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## Industry & Employer Newsletter

**21 June 2016**

This month's newsletter features a range of updates from all areas of the Society as well as information about the latest training courses and upcoming events that may be of interest.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter freely within your networks, and let us know if there is anything else that you would like to see or if you would like to contribute to it. If you have any suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with [Naomi Smith](#).

If you would like to find out more about the [Employer Advisory Group](#), or would like to become a member of the group, please [contact](#) the group's secretariat Naomi Smith.

**Dr Aileen Allsop**

**Chair of the Employer Advisory Group (EAG)**

## Council and Employment Representatives Strategy Discussion Session 8th June 2016

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June RSB Council members met with employer representatives, to discuss how the Society can better support industry. There are a growing number of industry members, which presents opportunities for the Society. The group suggested that the Society should support both SMEs and larger companies.

It was discussed how the Society could better support and develop skills in industry. Our training programme is of high value to industry, particularly to SMEs. The group identified a need to focus on shared skills for all, including: maths and statistics, computing and big data skills, animal and plant sciences, plant breeding, bench skills, project management and communication skills, experimental design and analysis, creativity, interdisciplinary skills, independence of thought and ability to learn from mistakes. Our CPD scheme is seen as beneficial and the registers are seen to support and benchmark professional development through CPD. Degree accreditation is also valued by industry for developing skills. Graduates need to develop agility, with core skills that they can take anywhere.

It was felt that the Society needs to develop its profile amongst SMEs, through strategic, proactive engagement, with clear messages as to how to support them. Mentoring and peer group support is not often available within SMEs, but the Society can create the conditions for support and knowledge sharing across SMEs.

The group also discussed how the areas of membership and policy could be developed for industry needs.

The Society is now producing an action plan, based on the outcome of this discussion session, aimed at improving its training and CPD offering to support large and small industrial organisations.

## Events and Competitions Update

### **28.06.16 Parliamentary Links Day 2016**

An annual event organised to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community, MPs and Peers. Attendance to this free event is by invitation only. For further information please see the [event web page](#).

### **30.06.16 Science Communication Awards 2016**

Are there bioscience researchers at your organisation? If any of your researcher staff are involved in communicating their work to the public, encourage them to enter the Royal Society of Biology Science Communication Awards 2016. There are two categories: New Researcher Prize (£750) and Established Researcher Prize (£1500). [Apply](#) by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **01.07.16 Meet the Universities**

Meet the Universities is exhibition event aimed at post-16 school and college students interested in the biological sciences. For further information please see the [event web page](#).

### **08.07.16 The New Context: Transition from Schools into Higher Education**

The Royal Society of Biology Curriculum Committee are working together to support the development of the school biology curriculum. Their first event for teachers and lecturers in schools, further education and higher education focuses on the transition between schools and universities. For further information please see the [event web page](#).

### **20.09.16 Keynote speaker event: Bioscience links across academia and industry**

Keynote speeches from bioscience industry leaders, plus Q&A and networking. This event is invitation only. If you would like to find out more about the event please contact [Penny Fletcher](#). For further information please see the [event web page](#).

## Education and Public engagement update

### **Engage with 500 Bioscience Undergrads**

[Sponsorship packages](#) are now available for the [Bioscience Careers Festival](#); our new flagship event for biology undergraduates and recent graduates. With almost 200 students from 60 universities already registered, we are expecting over 500 to attend the event which takes place at King's College London on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Building on the success of previous events that offered expert talks and an exhibition, it will also feature new interactive elements such as mock interviews, science communication performances, panel Q&As and museum tours.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact [Dan Rowson](#).

### **Biology: Changing the World**

Celebrate the great biologists of the past in order to inspire those of the future. The 'Biology: Changing the World' website, mobile app, and schools resources are packed with information and activities about the biologists that shaped the world we live in and the discoveries that were made near you! Find out more [online](#).

## Policy update

**29 April 2016 [The Royal Society of Biology has responded to an inquiry into science communication](#)**  
The Royal Society of Biology submitted evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into Science communication.

