On-campus Representatives Day

5th September
Charles Darwin House, London
Mark Downs CSci FSB
Chief Executive
The role of on-campus reps and membership

Jenni Lacey  Marketing Assistant
Mark Leach  Membership Marketing Manager
Agenda

13:30 – 13:50  The role of On-Campus reps and membership
13:50 – 14:10  Degree Accreditation programme
14:10 – 14:40  Breakout discussion: membership benefits
14:40 – 15:00  Tea/coffee break
15:00 – 15:20  HE projects and policy
15:20 – 15:40  Careers, bursaries and grants
15:40 – 16:10  Breakout discussion: careers support & advice
16:10 – 16:25  Training programme
16:25 – 16:45  Biology week
16:45 – 17:30  Drinks reception and networking
On-Campus representative: Mission statement

- Promote membership
- Share information about the Society’s activities
- Encourage BioSoc registration
- Feedback to the Society
About the Society

• Professional body
• Representative
  – 13000 members
  – 100 MOs
• Media
• Government
• Public interest
Member benefits

- Information and support
- Careers information
- Travel grants
- *The Biologist*
- Networking opportunities
- CV
- Discounted text books
- £15 a year!
Promoting membership

• Freshers’ fairs
• Careers fairs
• Lectures and Seminars
• Departmental offices
• Email updates
• Promotional materials
• Information & support
Registered BioSocs

- Aston University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Blackpool and the Fylde College
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Coventry University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glyndwr University
- Hamstead Hall CLC
- Imperial College London
- Keele University
- Lancaster University
- London Metropolitan University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Newcastle University
- Oxford Brookes
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staffordshire University
- University of Abertay Dundee
- University of Birmingham
- University of Brighton
- University of Dundee
- University of Exeter
- University of Leeds
- University of Lincoln
- University of Liverpool
- University of Malta
- University of Manchester
- University of Plymouth
- University of Reading
- University of Sheffield
- University of St Andrews
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Worcester
BioSocs - benefits

• E-alerts - news about the Society and relevant opportunities
• Networking - interaction with our members, local branches, and other student societies
• Free resources & merchandise
• Share their passion for biology and get involved
• Reduced membership rates for members (£12.50 a year)
• Free student membership for the President
• Help and advice on running the society

www.societyofbiology.org/biosocs
Feedback

- What do you think of our membership benefits?

- How are our membership benefits perceived?

- How can we communicate these better to members and potential members?
Accreditation and Recognition

Paul Trimmer
Accreditation Manager
Why?

- STEM – nationally recognised gap in the provision of adequately prepared citizens, from primary through HE
- Chain of reports
  - *The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)*
  - *Office for Life Sciences (OLS)*
- Addressing the skills gap between education and employment, especially in research roles.
Brief History

• Two years of consultation and development
• Pilot completed in March 2012 – focused on biochemistry
• Funding secured from UKCES
• Expansion of accreditation programme to cover three streams:
  Molecular Aspects of Biology
  Whole Organism Biology
  Ecological and Environmental Sciences
• First applications received in January 2013
HEIs with Accredited Degrees

• University of Bristol
• University of Birmingham
• University of Sheffield
• University of Liverpool
• University of Manchester
• University of York
• Royal Veterinary College

+ 10 HEIs have just applied
Framework

- NOT about wide recognition of threshold standards
- NOT making judgements on the wide range of excellent degrees in UK HE – will not be appropriate for all programmes
- IS identifying programmes with specific learning outcomes
- IS a partnership with Learned Societies and Industry
- IS about sharing good practice and ensuring the continued excellence of the UK Life Sciences
Framework

- Peer review process
- Outcomes-based approach
- **Period of practice:**
  - the effort required by the student for the research component of this work would normally be the equivalent of at least 80 credits, with the final assessment made at a minimum of level 6 (QCF/QCFW/EQF)/level 10 (SCQF)
  - the assessment of the period of practice will include a written report and other evidence (eg a self-reflective report, or oral examination) to show achievement of the learning outcomes
  - a site visit or other significant contact, eg teleconference, from the sponsoring HEI
  - passing the period of practice must be a requirement for the award of the degree
Framework

