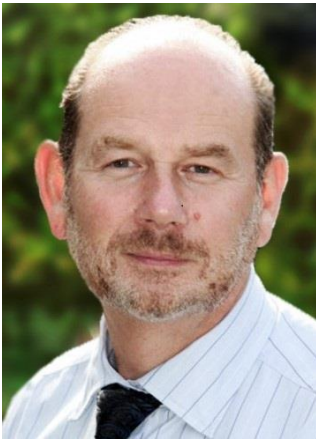


Political vs science correspondents covering Covid-19: conflict or cooperation?

Tuesday 08 September, 18:30 BST

Panel biographies



Ian MURRAY is an award-winning journalist and editor with more than 40 years' experience in newsrooms and working with the British media.

He is Executive Director of the [Society of Editors](#) (SoE) and in this role heads up the running of the body that includes at present some 300 editors as members across the full media landscape: print press national and regional, magazines, broadcast and digital.

The Society lobbies for press freedom, freedom of expression, editorial training and standards and supports journalists under threat worldwide. The SoE organises and stages both the National and Regional Press Awards each year. He joined the board of the Society of Editors in 2010 and was its President 2013/14.

Ian is also a board member of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors based in the United States and deputy chair of the Defence and Security Media Advisory Committee.

In 2015 Ian was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Media by Southampton Solent University.



Andrew DAGNALL is Head of Newsgathering, overseeing all UK and international news coverage for ITV News.

Prior to working in television news, he was a newspaper journalist working on the *Sunday Mirror* and *News of the World*.



Fiona FOX, the chief executive of the Science Media Centre, has a degree in journalism and many years of experience working in media relations for high profile national organisations. Her career includes stints working for the Equal Opportunities Committee, the National Council for One Parent Families, and CAFOD.

The founding director of the Science Media Centre when it was established in 2002, under Fiona's leadership the Centre has become an indispensable resource for science journalists. The Centre provides scientific context and comment from some of the UK's top scientists for many major news stories thanks to the Centre's media database, which has over 2300 such experts on it.

Fiona is a regular commentator on [science in the media](#) and was the only representative from the scientific community invited to give evidence at the [Levenson Inquiry](#) into press standards in the UK in 2012. She is an outspoken champion for openness in science and, as part of this, led a successful [campaign in 2017](#) for changes to the British Government's purdah rules, ensuring government funded scientists are [free to speak out](#) during election periods.

Fiona has received many accolades for her services to science, including an OBE, honorary fellowships of the [Academy of Medical Science](#) and [British Pharmacology Society](#), and a [special award](#) for promoting openness in animal research.



Pallab GHOSH is Honorary President of the ABSW.

A science correspondent with BBC News, he works across television, radio, on-line and digital platforms. Pallab has won numerous awards including Press Gazette Science and Technology Journalist of the Year, which is the UK's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, for investigative reporting and is a former BT Technology Journalist of the Year.

Pallab has interviewed leading figures, including Stephen Hawking, Tim Berners-Lee and he is one of the few journalists in the world to have interviewed Neil Armstrong. He has reported on some of the biggest scientific developments of our time. These include the detection of gravitational waves, the discovery of the Higgs Boson, the cloning of Dolly the Sheep and the completion of the Human Genome Project.

Pallab has a strong interest in the societal implications of developments in science and technology and through his journalism aims to involve people in shaping policies in controversial areas such as GM crops, cloning and AI. He is a former Chair of the ABSW and a founding board member and President of the World Federation of Science Journalists. In these roles, Pallab has promoted critical coverage of research issues. He believes that for science to truly benefit society it must be tested by penetrating science journalism of the highest professional standards



Jane MERRICK is the policy editor at *the i* newspaper.

She has been covering politics from Westminster since 2001, including as political editor for the *Independent on Sunday*.