



# WUN Presidents Forum 2022

## Addressing Inequality in Higher Education and Research

### UNIL Campus, Anthropole Building, Room 1129

The WUN Presidents Forum is a high-level symposium exploring critical issues within higher education and research, and how higher education and research can respond to major global challenges.

In 2022, The WUN Presidents Forum will focus on *Addressing Inequality in Higher Education and Research*. Expert WUN panellists and external guests will lead a discussion in three sessions covering different aspects of inequality, and what can be done to overcome it: 1) ensuring mutually beneficial research partnerships; 2) university access to impact and influence in the wider world; and 3) access to higher education.

9.00 – 9.20am

Keynote:

DAWN FRESHWATER - Chair, WUN Partnership Board; Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Auckland

9.20 – 10.50am

SESSION ONE: Ensuring Mutually Beneficial Research Partnerships

**Session chair:**

CHARLIE JEFFERY, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of York

**Panel speakers:**

TOR SÆTERSDAL - Assistant Director & Academic Coordinator, Global Challenges, Center  
for International Health, University of Bergen

**Changing Currents?**

Forming good, equitable and sustainable research partnerships that will benefit all partners is the goal of any university and any research group. Using the relationship between universities in Scandinavia and Africa as an example this presentation seeks to explore how the traditional partnerships have evolved over the last 30 years. From technical and administrative assistance and asymmetric relationships to equitable collaborative research partnerships.

We are decolonizing the history and the research agenda, but are the currents really changing? - or are knowledge and brains still flowing North, while some funds and good intentions trickle South? Can WUN make a difference?

PATTARACHAI KIRATISIN – Vice President for Research, Mahidol University

**Ensuring Mutually Equitable and Beneficial Research: A Perspective from Thailand**

Mutual benefit reflects mutual contribution. There are two common partnerships; within academia and academic-corporate collaboration. While we promote multidisciplinary partnerships, academia has several constraints. A majority of research institutes are government organizations. Research budgets depend on fiscal policy and yearly allocation,



which are often unpredictable. Most LMICs acquire <0.7% of GDP for R&D. In addition, procurement regulations may limit flexibility. Active partnering with industries may be troublesome due to different paces and goals. Private sectors may not bear with bureaucratic government schemes and academic researchers may underestimate competitive businesses. Open discussion on these concerns could help empower fruitful research partnerships.

BUKOLA SALAMI - Associate Professor, Director of Intersections of Gender Signature Area, Office of Vice President (Research and Innovation), University of Alberta

### **Equitable Research Partnership: An Intersectional Perspective**

Inequities within and across countries is a major barrier to achieving vital targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Equitable research partnerships can help produce answers and tools to tackle some of these inequities and broader global challenges. However, evidence demonstrate there are disparities in the research development process for individuals of diverse social positions. For instance, there are differences between men and women in engagement in international research partnerships. Taking an intersectional perspective I will focus on how intersecting influences of gender, race and nationality can have an influence on research partnerships and knowledge production. I will identify strategies to strengthen equity in research partnerships.

SUE HARRISON - Chair, WUN Academic Advisory Group; Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, University of Cape Town

### **Resource sharing towards equitable and beneficial partnerships**

#### **Q&A**

10.50 – 11.15am

Break

11.15 – 12.45

SESSION TWO: Access to Impact and Influence

#### **Session chair:**

SANDRA ALMEIDA - Rector, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

#### **Panel speakers**

DIRE TLADI - Professor of International Law, University of Pretoria

### **Seeking Impact and Access Through Solidarity**

The purpose of universities is knowledge creation in order to create a better world. Yet, the knowledge that arguably contributes to a more unequal world, or put differently makes only part of the world better. This should come as no surprise since the ability to influence the world is heavily skewed against universities from the South. Whether we are talking of research platforms, including through publications in “the top journals” or access to policy-making forums, it is universities from the north that get the lion’s share of opportunities. There is a desperate need for innovative thinking designed to give greater and more equitable access to impact and influence.

ELLEN HAZELKORN - Joint Managing Partner, BH Associates



### **University Ambition: Self-interest or Public interest?**

The millennium years have been dominated by pursuit of world-classness—often presented as an ambition and strategy to rise in the global university rankings. But too often the race for individual or global reputation is pitted against service to society. Elite universities and nations benefit from accumulated public and private wealth and investment over decades if not centuries. They benefit also from attracting high-achieving and -socioeconomic students who graduate on time and go on to have successful, high-paying careers. These factors are reproduced in the indicators which rankings use and popularize. Are we leaving too many people behind? Is it time to broaden our concepts of quality and excellence—and adopt different approaches for assessing what universities are “good for” rather than what they are “good at”?

