



International RSE Leaders Workshop

January 30th-31st 2018

The UK has led the way in establishing the RSE as a new role in research and RSE groups and networks as essential for organisation and support of their work. This year has seen the concept taking off internationally with strong interest from across the world and RSE associations being formed in several European countries and in Australia and New Zealand. This is the perfect time to capitalise on this enthusiasm by bringing together people at the forefront of this change in the US and other countries with UK RSE leaders.

RSE leaders are dynamic and well connected people and have a track record of having a big impact with limited resources. Linking such people in the UK and US will help cement the UK's position at the centre of this movement and has huge potential to bring benefits to UK research by creating new ties between national research communities and positioning ourselves to be the collaboration partners of choice.



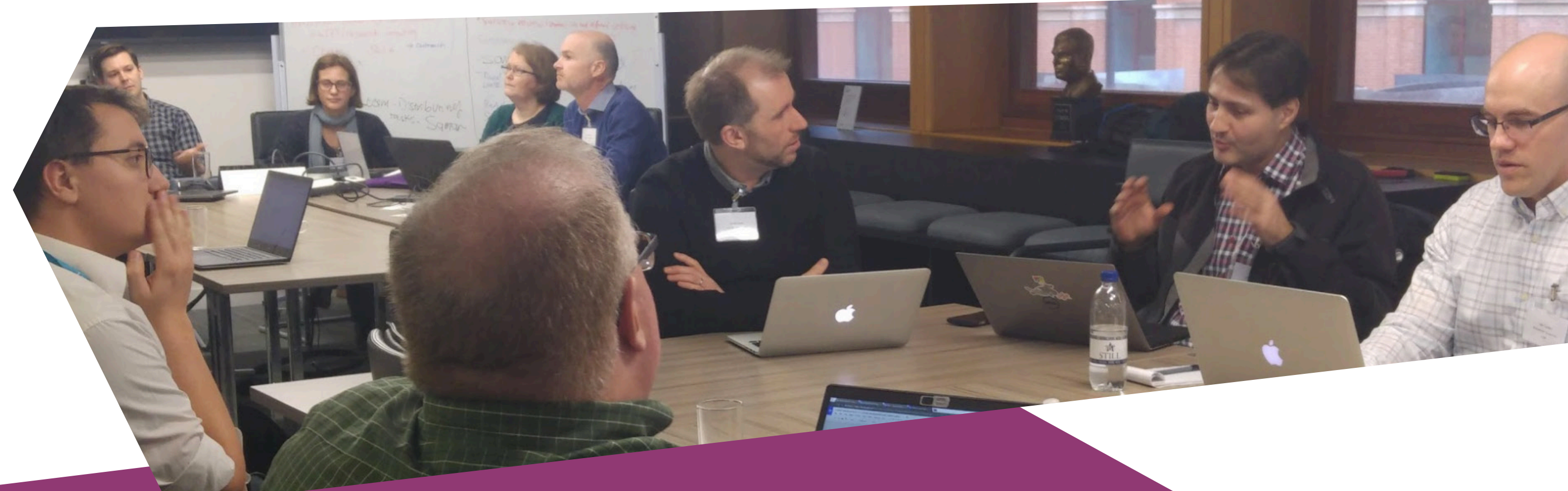
5 Goals

- 1 Help RSE leaders influence funding and career structures
- 2 Support establishment of further national RSE networks
- 3 International collaboration and coordination on RSE matters
- 4 Connect RSE leaders to spark collaborations with wider networks
- 5 Understand similarities and differences in RSE organisation & funding around the world

