Queen Mary
University of London

Celebrating
125 years of achievement

Invitation from
Professor Adrian
Smith FRS, Principal

To the Inaugural Lecture

'Thinking outside the green box'

John F Allen
Professor of Biochemistry

Thursday 7 February 2007 at 6.30pm
Clinical Lecture Theatre
Francis Bancroft Building
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London
E1 4NS

A reception in the Octagon will follow the lecture
RSVP on attached card

Anabaena cylindrica. From a 1946 watercolour by G. E. Fogg, FRS, Professor of Botany at Westfield College. Courtesy of Mrs Brenda Thake

'Thinking outside the green box'

Thursday 7 February 2007 at 6.30pm

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Professor John F Allen
'Thinking outside the green box'

Sunlight is power. Specifically, up to one kW for each square meter of the Earth's surface. Decent, self-reliant living things tap into this source of power by means of photosynthesis. The rest of us tap into them. Sunlight changes all the time, in quality and quantity. We learn something about our planet and ourselves in learning how living things adapt to these changes, using electrons as signals to fine-tune proteins and switch on genes. We also learn about all life, how it combines the flux of power conversion with the stasis of inheritance – a lesson close to home.

John F Allen is Professor of Biochemistry at Queen Mary, University of London, where he also holds a Royal Society – Wolfson Research Merit Award *"Energy and Genome Function"*. A native of Newport, Monmouthshire, he obtained his BSc and PhD from King's College, London, and did postdoctoral research in Oxford and Warwick Universities, the latter including collaborative work in the University of Illinois.
Allen became a lecturer in Leeds University, escaping temporarily to the University of California, Berkeley, on a Nuffield Foundation Fellowship. This is his third Chair. The first two were at the Universities of Oslo, Norway, and Lund, Sweden. He is still restless.

Map www.qmul.ac.uk/about/campus/mileend

Map reference 18:
Clinical Lecture Theatre,
Francis Bancroft Building