YOJANA SHARMA - Asia Director, University World News

### **Inclusion and the Impactful University – Being Relevant for All**

If universities are to have an impact on policies relating to global challenges such as SDGs and future pandemics they need to build international partnerships. These partnerships need to ensure universities in smaller countries or less strong economies have a voice so that university influence on policies is relevant for all. I look at examples from regional groupings in Asia of some ways to approach this.

SCOTT WILLYERD – President, RW Jones Agency

### **Effective Access to the Press**

"When Harvard sneezes, the rest of higher ed catches a proverbial cold." But what happens when you aren't Harvard? Scott will discuss inequalities in communications - some of which are structural, financial, etc.- and what institutions can do to attract more attention.

### **Q&A**

12.55 – 13.40

Break with light lunch

13.40 – 15.10

SESSION THREE: Access to Higher Education

#### **Session chair:**

JANE GATEWOOD – Vice Provost for Global Engagement, University of Rochester

#### **Panel speakers:**

ANDREW PARFITT - Vice Chancellor and President, University of Technology Sydney

### **Closing the Educational Divide**

Educational attainment leads to better health outcomes, employment, social mobility and income. But the world of university education is bounded by barriers relating to socioeconomic status. In the current climate of a global pandemic, there is a clear need to address and overcome the inequality in higher education and research. Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor and President of UTS, will explore how public-purpose institutions must



collaborate with government, industry and local communities to widen participation in higher education and ensure equity of access and success.

KASTURI BEHARI-LEAK - Dean, Centre for Higher Education Development, University of Cape Town

### **Delinking and Decoupling Disciplinary Practices to Enable Epistemic Access**

Decolonisation of the curriculum has been touted as a catalyst to make higher education more accessible for students located in previously colonised contexts, where colonial ways of 'knowing, being and doing' in the discipline still exist and are reproduced uncritically. The relationship between curriculum and access amplifies the substantive ways in which epistemic power and (in)justice, linked to students' sense of self, are counter-productive to student access and success. Unlocking these constraints involves a deep dive into current research, teaching and social responsiveness practices to generate emergent ways of being socially inclusive and socially just in current, global higher education.

JOSÉ ESCAMILLA - Associate Director: Institute for the Future of Education, Tecnológico de Monterrey

### **Addressing Digital Inequalities in Higher Education**

Digital inequalities have never been more pronounced and so visible than during this ongoing pandemic. As in several other instances, these inequalities are even more pronounced in less developed countries. The causes are multiple, known, and unaddressed for decades. It is imperative that a shift in these attitudes change or we will not be able to meet the educational needs of the 21st-century student. Higher Education institutions can serve as a go-between for governments, civil society, and the private sector.

GIANMARIO BESANA - Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning, DePaul University

### **Towards Equity in Global Learning: the Role of Virtual Exchange**

The availability, affordability, and reliability of synchronous video conferencing tools changed the way we live and work. The impact of this technology has been particularly significant on higher education institutions' approach to global learning opportunities. The possibility to experience international collaborative learning is no longer restricted to a few privileged students, institutions, and countries. Virtual exchange and other forms of virtual global learning have the potential to change the landscape, increasing equity and access to transformative international experiences for our students. To fulfil this potential a strategy for virtual global learning at scale needs to be developed.

Q&A

Conclusion

15.10 – 15.30

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## Biographies

### **SANDRA ALMEIDA - Rector, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais**

Sandra Almeida is the Rector of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. She is a Professor in the area of Literary Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. She previously held the position of Dean of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, having been Vice-Rector of the institution, management 2014-2018. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of FAPEMIG, of the Economic and Social Development Council of the Government of Minas Gerais and of the Advisory Council of the Presidency of the Legislative Assembly of Minas Gerais. She received the Great Medal of Inconfidência, the João Guimarães Rosa Medal and the Amigos da Marinha Medal.

### **KASTURI BEHARI-LEAK - Dean, Centre for Higher Education Development, University of Cape Town**

Dr Kasturi Behari-Leak is Associate Professor in the Centre for Higher Education Development at UCT. As Deputy Dean-teaching and learning, she teaches on post graduate programmes in higher education studies. As co-chair of the Curriculum Change Working Group focusing on decolonisation of the curriculum, she led many engagements and has published in the field of higher education studies and decolonising pedagogies/ decolonising the curriculum. She is President of the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa and convenes its University Staff Doctoral Programme. She is President of the International Consortium of Educational Development (ICED). She serves on editorial boards in HE and is part of several national and international research consortia, focused on HE.