1. Academic excellence
   – Largely judged through range and appropriateness of assessment
2. Research-active environment
3. Infrastructure
   – Environments and processes
4. Other outcomes
   – Appropriate maths and physical sciences
   – Critical, analytical and reflective approach
5. Subject specific skills and knowledge
Process

• Two application rounds:
  1st January & 1st September

• 3 stage process
  1. Accreditation Assessment Panel reviews documentation to produce a preliminary report
  2. Panel undertakes a site visit including discussion with programme team and students. Panel reports findings including strengths and weaknesses
  3. Recommendation to Council for 5yr accreditation
Cost

• During the funding period cost is subsidised
  – £2500 for a single programme
  – Society covers expenses

• When funding ends
  – £5000 for a single programme
  – HEI covers expenses (estimated £3000)

Applications for assessment of multiple programmes accreditation will be charged depending on the level of similarity between the programmes.
What we can do

• Visit your HEI to talk about accreditation and answer any questions
• Offer support when putting applications together
What you can do

• Apply to become an accreditation assessor
• Take information for your colleagues

• For further information contact the team: Accreditation@societyofbiology.org
Degree Recognition

• Recognition of degrees that deliver more than 50% biology content is an important part of our support in higher education.

• Graduates automatically fulfil the educational requirements for Associate Membership (AMSB) of the Society.
Requirements of recognised degrees

• Classified as an Honours Degree
• Comprise at least 50% biology content with a clear use of the application of biological principles including a balance of contemporary and traditional science of which at least half of this content (at least 90 credits) will be in years after year 1 (year 2 in Scotland and Ireland)
• Include a project or dissertation in biology
• Offer experience of experimental work or data handling in biology
Recognition

- Cost is £750 per programme
- Application form can be found online
- Further information contact sophierobinson@societyofbiology.org
Accreditation and Recognition
Discussion session: Membership benefits
Break time
HE Projects

• Degree Accreditation and Recognition
• Heads of University Biosciences (HUBS)
• External Examiners database
• Open Education Resources
• HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year
• HE Policy Work
  – UG Practical work project
  – HE Teaching project
• HE Newsletter
• HE Careers advice and guidance
Heads of University Biosciences

• Became a Special Interest Group in 2012
• 80 Heads or subject leads from Bioscience Departments
• Executive committee of 12 Heads, with secretariat support provided by the Society of Biology

www.societyofbiology.org/hubs
Heads of University Biosciences

HUBS activities
– Two annual conferences
– Sharing best practice and networking
– Source of expertise for policy work
– Aids development and funding of projects
External Examiners Database

- Based on the UK Centre for Biosciences database of expertise – original data being acquired

- Register of potential external examiners and their experience and expertise run through the Society of Biology website

- Launching in 2013 – will contact OCRs with developments
Open Education Resources Project

• Funded to promote the use of OER by the bioscience community and launched at end of 2012
• Searchable, peer-reviewed OERs focusing on:
  – Laboratory, field work and multimedia protocols
  – Video and animated demonstrations
  – Data handling exercises
  – Case studies
  – Health and safety information

• Disseminated at events (HUBS Spring Meeting, OER2013, HEA STEM Conferences)

• Website being redesigned to be in line with new Society of Biology website later this year
Welcome to Open Education Resources!

Welcome to the Society of Biology’s new website to support the use of Open Education Resources (OER) by the bioscience community.

This project has been supported by the Higher Education Academy and JISC to identify, collect and promote bioscience OER. Full details of the project and our outputs can be found here.

This collection of OER aims to support teaching practical biology in Higher Education, and the resources featured on the site include lab and field work protocols, data handling exercises, videos of techniques and multimedia alternatives to wet lab work. Our panel of HE teaching practitioners have peer reviewed all the resources featured, and provide a short description of each resource and how it could be used.
Applications opening next week

Could you be the HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year 2014?

Organised by the Society of Biology and sponsored by Oxford University Press and Heads of University Biosciences, the HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award recognises outstanding learning and teaching practice in the biosciences.

