

## Prof Rachel Wood - University of Edinburgh



Professor Rachel Wood's internationally recognised contributions to geoscience span the fields of palaeontology, sedimentology and geochemistry. Her work has made major advances in the geological history of reefs, the nature of archaeocyaths, the evolution of ocean states, events spanning the Precambrian-Cambrian boundary, and our understanding of Ediacaran faunas.

After a BSc in Geology and Zoology at the University of Bristol, she studied for her PhD at the Open University. Her initial area of expertise was the evolution and nature of fossil reefs, and her book 'Reef Evolution', published in 1999, remains the go-to volume, providing an impressive and authoritative overview. Her detailed examination of Devonian and Permian reefs led to significant papers. She has also worked on carbonate reservoirs in collaboration with major companies.

In recent years she has made substantial contributions to our understanding of the Cambrian explosion, the nature of early biomineralisation, and analyses of the otherwise neglected area of Ediacaran skeletal fossils.

Her impressive publications record reflects the diversity of her accomplishments, including papers in Science, PNAS, Nature Communications and Geology. She has given seminars in many parts of the world, including as the Association of American Petroleum Geologists' Distinguished Lecturer for 2017-2018, and is an

outstanding mentor to her students. She is also the Honorary Consul for Namibia, a role that emerged from her long-standing field research in that country. In 2018 she was awarded the Johannes Walther Medal by the International Association of Sedimentologists and the Enhance Award of the Association of Women Geoscientists.