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Fostering breakthrough research: The Swedish experience

Monday 4 February, 2013 1pm

Professor Gunnar Öquist former Permanent Secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2003-2010), University of Umeå, Sweden

Slatyer Seminar Room R.N. Robertson Building, Bldg. 46, Linnaeus Way, ANU



Professor Öquist has just completed a report for the Swedish academy of sciences entitled 'Fostering breakthrough research: a comparative study' which compares the performance of Swedish science with that of other European countries. He will talk about the nature of scientific research in general terms and give examples from this comparative study which hold lessons for how to achieve an increase in innovative scientific breakthroughs which countries may aim to achieve. At the end of the talk he will conclude by reflecting on what he learned working with a Nobel Prize awarding institution for seven years, including implications for young scientists planning a research career, thinking in terms of how to optimize their research opportunities and impact.

Professor Öquist has been head of the Department of Plant Physiology at Umeå University, Sweden, between 1981 and 2003. He was the head of the Swedish Natural Science Research Council between 1993 and 1999, and he was the Permanent Secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences between 2003 and 2010. He has been member of the Board of the European Science

Foundation, the European Research Advisory Board, the Board of Bergen University and he is currently member of the Board of the Danish National Research Foundation. Professor Öquist has also led several national and international reviews of science and research.

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