The winner will receive the Ed Wood Memorial Prize: £1,000, one year’s subscription to an OUP journal of choice, one year’s free membership of the Society of Biology, and free attendance at the HUBS learning and teaching themed conference in Spring 2014.

Find out more at www.societyofbiology.org/btoy
The HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award recognises outstanding learning and teaching practice in the biosciences

- Displays **individual excellence** through the design and development of approaches to teaching that have proven successful in promoting bioscience student learning and achievement

- Undertakes **scholarly and professional developmental activities** that actively influence and enhance the learning of their students

- Provides evidence of **supporting colleagues and influencing** bioscience student learning beyond their own department and institution
HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year

• Application is through self, peer or management nomination, outlining suitability under each of the three criteria by Friday 15th November 2013.

• A judging panel shortlist five finalists who prepare a more detailed case study to support their application, including written and video evidence.

• All finalists will be invited to the HUBS learning and teaching themed Spring Meeting (1st May) where the winner will be announced and will present their case study.

• Case studies & video entries from finalists on our website.
HE Policy work

Reactive
Responses to consultations (in the last year)
- Society of Biology response to the Institute of Public Policy Research on the future of Higher Education in England
- Society of Biology response to the White Paper: Further and Higher Education (Wales) Bill

Proactive
- Gathering evidence: surveying members, establishing committees, commissioning research
- Producing Position statements
How we form our Policy responses

- Input from our members, Member Organisations, Special Interest Groups (e.g. HUBs)

- Task forces established for large projects

- Targeted invitations to experts within our membership – database of expertise and interest
Audit of UG Practical Work

• Joint project with HEA, Biochemical Society and HUBS
• Aim: determine the state of practical training for UK UG biosciences students, identify challenges to and opportunities for improving this provision
• Steering group to plan, scope and produce survey with researchers
• Survey is out now and will be followed up by telephone interviews
• Outcomes – report analysing results in November and will identify gaps, exemplars of best practice etc.
HE Teaching Project

• Joint project with the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Physiological Society & HUBS to consider the status of teaching within bioscience departments and medical schools in UK universities

• This is the start of a process for us to provide more support for our members who are teaching at HE.

• First steering group meeting in June to decide survey methodology

• Finalising survey methodology and survey will go out in the next two weeks

• Second steering group meeting in October to analyse results and decide next steps/dissemination activity
HE Newsletter

Provides an update on:

• Society of Biology HE work
• HUBS
• Our MO HE work
• Events
• Resources
• News
Any Questions?

Contact me
zoemartin@societyofbiology.org
Staff

Sophie
Qualifications and Skills Officers
Post 19 careers

Amy

Amanda Hardy
Schools and Colleges Officer
Pre 19 careers
What we do

• Exhibit at events
• Give talks
• Provide information and guidance
• Produce resources
Next Steps

A careers guide for undergraduate bioscience students, with up to date information on...

• Job seeking strategies
• The importance of skills
• Postgraduate study options, both in and outside science research
• Making applications
• Interview techniques
• The guide also includes
  • Example CV’s
  • Information on careers in teaching, medicine, dentistry, healthcare
• A comprehensive resource list

• View online at www.societyofbiology.org/nextsteps
• Bulk order copies for all your students - boxes of 50 available at cost price (40p per booklet)
Life Sciences Careers Conferences

University of South Wales
Wednesday 23 October 2013

London Metropolitan University
Wednesday 13 November 2013

Newcastle University
Wednesday 20 November 2013
Life Sciences Careers Conferences

- Planning your career
- Career pathways in academic research
- Career pathways in industry
- Careers in the environmental sector
- Biomedical and clinical science careers
- Careers in science teaching
- Careers in science communication
- CV workshop
Life Sciences Careers
Conferences

• Free to members
• £10 for non members
• Student membership is £15

More information at
www.societyofbiology.org/lscc
LSCC sponsorship opportunities

- 200-300 students/graduates per event
- Sponsorship available from £35
- Exhibit from £75
Grants and Bursaries Staff

