

Professor John Wood became the first chair of the European Research Area Board in 2008, and is senior international relations adviser at Imperial College London. He has doctorates from Cambridge and Sheffield Universities. He has held academic posts at several universities prior to Imperial College. He was Dean of Engineering at Nottingham and Principal of Engineering at Imperial before taking up his present post.

From 2001-2007 he was seconded to the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils as Chief Executive where he was responsible for the Rutherford-Appleton and Daresbury Laboratories in addition to shareholdings in ESRF, ILL and the Diamond Light Source.

He is a non-executive director of a number of companies including Bio-Nano Consulting and sits on the advisory board of the British Library. Currently he is on the board of the Joint Information Services Committee responsible for the UK academic computing network and chairs their Support for Research Committee.

He was a founder member of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructure and became chair in 2004 where he was responsible for the first European Roadmap. He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1999 and was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2007 for "services to science."