### **GIANMARIO BESANA - Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning, DePaul University**

GianMario Besana (he/him) is the Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning at DePaul University, Chicago, IL. Under GianMario's leadership, DePaul created an institution-wide virtual exchange initiative, the Global Learning Experience (GLE), that generated more than 250 projects, implemented with partners in more than 30 countries. GLE was awarded a NAFSA Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization in 2020. GianMario holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame. He currently serves on the AIEA Board as a member at large and represents DePaul on the steering committee of the International Virtual Exchange Conference.

### **JOSÉ ESCAMILLA - Associate Director: Institute for the Future of Education, Tecnológico de Monterrey**

José Escamilla is associate director of the Institute for the Future of Education (<https://tec.mx/es/ife>) at Tecnológico de Monterrey. The purpose of the Institute is to generate, transfer and disseminate applicable knowledge on educational innovation, connecting, inspiring, and accompanying those who seek disruptive solutions for the future of higher education and lifelong learning. He was director of TeCLabs, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, and Director of Educational Innovation at Tecnológico de Monterrey. He has worked on the use of technologies in education, artificial intelligence, online education, and various educational innovation projects. He is a Computer Systems Engineer from Tecnológico de Monterrey and has a Master's and Doctorate in Artificial Intelligence from the Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble.

### **DAWN FRESHWATER - Chair, WUN Partnership Board; Vice-Chancellor, University of Auckland**

Dawn Freshwater became the University's first female Vice-Chancellor, after serving as the University of Western Australia's Vice-Chancellor and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar for six years. She was the first female Chair of the G08 Universities in Australia, and until recently was a Director of the Group of Eight. She is currently a Board Director of the Perth USAsia Centre, member of the National Health and Research Medical Council's Women in Health Science Committee and a board Director of Research Australia. She is a member of the International Advisory Committee for the APEC University Leader's forum and a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW) Engagement Committee. As an academic, Professor Freshwater has contributed to almost 200 publications. Her contribution to

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the fields of Public Health (specifically Mental Health and Forensic Mental Health) and has been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing.

#### **JANE GATEWOOD**

Jane Gatewood is the University of Rochester's inaugural Vice Provost for Global Engagement, leading Rochester's campus-wide international engagement and initiatives. Her administrative experience includes developing complex bi- and multi-lateral international partnerships for research, academic mobility, and economic development. She has been a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar (India), a Mellon Fellow at the School of Advanced Study (University of London), and a visiting research editor at the Oxford University Press (UK). She holds a BA from Emory University and a PhD from the University of Georgia.

#### **SUE HARRISON - Chair, WUN Academic Advisory Group; Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, University of Cape Town**

Professor Harrison has a long, varied track record in management and leadership, starting with her headship of Chemical Engineering some 20 years back, through serving as Deputy Dean: Postgraduate and Research for 6 years. Her research and teaching career extend over some 30 years. She has led research groupings and championed interdisciplinary research capacity at UCT, as well as the role of soft-funded researchers. Her contribution to UCT's research management is shown through her ongoing involvement with research and postgraduate committees and working groups at UCT. Her contribution to research nationally has been demonstrated through her leadership role in the nurturing of innovation and in the implementation plans for the bioeconomy strategy.

#### **ELLEN HAZELKORN - Joint Managing Partner, BH Associates**

Professor Ellen Hazelkorn is Joint Managing Partner, [BH Associates education consultants](#). She is Professor emeritus, Technological University Dublin (Ireland), and Joint Editor, *Policy Reviews in Higher Education*. She is Research Fellow, Centre for International Higher Education, Boston College and affiliated to the Centre for Global Higher Education, University of Oxford. Ellen is a member of, inter alia, Quality Board for Icelandic Higher Education, and the Commission for the College of the Future (UK). She was policy advisor to the Higher Education Authority (Ireland), and Vice President, Dublin Institute of Technology (now TU Dublin) for almost 20 years. She was consultant to OECD for almost 10 years. She has worked with international organisations and governments for over 20 years. Recently, Ellen was UNESCO Lead, *Develop 5-year Higher Education Policy and Action Plan for Lebanon* (2021), UNESCO Coordinator, *Develop Higher Technical Education in 6 African Countries* (2021), Academic Advisor, *Develop New Model for Higher Education Financing for Georgia* (2021). Ellen is internationally recognised for her writings and analysis of the influence of rankings on higher education and policy. *Research Handbook on University Rankings: History, Methodology, Influence and Impact* was published 2021.

