



**Professor The Baroness Greenfield, CBE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **“STOP CLASSROOM DOPING OF BRITISH CHILDREN!” - Baroness Susan Greenfield will tell Lords debate on Science and Education.**

Neuroscientist and Director of the Royal Institution Baroness Susan Greenfield is sponsoring a House of Lords debate tomorrow, **Thursday 20 April 2006, 5.00pm approx**, which will bring together some of Britain's top educationalists and scientists.

Education Minister Lord Adonis will respond to points from other Peers, including recently ennobled former Education Secretary Estelle Morris; from educationalist Lord Dearing; philosopher and educationalist Baroness Warnock; as well as Conservative and Liberal Democrat Lords Education Spokespersons Baroness Buscombe and Baroness Walmsley.

Crossbench Peer Susan Greenfield will draw attention to the opportunities and dangers that come with the application of science and technology in children's education, in the age of the internet and mind-bending drugs.

Baroness Greenfield, who is also Director of Oxford University's Institute for the Future of the Mind, will draw attention to what she considers is the “appalling over-use” of Ritalin to drug school children ‘diagnosed’ with alleged classroom behavioural problems, around the world. Ahead of the debate, Baroness Greenfield said; “we should give more thought to changing the shape of our classrooms to fit our children, rather than trying to medicate our children to fit them.”

She will tell the debate of - “a growing scandal developing under our very noses as technologies such as cognition enhancing drugs, mind changing software and electronic devices that interact with brain and mind are being applied to our children with insufficient thought and regulation.”

“There is no doubt that with an understanding of how learning occurs, some wonderful technologies exist to help us to realize our full potential, but applying the technologies in inappropriate or thoughtless ways may be changing the very way in which our children think.”

She will ask Government and a wider audience to reflect on The UK Children Go Online investigation by Sonia Livingstone at the London School of Economics, which found that 92% of 9-19 year olds have accessed the internet from a computer at home or school but 30% have received no lessons at all on using the internet and only 33% of regular users of the internet have been taught how to judge the reliability of online information.

**Baroness Greenfield will be available for interview tomorrow. For further information please contact Dr Martin Westwell on 01865 281 528 or 07747 636 604**