



Kroto Research Campus

Arguably the most exciting area of current scientific research is the field of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (N&N). It is an area that is already yielding important breakthroughs and delivering new and imaginative solutions to some pressing problems confronting society. There is no doubt in my mind that N&N will play a major role - if not the major role - in the creation of the fundamentally new technologies which we now clearly see are needed to create a sustainable future for the planet. I was fortunate to have been at the forefront of this exciting, emerging field: the discovery of the Fullerenes - a new form of carbon - for which I and my colleagues were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996 has become the iconic symbol of the birth of this exciting new perspective in materials science. The change from the traditional top-down to the bottom-up research approach has resulted in a paradigm shift as the fundamental atom/molecule-based expertise of chemists conflates synergistically with the expertise of physicists, biologists and engineers as well as environmental scientists.

During a lifelong career in science I have benefited greatly from close multi-disciplinary collaboration. Such collaboration promotes new insights and fosters new approaches which accelerate research dynamics; it is more vital today than ever before. The Kroto Research Campus (KRC) has been established to create and nurture an environment in which such research can flourish. It is an imaginative and ambitious venture by The University of Sheffield and it is a great personal honour to me that the programme carries my name. I believe it is the right way to approach the emerging nanometer scale landscape of materials science which is inherently multidisciplinary.

As a student I was extremely fortunate to chose to come to the University of Sheffield as, in retrospect, I realise that it was by far the best place for me to develop my scientific expertise as well as help me to mature as a young adult; It was an environment in which I developed the ability to make discoveries and most importantly I was also able to interact with students over the full range of disciplines. At Sheffield I met and befriended not just science students but also budding journalists, poets, athletes, engineers, architects and lawyers. Only an institution which covers a complete range of disciplines, as does Sheffield, can hope be considered in the first rank of Universities. A great institution must provide a vibrant intellectual atmosphere in which imaginative individuals can interact and achieve truly creative advances. I found that Sheffield gave me that breadth of experience. The KRC will maintain the position that the University presently has at the forefront of this field of exciting and industrially relevant research. I hope that you will be interested to learn more about this initiative and find the summary of KRC activities outlined in the attached prospectus worthy of serious study.

Handwritten signature of Harold Kroto in black ink.

Professor Sir Harold Kroto



www.krotoresearchcampus.com