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PERSONAL CHAIR OF ALGEBRAIC SURGERY

Andrew Ranicki, Reader in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, has been appointed to the Chair of Algebraic Surgery.

Dr Ranicki obtained his BA and PhD at Cambridge University and in 1972 was elected to a Research Fellowship at Trinity College. In 1977 he moved to the United States, to be an Instructor and Assistant Professor at Princeton University. He returned to the UK in 1982 to take up an appointment as Lecturer in Edinburgh. Promotion to Reader followed in 1987. He has held visiting positions at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques in Bures-sur-Yvette, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the University of Kentucky and the University of Gottingen. He was awarded the Cambridge University Smith's Prize (1972), the Junior Whitehead Prize (1983) and the Senior Berwick Prize (1994) of the London Mathematical Society, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1992.

Algebraic surgery is a classification method in topology that involves cutting up the high-dimensional geometric objects called manifolds. Fortunately there is no connection with medical surgery, since it is the obstructions to surgery that are of particular interest in the mathematical context.

