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Rothamsted Research Annual Report 2002-2003

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Director's Foreword

Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (2003) *Director's Foreword* ; Rothamsted Research Annual Report 2002-2003, pp 3 - 3



FOREWORD

In July 2002, I announced that the newly restructured Institute would become known as “Rothamsted Research” with effect from 1 January 2003. This change heralds the completion of our spectacular new laboratory at Rothamsted, to be called the Centenary Building in commemoration of 100 years of research at Long Ashton Research Station. During 2003, those who fund and benefit from our research should start to see the gains resulting from collocation, within the Centenary Building, of researchers simultaneously relocating from Long Ashton (which now closes) and from old laboratories at Rothamsted, no longer fit for purpose. Restructuring has been a dominant preoccupation of the Institute for almost 4 years and, as it reaches a culmination, nobody should underestimate its impact on domestic and professional lives. I am grateful for the commitment and tolerance shown throughout by all those staff affected.

“Integrative Biology” is both a central theme of our primary sponsor (the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) and an excellent descriptor of the way Rothamsted Research conceives and conducts its science. Indeed, multidisciplinary integration has been the primary driver of our restructuring. Our investigations at the molecular level are conducted to inform studies of cell biology that in turn help to explain the behaviour and performance of the whole organisms in response to their environment and as populations. In this context, you will find abundant evidence for the success of our integrative approach both in the content of this report and in the listing of our year’s publications to be found at: <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk>

Ian Crute