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Sent: 17 October 2016 14:00
To: Naomi Smith
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Industry & Employer Newsletter

17 October 2016

This month's newsletter as usual features a range of updates from a variety of areas of the Society's activities as well as information on courses and aspects of training that may be of interest.

As always please feel free to circulate this newsletter freely within your own networks. Please let us know if there are topics that you would like us to cover and consider either in this publication or at a future meeting, all contributions are very welcome, please contact [Naomi Smith](#). Naomi is also the contact for more information on the Employer Advisory Group and other areas of RSB activity.

Dr Aileen Allsop

Chair of the Employer Advisory Group (EAG)

Update from the October EAG meeting:

On Thursday the 22nd of September the Society's Employer Advisory Group held a teleconference. Agenda items included: EAG action plan; SME support action plan; Technical Education update and Brexit update.

The EAG Action Plan outlines some changes to the way in which EAG works. We are seeking a new chair for EAG, there was agreement from the group that the incoming chair should come from within industry. Many thanks to the current chair Aileen Allsop, who has developed the group over the last two years and will be stepping down due to retirement. An advertisement for this position will be coming soon, please contact [Naomi Smith](#) to express your interest.

Plans for a new Employer Engagement Forum were also outlined. In addition to EAG, this broader forum will provide a channel for representation of all of our MOs and supporting MOs who have employer interests. This will likely be a virtual forum, with communications being facilitated through this newsletter, members may be invited to EAG meetings as appropriate.

The above changes have been ratified by Council and discussed by EAG. Further comments are welcomed, from EAG members who were unable to attend this meeting.

The possible ways in which the Society could develop our support for SMEs were outlined, as suggested at the EAG/Council meeting in June: Peer-support and mentoring; training; PR exercise around understanding accreditation to aid recruitment of skilled staff; help identifying trusted supply-chains; and advertising. Channels through which the Society could engage with SMEs were also examined.

The Society has mapped training against registers competencies, to identify how we can further support the registers through training. This was seen by EAG as a positive action. There was also support from the group for the

development of our new online learning platform, for which we welcome suggestions for content.

The Society's response to the Sainsbury Report on Technical Education was discussed, suggestions were welcomed from EAG.

RSB is drafting a Member and MO survey, to identify areas which are of particular importance currently with regards to Brexit and Europe. We will be consulting EAG for suggestions regarding survey questions.

The Biochemistry Society are looking for an employer to contribute to a focus group, on technicians' register, they will cover associated costs. RSB will forward details of this opportunity to EAG.

If you have comments regarding any of the above please contact [Naomi Smith](#).

Events and Competitions Update

Royal Society of Biology, Regional Grant Scheme 2017

The [Regional Grant Scheme](#) is now open and offers grants of £50 to £500 for individual members of the [Royal Society of Biology](#) to run an event or activity in their region. Full details including guidance notes, event ideas and an application form are available [online](#).

Deadline: Monday 31st October 2016

For enquiries please contact our [regional coordinators](#).

Brexit and the Biosciences, Research Impact, Partnerships and Funding

The Heads of University Biosciences Winter Meeting

30th November 2016

We are pleased to invite all members to attend our annual Winter Meeting on **30th November** from **10-4 pm** at Charles Darwin House to engage with leading experts on two key issues:

- the impact of Brexit on UK University and industry biosciences, and
- what REF-rated research impact means to different biosciences industry sectors, and to REF panels.

The meeting will be Chaired by Sandra Kirk and Paul Lynch and we are delighted to have the following speakers confirmed:

- **Yvonne Barnett** - *Doctoral Training Alliance*
- **Faye Taylor** - *the University Alliance*
- **David Sweeney** - *HEFCE*
- **Dave Hughes** - *Syngenta*
- **Jo Smith** - *CEO Derbyshire Wildlife Trust*
- **Martin Griffin** - *Aston University*
- **Alasdair Gaw** – *Leicester Precision Medicine Institute*

Bookings are made through the [Royal Society of Biology events page](#). It is **£110 for representatives from HUBS member institutions** and £140 for all other delegates. If you have any queries please contact [Sarah Dalmedo](#)

STEM for BRITAIN 2017

STEM for BRITAIN Exhibition of Posters by early-career research scientists, engineers and mathematicians (formerly SET for BRITAIN)

The final of the 2017 STEM for BRITAIN event will take place at the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, Westminster on Monday, 13th March 2017, sponsored by Stephen Metcalfe MP, Chairman of the STEM for BRITAIN organising group of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

Deadline for applications - **17:00 on Monday 5th December 2016**

Applications received after this date will not be entered in the competition.

STEM for BRITAIN exists to raise the profile of Britain's early-stage researchers at Westminster by engaging Members of both Houses of Parliament with current science, engineering and mathematics research being undertaken in the UK, especially that by their local constituents and in their local University. Few of them have science or technology degrees, but we usually have around 100 Parliamentarians attending during the day.

Poster Presenters are at the early part of their career- MSc/PhD/Post Doc or similar, either in academia or in industry. We welcome returners and those starting a second career- age is unimportant.

For further information, including how to apply, please see the [STEM for BRITAIN](#) website.

Education and Public engagement update

Thousands 'ask a biologist' at New Scientist Live

The RSB stand at New Scientist Live was buzzing from Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 September as thousands of science enthusiasts asked members and Fellows of the Society their burning [biology questions](#).