#### **CHARLIE JEFFERY – Vice-Chancellor and President, University of York**

Professor Charlie Jeffery became Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of York in September 2019. He has a deep-rooted interest in how university research and education can serve the general benefit of society, or public good. Throughout his career he has worked to bring together the University with local authorities, businesses, other universities and colleges to promote inclusive economic development, and to open up access to university study and economic opportunity to people from disadvantaged backgrounds - both in the UK and internationally. Charlie is currently Deputy Chair of the Russell Group of leading universities in the UK.

#### **PATTARACHAI KIRATISIN – Vice President for Research, Mahidol University**

Prof. Pattarachai Kiratisin received his M.D. from Mahidol University, Thailand, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, USA. He enrolled as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University and the National Institutes of Health, USA. He has been appointed to be Professor of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol

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University, where he has served as a faculty member since 1995. At the administrative level, he was a former Chairman of the Microbiology Department and Director of the Institute for Technology and Innovation Management. Currently, his appointment is a Vice President for Research at Mahidol University.

**ANDREW PARFITT - Vice Chancellor and President, University of Technology Sydney**

Professor Andrew Parfitt is the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Technology of Sydney. He joined UTS in February 2017 as the university's Provost and Senior Vice-President. Previously, Andrew was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Newcastle, Australia. He has also held positions at the University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide and the CSIRO. Andrew is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and a Fellow of Engineers Australia and has previously held adjunct academic appointments at Adelaide, Sydney and Macquarie Universities.

**TORÉ SÆTERS DAL - Assistant Director & Academic Coordinator, Global Challenges, Center for International Health, University of Bergen**

Dr Tore Saetersdal is a social scientist by training and academic coordinator of the University of Bergen priority area of Global Societal Challenges. He has directed large, multi-partner, projects in Eastern and Southern Africa since 1993. From 2006 to 2012 he was director of the Nile Basin Research Programme that collaborated extensively with all public universities in the 11 Nile Basin countries. He has teaching and working experience from several African universities. Saetersdal is currently directing a new seven-year research collaboration on Water Governance with nine African partner institutions and three Norwegian universities.

**BUKOLA SALAMI - Associate Professor, Director of Intersections of Gender Signature Area, Office of Vice President (Research and Innovation), University of Alberta**

Dr. Bukola Salami is the Director of Intersections of Gender Signature Area, Office of Vice President (Research and Innovation) and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta. Her research program focuses on immigrant wellbeing. Dr. Salami is the founder of the African Child and Youth Migration Network, a WUN affiliated network of around 40 researchers across the globe. Dr. Salami has received several awards for research excellence. In 2020, she became a recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, the highest research award in nursing.

**YOJANA SHARMA - Asia Director, University World News**

Yojana Sharma is Asia Director of the online publication *University World News*. She was previously a foreign correspondent for global news agencies and major newspapers including the *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald* with postings in Geneva, Brussels, Central America, Hong Kong and China, New Delhi and Berlin, before returning to London as an international affairs writer and commentator for *Times Educational Supplement (TES)*. She is a specialist contributor to major news outlets including the BBC's Knowledge Economy series and Nature Index and writes regularly for the EU's CORDIS website on cutting edge science.

**DIRE TLADI - Professor of International Law, University of Pretoria**

Professor of international law at the University of Pretoria with over 100 academic publications (articles, books and chapters in books). He is member of the UN International Law Commission, its current Chair and its Special Rapporteur on Peremptory Norms. He is also a member of the *Institut de Droit International*, and a two-time Fulbright grant holder. He was previously a lawyer for the South African Foreign Ministry and Legal Counsel for the South African Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Subsequently served as adviser to Foreign Minister from 2014-2018.

Tladi's latest work of fiction is *Sins of the Father*.



**SCOTT WILLYERD – President, RW Jones Agency**

Scott Willyerd is President and Managing Partner of the RW Jones Agency, a strategic communications and marketing firm serving more than 70 colleges and universities worldwide. One of Scott's specializations is helping university clients reflect institutional values throughout all forms of public communications. Scott sits on several boards including the Worldcom Public Relations Group, an international consortium of public relations firms, and a K-12 school district where he resides. Scott holds a master's degree from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from Otterbein University. He resides in Pittsburgh, PA with his wife, two children, and the laziest of golden retrievers.