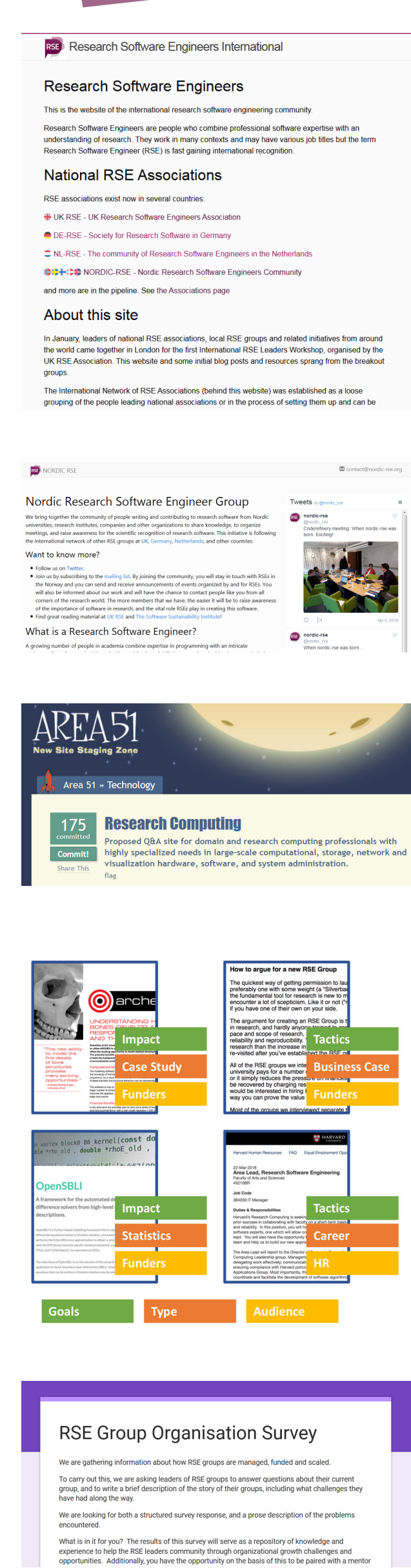
Hosted By The Alan Turing Institute

A two-day workshop bringing together leaders of Research Software Engineering groups and communities around the world to help each other improve access to software expertise in research by pooling knowledge, coordinating efforts and establishing collaboration.

- Day 1**
- Invited short talks on the research software landscape in their country or specific initiatives they are involved in.
 - Lightning talks for all other participants
 - Crowd sourcing ideas and topics for breakout sessions and outputs for day 2
- Day 2**
- Breakout sessions working on outputs in a speed blogging style



Outputs



Coordination between International RSE Associations

International RSE Website at <http://researchsoftware.org/>

Slack discussion platform became international

Ongoing international meetings planned

Increased RSE Web Presence

Nordic RSE Association created an initial website during a breakout session and the association has rapidly established itself since then.

Wikipedia page created https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_software_engineering

Supporting Research Computing Q&A site - additional followers and commitments obtained for the proposed Research Computing Stack Exchange site

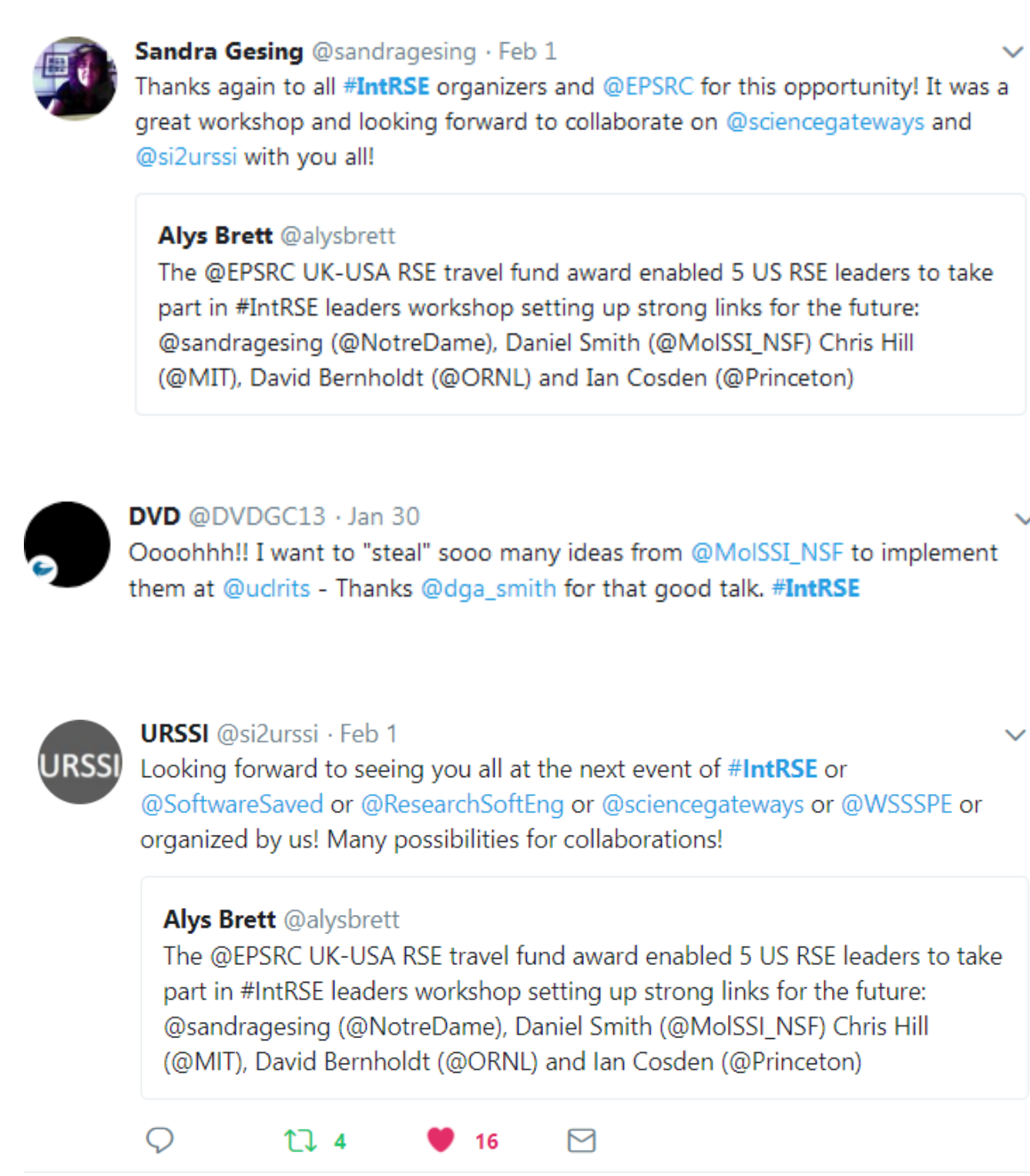
Support for building RSE groups and associations

