

ASMR Medalist 2010

Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE



Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE is Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Oxford, where she leads a multi-disciplinary team investigating neurodegenerative disorders. In addition she is Director of the Oxford Centre for the Science of the Mind, exploring the physical basis of consciousness and was the Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain 1998 - 2010 (the first woman to hold that position). Baroness Greenfield is also Director of the Institute for the Future of the Mind, part of the James Martin 21st Century School, which exploits the parallels between the brains of the very young and very old, and how they are all vulnerable to technology, chemical manipulation, and disease.

She was both an undergraduate and graduate at Oxford, but has subsequently spent time in postdoctoral research at the College de France, Paris, with Professor J Glowinski and at the New York University Medical Centre, New York, with Professor R Llinas. As a consequence of working in both biochemical and electrophysiological environments she has developed a multidisciplinary approach to exploring novel neuronal mechanisms in the brain that are common to regions affected in both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. The basic theme of her research is to develop strategies to arrest neuronal death in these disorders.

In 1998 she was awarded the Michael Faraday medal by the Royal Society and in 1999 was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. Her books include "The Human Brain: A Guided Tour" (1997), "The Private Life of the Brain" (2000), and "Tomorrow's People: How 21st Century Technology Is Changing the Way We Think and Feel" (2003) and "'ID' - The Quest for Identity" (2008). She has spun off four companies from her research, made a diverse contribution to print and broadcast media, and led a Government report on "Women In Science". She has received 30 Honorary Degrees, She was awarded the CBE in the Millennium New Year's Honour's List, Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (2000), a non-political Life Peerage (2001) as well as the Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur (2003). In 2006 she was installed as Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, Adelaide's Thinker in Residence for 2004 and 2005 and voted 'Honorary Australian of the Year' (2006). In 2007 she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.