**[May 2016 Royal Society of Biology briefing on the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee white paper: 'Higher education: success as a knowledge economy'](#)**

**[Wakeham Review - An independent review of science, technology, engineering and maths \(STEM\) degree provision and graduate employability.](#)**

This independent review by Sir William Wakeham looks at the employment situation among STEM graduates and the role of accreditation of courses. The review focuses on the skills requirements of employers, how STEM graduates' skills and knowledge relate to labour market demand, and how existing accreditation systems support this. The vast range of HE disciplines encompassed within STEM, and the even larger industrial base that their graduates sustain

and enhance, means that the review has had to be conducted at a high level. The review's primary task has been to investigate the graduate employment outcomes of those STEM disciplines that are judged to be of high value and important to economic growth and productivity, and to identify which of those disciplines have sufficiently poor outcomes to warrant further in-depth consideration through future targeted work.

Please read the full comment upon the Wakeham Review, from Paul Trimmer, head of accreditation, [here](#).

If you would like more information on the areas discussed in this comment, or would like to discuss other ways in which the Royal Society of Biology and your organisation can work together, please email [Paul Trimmer](#), head of accreditation, who will be happy to help.

## 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.

**11.07.16**

[Working well with your PhD supervisor](#)

### Is this course for you?

- Do you have a hard time reaching out to your supervisor?
- Have you experienced a breakdown in communication between yourself and your supervisor?
- Would you like to have more productive meetings and discussions?
- Do you want to make your needs known and increase clarity in your working relationship?

### What does it involve?

This confidential and interactive workshop will explore the ways in which you can effectively influence and communicate with your research supervisor or manager. It will help you understand the structure and context within which an academic supervisor works, and how you can utilise this structure to improve channels of communication.

### Who is the trainer?

This course will be delivered for the Royal Society of Biology by [The Careers Group](#).

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

### Forthcoming training events

**05.07.16**

[RMS LM Summer School](#)

**05.07.16**

[Encouraging Scientific Enquiry in Primary School](#)

**07.07.16**

[Getting the Most from your Confocal](#)

**06.09.16**

[Mental Health in the Workplace](#)

**13.09.16**

[Unconscious Bias Training](#)

**19.09.16**

[Project Management](#)

**10.10.16**

[Scientific Laboratory Leadership and Management](#)

**18.10.16**

[Environmental Awareness in the Workplace](#)

**28.10.16**

[Team Science: Skills for Multidisciplinary Working and Collaboration](#)

## External news and opportunities

**SysMIC 2016 Workshop**

## Biological Rhythms: Dynamics, Mechanisms and Control

4th-6th July 2016 at [Lane End Conference Centre](#), High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

This event is an intensive training workshop in mathematics, computation and engineering concepts for bioscientists. Any level of expertise on your part is welcome.

Register at: <http://sysmic2016.bio/> and join the growing SysMIC community [sysmic.ac.uk](http://sysmic.ac.uk)

Places are strictly limited.

## Metrology Apprenticeship Standard - Consultation Survey

In 2012 the department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) commissioned a review of apprenticeships, which has led to a reform of the current apprenticeship frameworks. Last year an industry Steering Group was formed to engage with BIS's trailblazer programme to develop a new apprenticeship standard for metrology technicians. The intention is that the standard should be broadly applicable across a wide range of measurement disciplines and sectors.

The Steering Group has prepared a draft metrology technician apprenticeship standard. An import stage in the development process is obtaining feedback on the standard from stakeholders. I would therefore be grateful if you could complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q7DCXKL>. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The text of the draft standard is contained within the survey.

The survey asks for feedback on the content of the draft standard. If you feel that the standard is not relevant to your particular area of work you can add comments in the text boxes below each question. If there are alternative apprenticeship standards that currently meet your needs please can you list them in one of the comment boxes.

## University of Brighton

This two year distance-learning **Postgraduate Diploma Industrial Pharmaceutical Studies** comprises six modules with supporting course materials and residential weeks. The Diploma satisfies the subject knowledge of the UK Joint Professional Bodies' Study Guide for Qualified Persons. The MSc comprises a further one year work-based dissertation.

Contact [s.j.gotham@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.gotham@brighton.ac.uk) or visit the [course page](#).

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