Edwards Symposia:
Targeting the academia/industry interface in soft matter research
Sir Sam Edwards, 1928-2015
The Edwards Centre for Soft Matter

- A virtual laboratory for Soft Matter Research
- Physics, Chemistry, DAMTP, MSM, CEB, Engineering

ca. 50 PI’s across 6 Departments

> 85 Postdoc / PhD Student Members
We use experiments, theory and simulations to address the science of soft matter systems, such as:

- Colloids and Suspensions
- Polymers and Gels
- Molecular Aggregates
- Amphiphilic Systems
- Granular Materials
- Liquid Crystals
- Biological and Biomimetic Materials
- Microswimmers and Active Matter
- Soft Composites
- Soft Nanomaterials
Activities:

- Intra-University mini-conferences

- Edwards Symposia

- Industry Workshops

Contact point for external partners
Edwards Symposia

Annual 3-day event at INI/CMS since 2016

Core funding from Unilever until 2021

Focus

Basic science, especially theory and modelling, of direct industrial significance

Industry presentations + participation
Gateway Team Involvement (Jane, Lissie, Clare)

Programme planning – with academic team

Publicity

Branding (shared with Edwards Centre)

All pre-meeting and on-site logistics:

Registration, financials, catering, accommodation...

Post-meeting feedback analysis
Annual Timetable

Academic programme planning: Nov – Jan

Industry speaker planning: Feb - June

Publicity: Dec - August

Symposium: early September

Note: mismatched academic/industry lead-times
Involvement as Industry Speakers

Year 1: Croda, Mars, NPL, Schlumberger, Unilever

Year 2: AstraZeneca, CPI, Innovia, Lucite, Unilever

Year 3: ExxonMobil, Merck, Pepsico, Unilever

Year 4: TBA

Several of these introduced via Gateway team
Evolving Modes of Industry Participation

Year 1: Sectoral overview talks

Year 2: Paid-for ‘pitch a problem’ slots

Year 3: Industry-facing science challenges
+ round table on licensing/spinout

Year 4: Industry-facing science challenges
+ round table on sustainable plastics
Poster Sessions: Open to All

Year 1: poster session only

Year 2,3,4: posters + elevator pitches

3 minute time limit

popular with all participants

+ early career prizes

[RSC, Likhtman family]
Issues around Industry Participation

Talks:
secrecy, signoff, speaker anxiety

Participation:
signoff, budgets, prioritization, duration

Funding / sponsorship:
community member or purchaser of research?
Thank you for your attention!