International RSE Evidence Bank as repository to pool material to help make business cases and demonstrate the value of RSEs and RSE groups.

Sharing existing RSE group models using survey to collect data on structures and modes of operation ready for circulation

A blog post on **How to start a national RSE Association** at <https://researchsoftware.org/2018/04/18/how-to-setup.html>

Inspiration, Relationships & Morale



I got home last night and almost couldn't sleep because I was still so excited about the whole event. I feel that I learned so much and got great ideas on how to tackle certain issues we have within our center. It was for me one of the most inspiring events I've attended.

I enjoyed so much the RSE meeting. It was very useful, full of invaluable information, it was great to meet the people in person and I am amazed of the open and friendly atmosphere.

EPSRC UK-USA RSE Travel Funding

5 key RSE leaders funded to travel and speak at the workshop



The RSE Leaders meeting was an incredible success allowing me to connect with other professionals across the globe to work on common problems and build a network of individuals promoting the needs of the RSE community. I have been working with E-CAM to pull together a HPC Carpentry session at the CarpentryCon event next month. I made this connection during the workshop. I have kept in touch with the US RSE leaders to make sure we are talking within the US where the RSE movement seems to be growing. It was a very informative meeting to get the gears rolling. I very much hope to do much more in the future.

Daniel Smith, Software Scientist, The Molecular Sciences Software Institute (MoSSI), Virginia Tech

I really appreciated the opportunity to participate in the workshop. We're trying to incubate an RSE capability at ORNL and it was great to make contacts with so many people who are further along in this process and hear about their different approaches and experiences. I think the international context for the meeting helped to bring out the differences in funding and institutional structures between countries which will be very helpful in the longer-term goal of helping to start RSE organizations in more places. I'm looking forward to trying to develop and make available many of the outputs we discussed at the workshop.

David Bernholdt, Computer Science Research Group Leader, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The International RSE Leaders meeting was the first opportunity I had to interact with a large group of peers in similar roles. The opportunity to discuss pertinent topics ranging from career paths, to organizational structure, to the benefits of an international community was invaluable. I returned to my home institution with the shared experience and wisdom of the international community which proved to be immediately applicable as internal discussions of how to expand Princeton's RSE group began soon after the meeting. I look forward to an ongoing dialogue and collaboration with UK RSE Leaders as our communities and organizations continue to grow.

