

Banbury tradition with a new twist

As the new head of CSHL's Banbury Center, Rebecca Leshan has the title of "Director"—but "connector" would be as appropriate. A Ph.D. from the University of Michigan with postdoctoral experience at Rockefeller University and an ambassadorial role representing U.K. science in the U.S., Leshan succeeds Jan Witkowski, Ph.D.

"It has been a great privilege and pleasure to have been director for the past 30 years, a period of great change in biomedical research," says Witkowski. "The success of the Banbury Center shows that small, by-invitation-only meetings are vital, even in the age of the Internet," he adds. Witkowski's remarkable ability to connect the right people at the right times has been key. The Innocence Project, which has used DNA evidence to free over 300 wrongfully convicted people, is just one example of the innovations generated by the Lab's meeting place for science policy.

"Now more than ever, the inspiring discussions that happen at the Banbury blackboard will be crucial to science worldwide," says Leshan. "I am thrilled to continue the Banbury tradition while forging bold, new ways to advance science and humanity."



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