

Speaker Biographies

Dr Liliya Serazetdinova FRSB, Head of Business Development and Impact, Earlham Institute

Liliya has a PhD in Plant Genetics and Biology from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and over 14 years scientific expertise in plant breeding, phytopathology, and biochemistry. She has over 10 years of experience in knowledge transfer and commercialisation with a strong track record in establishing academia-business collaborations and helping consortia to win funding for innovation and R&D. Liliya is leading the Earlham Institute Business Development and Impact Team, delivering the EI's Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation Strategy, and supporting the EI Faculty with developing links with other academic organisations, private companies and wider stakeholders, and realising the impact of EI research.



Prior to the Earlham Institute, Liliya worked at KTN as a Knowledge Transfer Manager within the Agri-Food Team, where she supported large and small companies developing innovative technologies, and worked with government agencies, Innovate UK, research organisations and public funding bodies aiming to add value to the UK economy from exploitation of innovative products and technologies. Prior to KTN, Liliya worked at the University of East Anglia where she managed the delivery of several large multi-partner projects.

Liliya's expertise includes plant sciences, biotechnology, agricultural technologies, biorenewables, and bio-based materials. Liliya is passionate about translating technological innovation into economic, social and environmental impacts.

Dr Ross Overman, Principal Scientist Process Development, Leaf Expression Systems Ltd

Ross graduated from the University of York with a degree in biochemistry and holds a PhD in Biomolecular Science from the University of Manchester. Prior to joining Leaf Expression Systems in August 2018, he worked for 16 years in pharmaceutical industry as a molecular biologist and protein biochemist where he has produced a range of proteins to support small molecule drug discovery across several different disease areas. As Process Development Manager at Leaf, he is responsible for leading the downstream team whilst undertaking project management and business development activities.



Dr Richard Bowater, Associate Dean for Employability, UEA Faculty of Sciences

Richard is based in the School of Biological Sciences at UEA, teaching biochemistry and molecular sciences. He is also the Associate Dean for Employability for the Faculty of Science at UEA. In this role he supports the development of opportunities for students to connect with relevant employers, from short-term placements to longer-term research collaborations.



David Parfrey, Executive Chair of Anglia Innovation Partnership LLP Board

David is a highly proficient leader of transformational change and progression in the science, research and innovation sectors. He has an unwavering aspiration to create an environment that will enable the UK to be a global centre for ground-breaking Bioscience research and is passionate that research should change lives. In his previous role as Executive Director, Finance and Campus Operations at BBSRC David was pivotal in creating a number of significant UK research and innovation campuses that have built ecosystems around world-leading research institutes to enable researchers to deliver tangible benefits for social and economic good.



Dr Orr Yarkoni, CEO of Colorifix Ltd

Orr is a founder and Chief Executive Officer of Colorifix. After his early education in Portugal, Orr did his undergraduate, Masters and PhD degrees at Newcastle University, where he studied nanomaterials, biochemistry and synthetic biology. We worked at the University of Cambridge with Dr Jim Ajioka to apply these skills to the arsenic biosensor project. Orr and Jim spun out a novel and sustainable approach to dyeing textiles.



Sophia Weber, Biological Sciences Graduate, University of East Anglia

Sophia has just completed a BSc in Biological Sciences at the University of East Anglia. Her degree allowed her to study a wide range of topics across the biosciences. In addition, she took up opportunities to engage with extra-curricular activities, and joined the student-led Biological Society during her first year and became President of the society for 2019/2020. Sophia became a member of the RSB during the last year.

