

In Conversation with Anna Philpott

Head of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Cambridge

Mumbai, Friday 3rd November 2023



Since its inception in 1209, the University of Cambridge has led the way in finding answers to the most important questions of the day.

Now, as the planet faces many and profound challenges, such as climate change, disease, war and political instability, Cambridge has a crucial role to play in seeking the solutions that will see our planet into a safe and secure future.

You are invited to meet Professor Anna Philpott (Selwyn 1985). Anna graduated from the University of Cambridge with a BA degree in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Molecular Cell Biology. She then held post-doctoral fellowships at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centre and Harvard Medical School. She returned to the University of Cambridge in 1998 to a Lectureship in the Department of Oncology, where she is currently Professor of Cancer and Developmental Biology and Head of the School of the Biological Sciences.

During embryonic development, in multiple tissues “proneural” proteins control the balance between cell division and the process of cells adopting a specific mature non-dividing state. In many cancers, and in particular cancers of children, this balance is disrupted. Anna’s research is illuminating ways to manipulate proneural proteins both to direct stem cells into useful tissues such as nerve and pancreas and also to develop new ways of treating childhood cancers.

In her role as Head of School, Anna has spearheaded activity to increase the breadth of postgraduate education and instituted new programmes in widening participation, to offer opportunity to the brightest students, whatever their background. Anna is a Fellow of Clare College.

We hope you can join us to engage in lively conversation, and look forward to your participation in the sharing of thoughts and ideas.