

## Industry & Employer Newsletter

### {Today}

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)**

## Spotlight on... Ipsen

### Ipsen and Open Innovation

[Ipsen](#) is a medium size global pharmaceutical company, with headquarters in Boulogne, France. Ipsen is focused on 3 key therapeutic areas, endocrinology (pituitary disease and neuroendocrine tumours), oncology (genitourinary tumours) and neurology (movement disorders). The Company has a longstanding commitment to innovation and partnerships. In 2014, it invested more than 180 million euros in Research and Development (R&D). Ipsen R&D centres are located in three international science and innovation hubs: Paris-Saclay (France), Oxford (United Kingdom) and Cambridge (United States). Each site is strategically located in close proximity to major academic research institutes, leading hospitals and biotechnology companies, facilitating the development of collaborative research and drug development.

A key strategy for Ipsen is Open Innovation (OI). This means developing collaborative research agreements with academia and other companies, with the aim of complimentary respective resources and talents to develop new therapies for patients. As an example, the Paris-Saclay campus is now being developed to include companies that have complimentary expertise to Ipsen, such as early clinical development/translational medicine and the preclinical evaluation of novel oncology compounds. Ipsen has a research collaboration with the Salk Institute, focusing on the development of preclinical models of endocrine disease, induced pluripotent stem cells in Parkinson's disease and stromal cell interaction in the tumour microenvironment (TME). There are research collaborations on the TME in pituitary tumours, with the University of Lyon and Massachusetts General Hospital and in neuroendocrine tumours with the Dana Farber Institute. A particular area of expertise in Ipsen is the recombinant expression and molecular engineering of botulinum neurotoxins to create improved therapeutic proteins for the treatment of patients. Ipsen has collaborations with leading academic institutions studying botulinum neurotoxins, including Hannover Medical School and Harvard University. One aspect of this work is to create Targeted Secretion Inhibitors (TSI), modified neurotoxins able to target non-neuronal cells and inhibit secretion. TSIs are being developed for the treatment of endocrine hypersecretory diseases and also for targeting key components linked to cellular proliferation in the TME. All these projects are being developed following the principles of OI, with academic institutes and biotechnology companies.

Open Innovation is rapidly gaining traction in the pharmaceutical industry. This new approach to drug development is already seeing results in the regeneration of drug development pipelines and new therapies for patients. Ipsen's geographical positioning in Paris-Saclay, Cambridge MA and Oxford places it in ideal environments to foster OI, with the ultimate aim of facilitating the identification and development of new therapies for patients.

**Keith Foster FRSB and Philip Harris FRSB**

*Ipsen is a supporting member organisation of the Royal Society of Biology. Please [contact us](#) if you would like*

further information on organisational membership.

## Access to Higher Education Diploma (Science) - workshops on professional registration

**The Royal Society of Biology with the generous support of the Gatsby Foundation has collaborated with the Royal Society of Chemistry to support local FE colleges running an Access to HE Diploma (Science) course.**

Colleges signed up to the scheme this year are recognised by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in providing students that engage with employer-led projects with the opportunity to achieve the Registered Science Technician award (RSciTech). The registers are held by the Science Council and information regarding professional registration can be found at their [website](#).

The Science Council is hosting a series of workshops in FE colleges as part of this initiative, offering staff and local employers a route to professional registration. If you are interested in attending a workshop on professional registration for staff please contact [accessscireg@gmail.com](mailto:accessscireg@gmail.com) who can put you in touch with your nearest college.

## RSB Professional Registers update

### **New standards for Chartered Scientist register**

New standards for the [Chartered Scientist](#) (CSci) register have now been launched and the Royal Society of Biology is now welcoming new applications via the [online application system](#). The new standards, introduced by the Science Council, bring a more streamlined approach to the professional standards, as well as helping to support the career progression of scientists. To find out more about Chartered status and the benefits of professional registration, please see the [website](#).

## Education update - finalists for national higher education teaching award announced

**Dr Kevin Coward CBiol FRSB, Dr Katharine Hubbard and Dr Lesley Morrell have been shortlisted for the Royal Society of Biology [Higher Education Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award](#).**

The final three are hoping to win the £1,000 prize when the winner is announced on 4th May, at the [Heads of University Biosciences](#) (HUBS) Spring Meeting dinner in Leicester.

