



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Photo Call

**10.00 AM, WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2015
MAIN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
GEORGE SQUARE EH8 9LJ**

Dolly takes centre stage in exhibition charting a century of science

Dolly the sheep is to star in an exhibition chronicling a century of genetics research in Edinburgh.

The world's most famous sheep will be on display alongside rare books, archive documents, pictures, sound and film clips from the University of Edinburgh's Special Collections.

Also on show will be a microscope from the University's Roslin Institute that was used to create the cloned embryo that led to Dolly's birth.

The exhibition – entitled 'Towards Dolly' – celebrates Edinburgh's contributions to the field of genetic science, from animal breeding research in the early 1900s, to the cutting-edge stem cell techniques employed today.

It includes photographs of early breeding studies involving zebras and horses. These helped scientists to understand how physical characteristics – such as coat markings and colour – could be passed from one generation to the next.

Items from the archives of Professor Charlotte Auerbach – who pioneered research into genetic mutations – will also be on display. Her research, carried out at Edinburgh's Institute of Animal Genetics from the 1930s onwards, paved the way for using mutations to study how genes work.

Dolly the sheep appears in the exhibition on exclusive loan from National Museums Scotland.

As the first animal to be cloned from an adult cell, her birth proved that it is possible to take cells from anywhere in the body and make them behave like a newly fertilised egg.

The discovery paved the way for the field of regenerative medicine and the use of stem cells to investigate fundamental human and animal biology.

Curator Clare Button said: "Dolly is the most famous chapter in Edinburgh's long genetics history. This exhibition tells the wider story of the many pioneering discoveries which have taken place here, taking our visitors 'towards Dolly' and beyond."

Ranked among the top universities in the world

'Towards Dolly: A Century of Animal Genetics in Edinburgh' runs from 31 July to 31 October 2015 at the University's Main Library Exhibition Gallery. Opening times: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Admission is free.

For further information please contact:

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