



MEDIA INFORMATION

For immediate use

## **Astronomer Royal lights up The Enlightenment**

**Martin Rees**, the Astronomer Royal will light up a discussion on ***Science and Tolerance*** at **The Hub** on **Friday 21 August** at **2.30pm**. The event is part of the ***The Enlightenment*** - Edinburgh International Festival's programme of talks and discussions inspired by the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Enlightenment in Scotland.

Professor Rees, who famously predicted in 2003 that the human race only had a 50/50 chance of surviving another century, joins philosopher and President of the British Academy **Onora O'Neill**, and **John V Pickstone**, Wellcome Research Professor of History of Medicine at the University of Manchester to discuss the impact of scientific progress made during the Enlightenment period.

The discussion, to be chaired by **Lord Wilson**, president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, will explore themes which have dominated society since the Enlightenment began nearly three hundred years ago. After each panellist has spoken individually the discussion will be opened up to the audience.

ENDS

Media only: For further information please contact the Edinburgh International Festival press office on 0131 473 2020 or [press@eif.co.uk](mailto:press@eif.co.uk)

Notes to Editors:

Edinburgh International Festival 2009  
**The Enlightenment: *Science and Tolerance***  
Friday 21 August 2.30pm The Hub  
Tickets £6  
[eif.co.uk](http://eif.co.uk)

Hub Tickets: +44(0)131 473 2000

**Presented in Partnership with the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Nature and the Wellcome Trust**