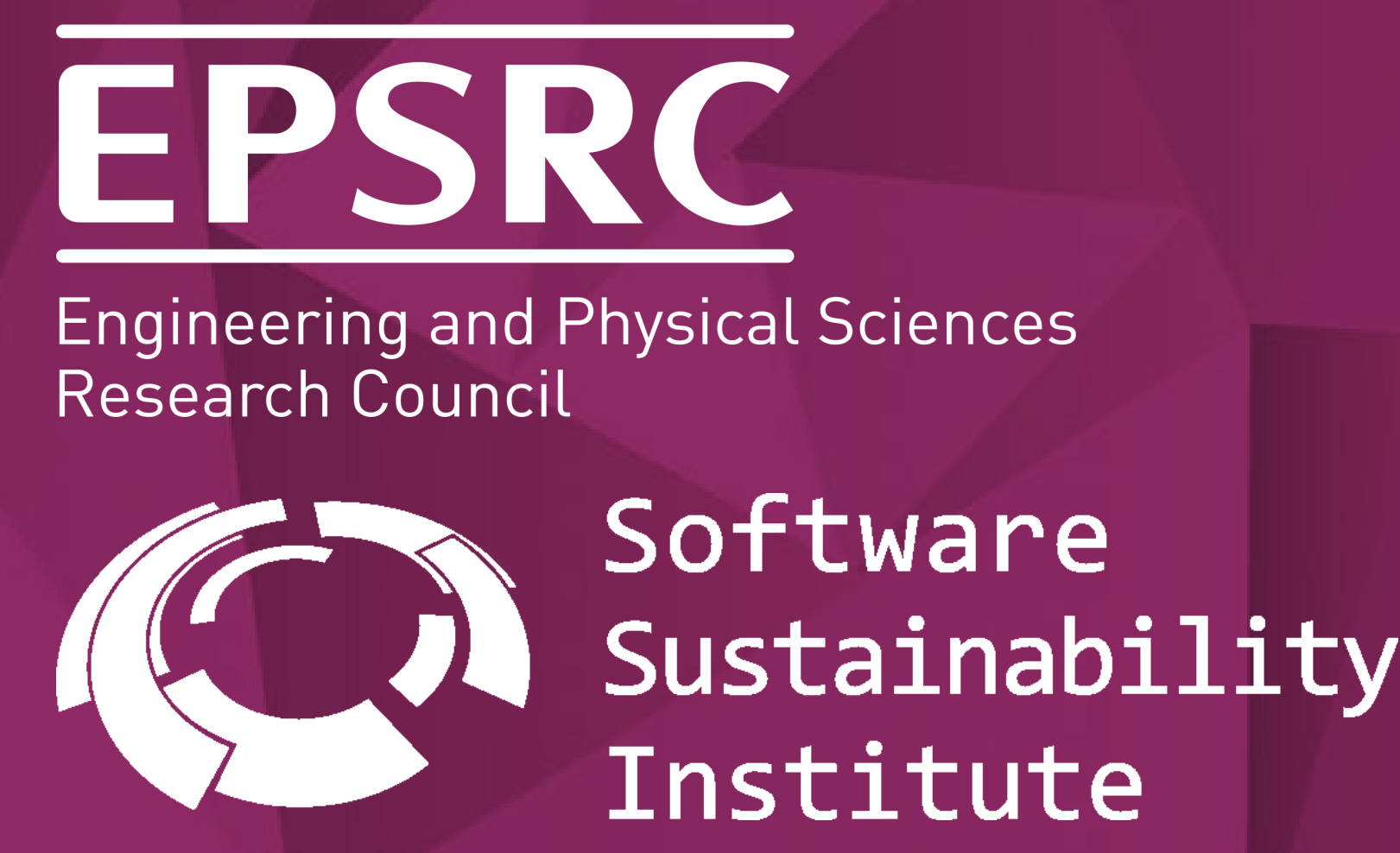
Ian Cosden, Manager of HPC Software Engineering and Performance Tuning, Princeton University

I'm part of the Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI), advising on setting up on-campus teams for creating science gateways. <https://sciencegateways.org/consulting/campus-groups> and also help to establish groups of cyberpractitioners on campuses (one of the names for RSEs in the US). Sandra spoke about this and the new NSF URSSI project (<http://urssi.us/>) to develop a design and strategic plan for a US Research Software Sustainability Institute.

Sandra Gesing, Research Assistant Professor and computational scientists, University of Notre Dame

Chris spoke about Research computing at MIT, including where RSE-type roles fit into the organisational structure and the value they bring. He took the opportunity to rally support for a proposed new Research Computing Q&A site on Stack Exchange which needs RSE participation to get off the ground.

Chris Hill, Director of Research Computing at MIT



- Alys Brett, UKAEA
- Robert Haines, University of Manchester
- James Hethrington, Alan Turing Institute
- Simon Hettrick, Software Sustainability Institute
- Mark Turner, Newcastle University
- Christopher Woods, University of Bristol
- Claire Wyatt, University of Southampton