

News

Brian Cullis and Alison Smith invited to give Fisher Memorial Lecture

12 April 2018

Senior Professor Brian Cullis and Associate Professor Alison Smith have been invited to give the prestigious 39th Fisher Memorial lecture.

Brian and Alison were chosen by the Fisher Memorial Trust Committee, which is chaired by Sir Walter Bodmer, Fellow of the Royal Society and includes representatives from the Biometric Society, Genetics Society, Royal Society and Royal Statistical Society.

The Fisher Memorial Trust was set up to promote interest in the life and work of the great statistician, evolutionary biologist and geneticist, Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher (1890-1962) and to maintain his scientific legacy by encouraging discussion of the scientific fields in which he was active.

Brian is Director of the Centre for Bioinformatics and Biometrics and Alison is Principal Research Fellow. Their research focuses on development and applying appropriate statistical methodologies for the design, analysis and interpretation of research activities ensure that researchers in the bio-sciences, with particular applications to agriculture, forestry and other sustainable primary industries. The methods they have developed improve cost efficiency, sound inference and encourage rapid adoption of research outcomes in bio-sciences. They have over 200 publications in statistics, agriculture and biological sciences, genetics, and environmental sciences, and work extensively with major players in agriculture and biometrics, in Australia and internationally.

The lecture will be presented in 2019 at the Channel Network Meeting at Rothamsted Research celebrating 100 years of statistics at Rothamsted. Brian and Alison collaborate extensively with researchers at Rothamsted Research in the UK, which is where R.A. Fisher developed much of the foundations and methods of modern statistics, including developing the theory and methods of rigorous experimental design and analysis. This lecture recognises the research that Brian and Alison have undertaken over many years that has made a sustained and extensive contributions to advances in this important area.

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On the lands that we study, we walk, and we live, we acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and cultural knowledge holders of these lands.

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