



**Innovation:  
Whose job is it, why does it matter and how can we encourage it?**

**Guest speakers - panel**

Simon Colbeck, Head of Innovation & Quality, Marks & Spencer

Alison Mlot, Innovation Platform Leader, Innovate UK

Elizabeth Morgan, Director, Innoweaver Consulting

Ceri Williams, Director - Innovation & Enterprise Partnerships, University of Leeds (Chair)

**Dates/Venues**

**Friday 12 June 2015 (11.45-14.00)**

**Leeds University Business School Lecture Theatre**

What exactly is innovation and what does it mean for you and your business?

Well let's start with what it isn't. Innovation doesn't have to be about inventing something. It doesn't have to be technical or scientific or even especially creative. Innovation is simply about doing something new, doing something smarter or doing something differently.

In business you can be innovative with your products, services or ways of working. It's likely we all innovate frequently without even realising, yet we have all heard the calls to be more innovative. So, why and how? Our guest panellists will help you to understand more about the benefits of innovation, to recognise the barriers to innovation and to find out more about practical ways to become more innovative.

You will hear from our strategic partners Marks & Spencer about the role of innovation in a global business, from Innovate UK about national support for innovation in business, from entrepreneurs and from us, the University of Leeds on our role in nurturing innovation in the city, the region and beyond. Then it's over to you to share, question, learn and network

## Programme:

- 11:45 Event opens, registration, tea and coffee
- 12:00 Welcome and short presentations from the panel
- 12.30 Over to you: Question & Answer
- 13:10 Refreshments and networking reception
- 14.00 Close

Admission is free\*, but places are limited and you will need to register your attendance – please email [onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk) to book your place

## Speaker biographies

### Simon Colbeck



Simon is the Head of Innovation and Quality for all Marks and Spencer non-food products. He has worked at M&S for the past 16 years in numerous technical and buying roles, and his team manage all of the technical aspects of M&S products. They are responsible for providing buyers with innovative solutions to customer needs to ensure M&S is always in a leading position in textile developments.

A passionate innovation practitioner and an engineer by profession, Simon loves the complex relationship between process and culture which enables innovation to take place in a large organisation. Prior to M&S Simon spent eight years at Boots the Chemist in a range of product development roles.

### Alison Mlot



Alison joined Innovate UK in 2012 and leads the Independent Living Innovation Platform, which aims to identify business opportunities arising from an ageing population. Previously managing RDA Innovation Programmes, with a SME Business Advisor background, she started her career fast tracking a FTSE100 Graduate Management Programme into Commercial Management.

Innovate UK provide new support for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises with high-growth potential, identifying and investing in the sectors that have the greatest potential for innovation to speed up economic growth, and helping innovative companies work with their backers so their ideas can be developed commercially.

### Elizabeth Morgan



Elizabeth has led marketing, communication and product design teams in large international businesses (Boots, Carlsberg, and Cadbury Schweppes) across the healthcare, beauty and grocery categories. For more than 6 years she was Director for Global Product Development for Boots, a role responsible for more than 5000 new product launches a year. Liz established and chaired, the Boots Centre for Innovation, a whole new approach to getting new ideas to market. She

pioneered the scientific development of Boots No 7's famous anti-aging product, 'Protect and Perfect', and led product development for Boots' international markets, especially in the US and Western Europe.

Liz now runs a consultancy business, [www.innoweaver.co.uk](http://www.innoweaver.co.uk), helping both retailers and brand owners innovate for commercial success. She has worked for a number of famous international brands on marketing, sales and product development, and is now also undertaking scientific research at the University of Leeds into retailer and brand businesses' innovations for sustainability.

#### **Dr Ceri Williams**



Ceri is Director of Innovation and Enterprise Partnerships at the University of Leeds, responsible for realising our ambitious plans for the proposed University Innovation and Enterprise Centre (UIEC).

The aim of the UIEC is to accelerate business creation, business growth and innovation in the Leeds City Region and beyond by establishing a high quality business-facing gateway to help external partners engage with knowledge, research and capabilities at the University. The targeted outputs from the UIEC include global leadership in key technology areas, resulting in £75m of new research and innovation funding and 50 new high-tech businesses, with the aim of generating £1bn new income to the LCR economy.

Ceri is also the Deputy Director of MeDe Innovation, the EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Medical Devices. MeDe Innovation aims to develop advances in the design and manufacture of class III implantable devices for musculoskeletal applications.

\*Please note that cancellations within 48 hours and non-attendance of the event will incur a £25 charge per delegate to cover costs. You may nominate an alternative delegate to attend without incurring any additional charges. All substitute delegates should be confirmed in writing to [onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk)