



UK Research  
and Innovation



## EBNet Newsletter August 2019

Welcome back to the Environmental Biotechnology Network Newsletter.  
Remember to [let us know](#) if you have anything to share with the wider community - jobs, info, requests - we love to hear from you.

### News and Queries

The annual **European Biosolids and Organic Resources' conference** is due to take place in Manchester on 19/20th November. The conference covers a broad range of topics of relevance to the water and waste industries - including anaerobic digestion, process optimisation, dewatering and land bank availability. Aqua Enviro's water industry contacts are very keen to learn more about the potential for optimising the biology within their AD systems - and particularly, how to base their approaches on an understanding at the genetic level (turning the emerging science into usable tools). The conference organisers would therefore like to host an interactive academic/industry session on this theme, to run in parallel with the main conference. If you are available and interested in participating, please contact [Frances.Woodhead@aquaenviro.co.uk](mailto:Frances.Woodhead@aquaenviro.co.uk). There will also be opportunities for ECR poster presentations - both on this specific theme, and on more general biowaste / bioresource processing topics.

One of our members has asked if anyone in the membership can help with the following query:

"How do we quantify the microbial numbers present in the inoculum before the start of a BMP test and during a BMP test, other than quantifying the volatile solids content basing it on this?

One of our objectives is to determine how much microbial biomass yield is achieved from the substrate that we use. We are also trying to build a continuous model for AD and for this we can keep the cells in the digester constant by maintaining the flowrates, but would need the numbers for a typical system based our batch BMP. So if we can quantify the microbial biomass at different stages, then it would help us build a better model to predict our systems."

Can you help? Contact [S.nagarajan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:S.nagarajan@qub.ac.uk)



### Forthcoming Events

Find selected upcoming events below or look further ahead with our online Google calendar.

What have we missed? Whether local or international, niche, general interest or 3rd party - provided the topic is EB, we can share with the wider membership.

### **EBNet/ALGAE-UK: Algae & Environmental Biotechnology: recent developments in the field of carbon capture, commercial development and integrated systems**

London, 9th October 2019

Working with Algae? Find out more from top experts and ask some questions too. This joint NIBB event with EBNet & ALGAE-UK is free to members of either NIBB.

Register now: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/algae-environmental-biotechnology-event-ebnetalgae-uk-tickets-68256656497>

**REA Event - Innovation in Digestate: best strategies to maximise value & manage environmental impact**

Birmingham, 3rd October 2019

See: <https://www.r-e-a.net/events/rea-event-innovation-in-digestate-best-strategies-to-maximise-value-manage-environmental-impact>

**BioVale: Is the time right for small-scale AD?**

Leeds, 17th October 2019

See: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/is-the-time-right-for-small-scale-ad-tickets-65523218711>

**Funding**

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

Want a partner? Contact us with your details and we can connect you with members with similar interests or put a request out through the network



**The BioIndustry Association (BIA) engineering biology pitching competition**

Deadline: 29th August 2019

BIA is organising a pitching competition for engineering biology start-ups and SMEs that are looking for early-stage investment. The pitching competition will be part of the BIA's annual UK Bioscience Forum, a conference which attracts over 300 representatives from the life sciences sector. All companies that pitch will get free access to the full conference, including lunch and drinks reception. The competition will take place at County Hall in central London between 2.00 and 3.30pm on Thursday 17 October.

See: <https://www.bioindustry.org/news-listing/engineering-biology-pitching-competition.html>

**Science and Technology Facilities Council: Advanced technology for addressing challenges in agri water runoff from fields in the UK sandpit**

Deadline: 31st August 2019

Funding covers travel, accommodation and meals for 25 to 30 participants to take part in the sandpit. Following the sandpit, roughly 10 projects worth between £20,000 and £40,000 each, will be funded.

See: <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/get-involved/events/agri-runoff-sandpit>

**Analysis for Innovators (A4I) Round 5**

Deadline: 4th September 2019.

Gain access to world-leading experts and cutting-edge facilities, techniques and technologies to solve an existing analysis or measurement problem facing your business.

See: <https://a4i.info/>

**Department for Transport (DfT) Clean Maritime Innovation Call**

Deadline: 8th September 2019

The call will fund technology, process innovations or services within mid TRL (TRL 3-7) that offer significant improvements to systems, timings, processes or technology for clean maritime services and operations. £1M is available for competition. This call is administered by MarRI-UK.

See: <https://www.marri-uk.org/Funding-Opportunities>

**BioimagingUK in conjunction with the Royal Microscopical Society: £10K Business Interaction Vouchers**

Deadline: 27th September 2019

BBSRC has made up to £80,000 available to fund business interaction vouchers for users and developers of bioimaging technologies. Individual vouchers are up to £10,000 in value and will support academics to work together with an industrial partner on short collaborative projects with a bioimaging focus.

See: <https://www.rms.org.uk/network-collaborate/bioimaginguk-network/bioimaginguk-business-interaction-vouchers-scheme.html>

**IBioC: Bioeconomy Boost 2019**

Deadline: 18th October 2019

Funding of up to £25,000 is available in the Industry-Led Accelerator Programme for collaborative projects between companies and academia.

Project proposals aligning to Scotland's National Plan for Industrial Biotechnology are welcomed from companies demonstrating a strong presence in Scotland.

See:

[http://www.ibioic.com/what\\_we\\_do/funding\\_and\\_financial\\_support/project\\_funding/project\\_types/d1144/](http://www.ibioic.com/what_we_do/funding_and_financial_support/project_funding/project_types/d1144/)

#### **UK Prevention Research Partnership Scheme – consortium awards**

Deadline: 14th November 2019

(Medical Research Council, GB and other funders)

The vision is to generate new knowledge on actionable, sustainable and cost-effective ways of modifying the upstream systems and environments which influence non-communicable diseases in the UK. Seeking applications from research teams including expertise from outside of what is generally perceived as the public health arena. For example, engineers, geographers, architects, designers, systems scientists, transport planners, lawyers and linguists.

See: <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/ukprp2/second-call/>

#### **Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) Early Career Researchers Flexible Fund**

Deadline: 17th December 2019

Up to £1 million of funding (at 80% Full Economic Costs) is available for this call. The maximum for a single project is £200k.

See: <https://www.creds.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-call/>



#### **Training Opportunities, Awards, PhD**

#### **Studentships & Jobs**

Did you know we have funds available to help members access placements in industry or academia. Could you host one to share what you know? Contact us now.

#### **Fellowships:**

##### **Royal Society/SFI University Research Fellowship**

Deadline: 3rd September 2019

See: <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/university-research/>

Plus multiple others – see: <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/>

##### **Leverhulme Trust: Research Fellowships**

Deadline: 7th November 2019

See: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/research-fellowships>

#### **PhDs:**

##### **IBioIC: Open CTPPhD call - multiple**

Deadline: 30th September 2019

[http://www.ibioic.com/skills/phd\\_programme/i2979/ibioic\\_collaborative\\_training\\_partnership\\_ctp\\_phd\\_programme\\_call\\_for\\_projects\\_7.aspx](http://www.ibioic.com/skills/phd_programme/i2979/ibioic_collaborative_training_partnership_ctp_phd_programme_call_for_projects_7.aspx)

Further examples from FindAPhD.com (<https://www.findaphd.com/>):

##### **Discovery and Development of Biocatalytic Solutions to Mitigate Microplastic Pollution**

*University of Bradford. Supervisors: Dr Tom Swift, Dr Refaat Hamed, Dr Sankar Sivarajah*

##### **Reutilisation of bioenergy waste residue in low-cost pollution abatement technology development**

*Northumbria University. Supervisor: Dr A Tiwary*

##### **The Application of Methanotroph Bacteria Methylococcus Capsulatus as Chicken Feed**

*University of Nottingham. Supervisor: Dr Y Zhang*

##### **Bioelectrochemical Systems for Remediation and Resource Recovery**

*University of Nottingham. Supervisor: Dr H. I. Gomes*

##### **Reutilisation of bioenergy waste residue in low-cost pollution abatement technology development**

*Northumbria University. Supervisor: Dr A Tiwary*

##### **Ecological impacts of microplastic pollution in freshwater habitats**

*Anglia Ruskin University. Supervisors: Dr D Green, Dr T Ings*

**Awards:**

**Hello Tomorrow Global Challenge**

Deadline: 13th September 2019

This science & technology start up competition designed specifically to address the needs of deep tech entrepreneurs across several different industries and technologies. The 14 categories include: Aeronautics; Advanced Computing & AI; Cybersecurity & Communication; Digital Health & Medical Devices; Drug Discovery; Energy; Environment; Food & Agriculture; Industrial Biotech; Industry 4.0; Medical Biotech; Mobility; New Space; and Smart City.

See: <https://hello-tomorrow.org/startups>

**Nominations open for the European Inventor Award 2020**

Deadline: 30th September 2019

This award from the European Patent Office (EPO) honours inventors not only for their scientific or technological breakthroughs, but also for the impact their invention has on society and the economy. Anyone can nominate an inventor through filling in the nomination form available from EPO.

See: <https://www.epo.org/learning-events/european-inventor.html>

**Erratum**

Apologies for an error in the July Newsletter - the Photo Credit should have specified James Robson, Chong Laboratory from the University of **York** (not Warwick!)

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