Amy Whetstone
Undergraduate research bursaries

Karen Patel
Travel Grants
Undergraduate research bursaries

- Opportunity for students to gain research experience
- Students will take up the award during the summer vacation in the middle years (i.e. 2/3, 2/4 or 3/4) of their degree
- Run in conjunction with learned societies and with funding from the Nuffield Foundation
- 59 projects funded last year
Undergraduate research bursaries

- Supervisor applies on behalf of the student

- **Postdoctoral researchers** and **new lecturers**, early in their careers are also encouraged to apply, and should note this on the application form

- Students should contribute to the design of their project
Adjudication

• Adjudication is by a panel of expert referees

• Students who are expected to achieve a 1st or 2.1 degree who have not yet had an opportunity to experience research

• Research projects that have a clearly defined objective

• Projects which give scope for initiative on the part of the student
Selection of successful bursaries

• Saltmarsh regeneration in the Eden Estuary

• Validation of specific miRNAs in growing retinal axons

• Investigating replication restart on leading strand in *E. Coli*

• Mechanisms for voice and speech recognition in the human brain.

www.societyofbiology.org/urb
Travel Grants

• Opportunity of overseas travel in connection with biological study, teaching or research to those who would otherwise be unlikely to have it

• Twenty grants of £500 are available every year to members

• Two deadlines during the year, spring and autumn. The next deadline is midnight on Thursday 31st October 2013
Application

• A full CV

• A written academic reference (MSB level only)

• A 300-500 word statement which must clearly specify:
  – Details of the conference or project
  – How the grant will be spent
  – How the applicant will benefit from this opportunity
  – The expected outcomes of the conference or project
Successful Travel Grants

• From jewel scarabs to dung beetles - the cloud forests of Cusuco National Park, Honduras

• Investigations into African swine fever – Madagascar

• Research into the functional significance of the undivided heart in turtles - Denmark

www.societyofbiology.org/travelgrants
Other grants and bursaries

• Wide range of other grants available

• BBSRC, Biochemical Society, Society for Endocrinology, Marine Biological Society in the UK and lots more….

www.societyofbiology.org/get-involved/grants
Careers break out discussion

• What else could we do to support you and your students?

• Are there any resources that you feel would be useful that we don’t provide already?
Discussion session: Career support and advice
Extended Training Courses Programme at the Society
Training Courses as a Member Benefit

• Support professional recognition and CPD

• Provide opportunities for enthusiastic biologists to increase knowledge and techniques

• Discounted course fees offset membership fees
Courses held

- **Nature Photography**  
  With SB’s photo competition
- **Excellence in Expert Report Writing**  
  Expert witness testimony
- **Learning and Teaching in Higher Education**  
  Filmed by SelectBio for a web course
- **Project Management – An Introduction**  
  A popular course in planning and running projects
- **Persuasive Scientific Writing & Writing for the Non-Technical Audience**  
  Two courses in writing skills and argument strategy
New Training Officer

• Extend range and number of courses
• Increase profile of courses
• Courses to held around the country
• Survey to see what courses are needed
• Find course providers and venues
• Hold joint courses with other organisations
Suggested Courses

- Science Policy
- Biology Drawing – with SB’s Drawing Competition
- Returning to Work
- Professional Body Organisation and Responsibilities
- Good Laboratory Practice
- Bird Song and Identification
- Grant/Paper Writing
Your Help is needed

Can you help us by suggesting:
• Useful courses
• Good course providers

Offering to:
• Give courses
• Host courses
• Jointly run courses with the Society

Please contact cliffcollis@societyofbiology.org

- Thank you! -
Flying ant survey

Report your flying ant sightings

www.societyofbiology.org/flyingantsurvey
House spider survey

www.societyofbiology.org/housespiders
Biology Week

12th – 18th October 2013

www.societyofbiology.org/biologyweek
Schools work

Resources about food production and waste

Biology (14-16)
What goes into a cow?

Geography (11-13)
Where does your food come from?

Assembly/ form time
Animation – don’t waste food!

www.societyofbiology.org/stoy
Thank you!

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0207 685 2553
Drinks and networking