Twenty-four Society members engaged with the public from the RSB hub at the heart of the festival, which attracted over 20,000 attendees. Find out more on our [website](#).

International Biology Olympiad 2017 – Get involved!

23 – 30 July 2017, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

The [Royal Society of Biology](#) is delighted to be hosting the 28th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) in partnership with the [University of Warwick](#) next summer.

[IBO 2017](#) will bring together over 200 of the most talented pre-university biologists in the world from across 70 different countries. The students, who will gain selection through their National Biology Olympiad, will compete in two challenging full-day exams, one practical and one theoretical, which will test their skills in problem solving and practical application.

Alongside the examinations, there will be an exciting social programme which will encompass the themes of the week: the excellence of scientific research within the UK and British culture and heritage. Highlights will include the opening ceremony, 'Zombie Science: Genes of the damned', a cultural night including a science-themed ceilidh and a gala awards dinner to close the competition.

The International Biology Olympiad is a unique event which will showcase the very best of the British life science sector and is the largest celebration focused on biological excellence for pre-university students from across the world. Involvement in the event is an opportunity not to be missed and there are a number of sponsorship opportunities still available. For more information please [contact us](#) or visit our [website](#).

Policy update

The Royal Society of Biology responded to Leaving the EU: implications and opportunities for science and research inquiry

The Royal Society of Biology submitted evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into the implications and opportunities of leaving the EU for science and research. See the Response on the Royal Society of Biology [Website](#).

What role will innovation and regulation play in tackling AMR?

The widespread use of antibiotics in agriculture was identified as a key area of concern at the Society's ['Policy Lates'](#) event on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on the 10th of October. It was also agreed that antibiotics are overused in human health. Find out more on the Royal Society of Biology [website](#).

New Royal Society of Biology Policy Blog Posts:

- [Innovation: a new way to fight antimicrobial resistance](#)
- [Being positive about conservation](#)

- [ESOF 2016: Science as Revolution – A source of inspiration](#)
- [What next for science after the referendum?](#)
- [Can we give new biotech the green light?](#)

Training update

The RSB offers a wide range of training opportunities to help you develop professionally and acquire new skills.

Individual members and organisational members of the Royal Society of Biology are entitled to substantial discounts on training.

'Training Needs' Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our training survey. The results will be used to shape our training programme, to continue to meet the needs of our members and those across the biosciences community in 2017. Congratulations to Samantha Miller who won the prize draw!

An Introduction to Statistics for Biologists Using R - 23 November 2016 (afternoon)

Is this course for you?

This course is for anyone who would like to learn how to use R for statistics. Find out [what statistics can do for you and why do it in R](#) on our website.

What does it involve?

This half-day course will concentrate on enabling participants to use R to input data, to summarise it and to carry out some basic statistical analyses and tests.

R is a statistical programming environment which is free and Open Source. Thanks to a large online community of R users and developers, there is little doubt that it is one of the best available statistical packages. Its flexibility, wealth of available packages and graphics capacity are but a few of its notable features.

Participants will also learn to appreciate the rationale behind the methods used.

The Royal Society of Biology and Cardiff Business School are partnering to provide this course again this year, following our previous successful R course.

Who is the trainer?

Peter Morgan is reader in quantitative analysis at Cardiff Business School. Originally an industrial chemist, he has a PhD in polymer physical chemistry and worked in magnetic resonance spectroscopy and catalysis before moving into quantitative methods for data analysis. He is co-author of a text on computational methods for the chemical sciences. He currently teaches quantitative methods in a business context to both undergraduate and postgraduate level with an emphasis on Exploratory Data Analysis and the use of the R statistical environment for tackling data analysis issues.

Fees

From £50 plus VAT

For more information please see the [website](#).

For the full list of training courses now open for booking, please see the [website](#).

RSB training courses are also delivered in-house for organisations. If you

Forthcoming training events

16.11.16

[Dyslexia and Learning Challenges](#)

23.11.16

[An Introduction to Statistics for Biologists \(including R\)](#)

23.01.17

[An Introduction to Exhibition Design](#)

26.01.17

[Persuasive Scientific Report Writing](#)

13.02.17

[A Practical Guide to Successfully Navigating the Patent System](#)

28.02.17

[Laboratory Health and Safety Training](#)

16.03.17

[Science Podcast Production Workshop](#)

10.04.17

[Presentation Skills Course](#)

would like to find out more about this, please [contact](#) our training officer.

External news and opportunities

Biochemical Society Diversity in Science Grants are open!

Help create and support a representative scientific community with Diversity in Science Grants. The Biochemical Society Diversity in Science Grants scheme provides grants of up to £500 to individuals, groups, charities or not-for-profit organisations to support and address issues relating to diversity in science. In exceptional circumstances, at its discretion, the Society may also award up to £1,000 for individual projects. Whether you are planning an event or activity to encourage diversity in science, or conducting research into the lack of representative diversity within the science sector, make sure [apply for the grant!](#)

Funding competition: Agri-Tech Catalyst

UK businesses and universities can apply for a share of £4 million to work with developing country partners on agri-tech innovations. Find out more at [GOV.UK](#).

Funding competition: Innovation in health and life sciences round 1

Businesses can apply for a share of £15 million for projects that support SMEs to develop innovations in health and life sciences. Find out more at [GOV.UK](#).

Government science and engineering profession: strategy

This strategy sets out what the GSE profession wants to achieve over the next 5 years. Find out more on the [GOV.UK website](#).

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