data must be stored safely and executely to ensure patient confenentially, its such safeguards to confidentially must not come at the cost of efficient access to patient data for research use. We believe the regulatory system is too fixed adverse in its requirements for explot patient consent where research has been ethically approved. Research at the ICR has been designed while waiting for approval to access goatert data because of the compiler regulation invivels, particularly where initial consent was collected at the start of a long trial, and current norms on data use have developed since initial consent was collected. We are supportive of moves to carry and streaming processes to access.

July 2013



The ROYAL MARSDEN
NHS Foundation Trust

#### Clinical trials – regulation and transparency

Position Statement from The Institute of Cancer Research, London, and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

#### Summary

The Institute of Cancer Research (CRI) and The Reyall Mandes helders the regulatory system for critical intenpolar an enormous animalizative and financial bursies on academic rocking intention. As designaged the ability of academic organizations to local informations studies. Then the Introduction of the BU Clinical Trisis Directive, the completely, that and cost associated with number plans has increased. We don't believe the apparently modest increase in the quality of trisis data 3s it 3s IRSUIT justifies to increase in DURBINIZATION, We would like the regulation of this to discrimination to better believes the different levels of the species. We also believe regulations over safely recording can be burdersome and excessive, and swold like to see them refined, particularly for low risk thinks, in order to solid missing equalities extripre concerns.

The ICR and The Royal Marsden support moves to ensure greater transparency in clinical trials and would recommend a legal requirement to make results publicly available within a reasonable timeframe in a form that is suitable for non-commercial sponsors. We support the use of data sharing plans, but stress that all data sharing needs to preserve platent confidentiality.

December 2013



#### Patenting genetic information

Position Statement from The Institute of Cancer Research, London

#### Summary

Patenting and licensing policies at The institute of Cancer Research (ICR) are driven by our ambition to achieve the maximum patient benefit from research findings.

Research carefied out at the ICR and at other institutions into cancer susceptibility genes has transformed our understanding of the inheritance of cancer (in. It has also opened on one seventure for treatment, allowing us to use gene products as drug bargets or as biomarkers to predict response to thereignes. It is our ambition intelligent information should be controlled used to be processed in cancer and the families by informing them about their rank and going decisions over personalised cancer relament. We believe that boasted DNA, is a product of the controlled of the controlled on the co

Where the ICR holds patents that include DNA sequences, we ensure that rights are made available on a non exclusive basis to maximise patient benefit.

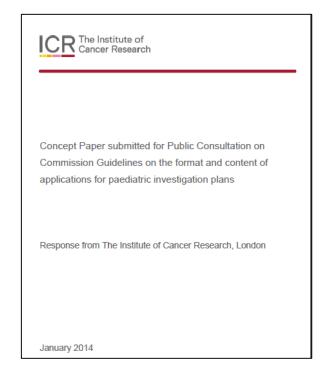
September 2013

### My role Communicating our messages

Finding routes to communicate about our policy messages:

- Responding to Government consultations
- Providing evidence for Select committee enquiries
- Releasing reactive media statements





### My role Communicating our messages

#### Proactive Public Affairs work:

- Parliamentary events
- Meeting policy makers
- Briefing MPs and MEPs



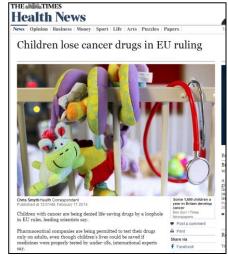




### Working with the media

The media team at the ICR arrange media briefings on policy topics and allow us to comment in the press on current issues and recent announcements





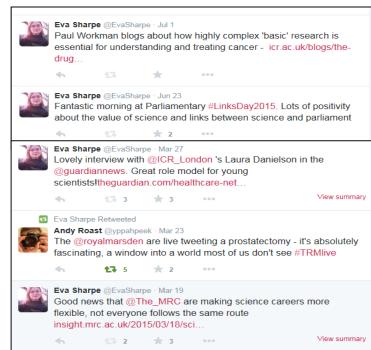




# Digital communication and social media

Communicating policy messages through blogging, online news stories, tweeting, and video interviews with researchers about policy









# Working in policy

# Careers in policy ls it for you?



- Quite academic in process
- Work closely with science and scientists
- Always learning new things
- Lots of external meetings, conferences, seminars
- Meet lots of interesting people
- Making a difference



- Can be quite dry at times
- Office based
- Sometimes high pressure expect a lot to do and with lots of deadlines
- Often working on things outside of your comfort zone

# Careers in Policy Where could you work?

#### **Government and Parliament**

- MPs and Peers
- Civil Service
- Special Advisor
- Select Committee clerk

#### **Scientists advising on Policy**

- Policy committee membership
- Advisory Committees
- Chief Scientific Advisers

### Policy professional specialising in science

- Professional bodies
- Charities
- Think tanks
- Universities

### Careers in Policy Skills, knowledge and experience

- Writing formally and informally
- Presentations, speaking and networking
- Understanding how science and research work
- Understanding the policy making processes
- Data analysis
- Multi-tasking
- Explaining science to lay audiences

Demonstrable interest is essential Experience and qualifications are helpful

# Careers in Policy What sort of salary to expect

Policy Officer £25,000-£35,000

Policy Manager £35,000-£45,000

Head of Policy £45,000-£55,000

**Director of Policy** 

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### Careers in Policy How to find out more?

Masters courses in Science Policy



Newton's Apple Introduction to Science Policy Workshop



Professional Development Policy Seminars at Centre for Science and Policy



NERC Science to policy training workshops



Other training listed on Campaign for Science and Engineering website

# Careers in Policy Where to get experience?

#### Lots of opportunities for paid policy internships















# Careers in Policy Keeping up to date with the latest issues

- Policy newsletters from Royal Society of Biology, Campaign for Science and Engineering, Medical Research Council
- Policy briefings from the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology
- Policy blogs see the Campaign for Science and Engineering website for recommendations
- Policy events and lectures eg Policy Lates, Talk Science, Science Question Time
- Policy magazines and journals eg Research Fortnight, THE

# Careers in Policy Choosing where to work

Work on a subject you care about

Is it a big or small team? You'll try more things in a small team

What are the opportunities to progress?

Are you doing policy or public affairs or both?

### Top tips for moving into policy

- Follow organisations you're interested in through social media to find out what is happening
- Keep up to date with current affairs
- Find out what its like through work experience or placements
- Attend events (even invite yourself along!)
- Gaining experience of other types of science communication is useful too.



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