The Royal Society of Biology offers the annual award to teachers who have shown an outstanding contribution to higher education in the biosciences. The scheme rewards lecturers who have developed innovative and inspirational teaching methods, as well as undertaken professional development and supported colleagues.

Read more on our [website](#).

## Accreditation update

### **Degree Accreditation Awards ceremony 2016**

The awards ceremony will be held at the Houses of Parliament on the evening of 14th of April to celebrate the bioscience degree programmes that have been awarded Advanced Accredited or Accredited status over the last year. In addition the awards ceremony will be showcasing the top graduates from each higher education institution with Accredited or Advanced Accredited programmes.

The ceremony will provide a unique opportunity to network with leaders and decision makers from industry, academia and government and connect with students and graduates attaining the highest percentage in their accredited bioscience degrees. To find out more about the Degree Accreditation Awards Ceremony and the sponsorship packages available please [contact](#) the accreditation team.

## Policy update

## Science Minister highlights importance of EU membership and funding for science

Science Minister, Jo Johnson, delivered the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) Annual Lecture at the Royal Institution on the 27th of January. Addressing 400 scientists and engineers, the minister reflected on his first eight months in post and his personal pride at Britain's position as a world leader in science, technology and engineering. Read more on our [website](#).

## Government needs to improve UK readiness for next epidemic

The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee has released a report which details its concerns about the Government's readiness for a future epidemic similar to that of the Ebola outbreak in 2013. Read more on our [website](#).

## More data required to monitor Natural Capital

Speakers gave a broad overview of science, policy and business practice on natural capital monitoring and data use at a Natural Capital Initiative meeting in London. Read more on our [website](#).

## 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.

#### SysMIC online course

10.04.16

**Who is it for?** SysMIC is a comprehensive online course in quantitative biology for researchers in the biological and biomedical sciences. The course is open to researchers at all levels: from PhD students through to established researchers wishing to improve their skills. It includes the necessary background for the mathematics covered and does not assume any previous experience in computer programming.

#### What does it involve?

The course provides introductory and advanced training in mathematics and computer programming based around biological examples. Participants will gain an understanding of programming with MATLAB to model and simulate biological systems, and the R package to run statistical analysis of results.

Every topic includes code examples, exercises and quizzes, with hands on support provided by on-line tutors.

There are three modules available to study, each lasting six months and requiring about five hours per week.

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

**10.03.16**  
[An Introduction to Exhibition Design](#)

**17.03.16**  
[Webinar: Introduction to Social Media](#)

**23.03.16**  
[An Introduction to Grant Writing](#)

**14.04.16**  
[Project Management - An Introduction](#)

**18.04.16**  
[Science Communication Workshop](#)

**21.04.16**  
[An Introduction to COSHH for Technical staff](#)

**04.05.16**  
[So you want to learn more about business?](#)

## External news and opportunities

March 1 and 2

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

One of the UK's leading life sciences events, BioWales comprises an international conference with a theme this year of Connect and Collaborate, and a line-up of speakers that includes Lord Robert Winston, Professor Gordon McVie, and John A Mckinley. There is also an exhibition, partnering event, workshops and a Gala Dinner, all offering a unique platform to develop new international connections and partnering opportunities in Wales.

[www.biowales.com](http://www.biowales.com)

### **Analytical Biosciences Survey – University of Dundee, UK and HAN University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands**

The University of Dundee, UK and HAN University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands, would like to ask you some questions about their current and future needs for the development, management and use of centralised or core technical facilities for life science research. In particular, they are looking to see if there are opportunities and need for graduates of a programme developing technical leaders and research supporters of such facilities.

Your answers will be anonymous, and the information will be used to assess the viability of a new programme in this area.

A more detailed description of the proposal can be found here:

<https://uod.box.com/DundeeNijmegenSurvey>

Go to Survey:

<https://dundee.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/analytical-bioscience-market-survey>

### **UK Measurement Strategy - Survey**

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is working with LGC and the other UK measurement institutes to establish a UK Measurement Strategy for our parent government department (BIS).

To test some initial thoughts as to key components of the strategy, a survey has been launched which can be accessed via the [LGC website](#) or [directly](#).

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