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Talk Title: The Virtual Forum for Knowledge Exchange in the Mathematical Sciences

Abstract: The Virtual Forum for Knowledge Exchange in the Mathematical Sciences (V-KEMS, <https://www.vkemsuk.org>) was set up V-KEMS in March 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown to leverage the energies of UK mathematical scientists for knowledge exchange in a virtual world, with a particular focus on addressing Covid-19 challenges. In addition to hosting many Virtual Study Groups and other KE events since lockdown, V-KEMS was instrumental in setting up the Isaac Newton Institute's Infectious Dynamics of Pandemics programme in conjunction with the Royal Society's Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic (RAMP) initiative and has delivered Virtual Study Groups as part of the RAMP continuity programme. V-KEMS has been an important part of the UK mathematical sciences community's response to the pandemic. For its work V-KEMS was named the PraxisAuril KE Team of the Year 2021. I will talk a bit about what it was like to set up and run V-KEMS and what our hopes are for the future.