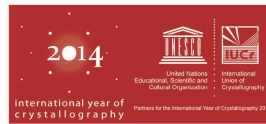


**Somerville College**  
Woodstock Road OX2 6HD  
Telephone 01865 280626  
www.some.ox.ac.uk



## DOROTHY HODGKIN: SOMERVILLE SYMPOSIUM MARKS 50 YEARS SINCE PIONEER OF SCIENCE AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION WON NOBEL PRIZE

*Featured in a one-week series of programmes on BBC Radio 4 in October as well as in a recent play, Dorothy Hodgkin was one of the first British women to take paid maternity leave, the first woman scientist to have her portrait hang on the walls on the Royal Academy (her portrait also hung at No. 10, Downing Street), and – fifty years after she received the award – remains Britain's only female winner of a Nobel Prize for science.*

**Somerville College, UNESCO** and the **International Union of Crystallography (IUCr)** will host the **Dorothy Hodgkin Symposium** at Somerville College on October 29, 2014, and **Sir Venki Ramakrishnan**, Nobel laureate, will deliver the keynote address.

The Symposium commemorates the groundbreaking work of Dorothy Hodgkin in **x-ray crystallography**, 100 years since Max von Laue was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery of the diffraction of x-rays by crystals.

It will be attended by a number of leading crystallographers, as well as by members of Professor Hodgkin's family, a number of her students, and granddaughters of **Sir Lawrence Bragg** (1890-1971), discoverer of the Bragg Law of x-ray diffraction and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics.

### PROGRAMME

**Georgina Ferry**, author of a critically acclaimed biography of Dorothy Hodgkin, will present a video of her play, *Hidden Glory: Dorothy Hodgkin in her own words*.

**Professor Ramakrishnan**, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, will then deliver the keynote address: *A Hundred Years of Visualising Molecules*.

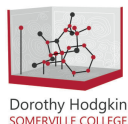
Later in the afternoon there will be a panel discussion on: *Using crystallography to help solve the world's great medical problems: from Dorothy Hodgkin into the 21<sup>st</sup> century*.

Crystallography remains a little-known discipline beyond scientific circles but has an enormous range of applications across aeronautics, computing, electromechanics, food production, mining pharmaceutical research, and space exploration, as well as in many other areas. 45 scientists have been awarded a Nobel Prize in the past century on the basis of work in, or related to crystallography.

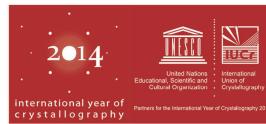
Dorothy Hodgkin's advance of x-ray crystallography enabled her to ascertain the structures of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and penicillin, transforming her field. Hodgkin spent her career at Somerville, traditionally Oxford's bluestocking College and an early centre of higher education for women in the UK. Aside from her Nobel, she also received the RS Royal Medal in 1956 and Order of Merit in 1965.

The Symposium brings together a number of leading experts in crystallography to mark Hodgkin's pioneering work, to remember the vision and persistence that made her an exceptional scientist, to engage the wider public with her discipline, its significant impact on current global issues and with the contribution that pioneering women like her have made to ensuring women can pursue higher education and research as easily as men.

---



**Somerville College**  
Woodstock Road OX2 6HD  
Telephone 01865 280626  
[www.some.ox.ac.uk](http://www.some.ox.ac.uk)



Somerville College was founded in 1879 to offer women, at that time excluded from the University, the opportunity to pursue higher education. Since then, it has educated and equipped some of Britain's – and the world's – most high-profile figures across a range of fields: Vera Brittain, Margaret Thatcher, Iris Murdoch, Shirley Williams, Indira Gandhi and Dorothy Sayers all attended the College.

Full details of the programme can be found on the Somerville College website at [www.some.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/events)

The Symposium is open to academics, students, Somerville and Oxford alumni, representatives of scientific bodies and institutions, and members of the public.

Please contact Brett de Gaynesford or Alex Monro if you have any questions.

**Brett de Gaynesford**

Deputy Development Director  
Somerville College

[Brett.degaynesford@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Brett.degaynesford@some.ox.ac.uk)

01865-780361

**Alex Monro**

Communications Officer  
Somerville College

[alexander.monro@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexander.monro@some.ox.ac.uk)

01865-270685