



ECR24 conference, Newcastle - 24-26 July 2024

## EBNet Newsletter - August 2024

**6th annual EBNet Early  
Career Conference (ECR24)  
- 24/25/26 July  
2024, Newcastle University**



With around 100 delegates, parallel sessions, poster talks and a site visit - this years' EBNet ECR conference was bigger and better than ever! We welcomed participants from across the UK to share research and network amongst peers. Our great thanks go to: *Prof. Victor de Lorenzo, Centro Nacional de Biotechnology, Dr Francis Hassard, Cranfield University and Dr Pavlina Theodosiou, Newcastle University* for their contributions.

Congratulations (and prizes) go to our winners:

Best Overall Presentation (Joint):

**Miss Hannah Bird, Newcastle University**

*Understanding proliferation of bacteria across anodes in Microbial Fuel Cells (MFC)*

**Mr Albert Woodward-Rowe, University of Surrey**

*Capsule formation mechanisms in interfacially-initiated macroporous hydrogels to tailor microstructures for encapsulation of living bacteria*

Best in Session (1a and b):

*Mr Benjamin Armijo, University of Edinburgh / Dr Kelly Jobling, Newcastle University*

Best in Session (2a and b):

*Miss Kathleen Dunbar, University of Surrey / Mr Sergio Serrano Blanco, Newcastle University*

Best in Session (3a and b):

Ms Zinnia Mansoor, University of Wolverhampton / Miss Chiara Sarti, Cranfield University

Best in Session (4a and b):

Dr Yixing Sui, University of Greenwich / Mr Albert Woodward Rowe, University of Surrey

Best in Session (5a and b):

Miss Hannah Bird, Newcastle University / Dr Nicholas Davison, University of Reading

Best Overall Poster:

**Mr Rohit Murali, University of Surrey**

*Enhancing the Anaerobic Digestion Model No.1: Integrating Microbial Communities for Improved Biogas*

*Production and Control Mechanisms*

Poster 2nd place:

Mr Bruno Casimiro, Newcastle University

Poster 3rd place (Joint):

Uzma, University of Glasgow / Mrs Ariadne Vidal i Herrera, Newcastle University

## BEWISe site visit

Thanks to: *Prof. Russell Davenport*,  
*Debbie Wilde* and *Dan Curtis*, Newcastle  
University for an informative  
afternoon. BEWISe is available to  
academia and industry to make  
innovations in wastewater treatment a  
reality for the water sector



## Now Open

EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

### ECR Conference Travel Bursary and Placement Awards

Always open

Looking to present your work at a major conference and lack funding? Given the increased cost of international flights we have raised our support to **£2,000** for full oral presentations to our listed conferences in 2023/24. Or up to **£3,000** for placements. Send in your application or enquire early to see if we can help.

### EBNet: Share With A Peer (SWAP) Travel Bursary

Always open. Available to Early Career Researchers

Proud of the work going on in your lab? Fancy a visit to another lab tackling similar topics? We have just the thing for you, We can offer **up to £250\*** towards accommodation, meals, and travel per person - just make a short video clip &/or pictures suitable for our website. [Flyer](#).

### CIWEM: Water and Environment Journal - Call for Papers -Environmental Biotechnology

Submission deadline: 31 January 2025

The guest editors are Dr Tao Lyu, Cranfield University and Dr Anjali Jayakumar, Newcastle University; heads of our PFAs and ECR [Working Groups](#) respectively. This special issue is open for participants of the EBNet ECR conference AND also the whole EBNet community.

Get involved to promote research that impacts EB. Take a look [HERE](#).

## Spotlight On...

Do you have any good news to share with other members? Email us details if you want a shout-out in the next newsletter.



### **BBSRC Forward Look for UK Bioscience 2024: Community Consultation**

BBSRC are seeking the views and input of the entire community to make sure their Forward Look continues to represent and reflect your views, priorities and values. Help deepen their understanding of the current drivers of bioscience research and innovation by taking the survey [HERE](#).

### **Free EBNet Book: a Short Story Anthology**

Download your free copy of the EBNet short story anthology [HERE](#). Read for fun or use for

outreach (under the CC licence). This is a great [resource](#) to engage with people who are interested in EB in an indirect and accessible way. If you like it, do promote it.

#### **NBIC-Flexible Talent Mobility Account (FTMA) proposals - now open!**

The FTMA should support the exchange of personnel, perspectives and knowledge, skills, and expertise between the academic and industrial sectors, focusing on the exchange, development, and training of individuals. Activities proposed must align with one or more of the NBIC Strategic Themes to Prevent, Detect, Manage and Engineer biofilms. More [HERE](#).

#### **The EPC's Engineering Ethics Toolkit**

The [Engineering Professors' Council](#) (EPC) is the representative body for engineering academics (at all levels – not just professors) in higher education. Their toolkits help engineering educators embed ethics in teaching. Examples include the [Sustainability Toolkit](#) and [Industrial Pollution Toolkit](#). Explore more [here](#).

#### ***Are you getting the latest information from us?***

More people are turning to EBNet for speedy access to events, reports, jobs, PhD/Postdoc positions etc.

Join us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).



### **Forthcoming Events**

*Find selected upcoming events below.*

*Find more at: [KTN events](#).*

[UKRI: Cross research council responsive mode scheme: webinar one](#) - 5 September 2024

[KTN: Sustainable bio-based Materials and Manufacture \(SusBioMM\) Cafes](#)

- 10 September 2024 'Reducing carbon emissions in the construction sector and Sustainable Insulation Material'

- 12 November 2024 'Developing a scalable, urine-based fertilizer – challenges and opportunities'

- 10 December 2024 'Harnessing the power of algae to create valuable products from waste'

[UKRI: Cross research council responsive mode scheme: webinar two](#) - 11 September 2024

[NERC: Digital gathering 2024](#) - 11/12 September 2024, The University of Manchester

[The Microbiology Society: AMR in Focus](#) - 16 September 2024

[Microbial Genomics Roadshow 2024](#) - 11 November 2024, Oxford

[Bio360](#) - 5/6 February 2025, Nantes, France

[Biofilms 11 – Interdisciplinary Momentum: Accelerating Biofilm Research and Innovation Across Boundaries](#) - 13-15 May 2025, Cardiff

[European Wastewater Management Conference & Exhibition](#) - 17/18 June 2025, Telford International Centre

[AquaConSoil 2025](#) - 16-20 June 2025, Liège, Belgium

### **Funding**

*Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.*

*Find more at: [UKRI funding](#).*



[Innovate UK: Innovation loans future economy: round 16](#) - 28 August 2024

[Leverhulme Trust: Research Project Grants](#) - 1 September 2024

[Eureka collaborative R&D: Eurostars three](#) - 12 September 2024

[Innovate UK: Eureka collaborative R&D: Eurostars three call seven](#) - 12 September 2024

[Innovate UK: Knowledge transfer partnerships](#) - 25 September 2024

[Ofwat: Water Breakthrough Challenge 5](#) - Stage One deadline: 30 September 2024

[EPSRC: Engineering Healthier Environments: Micro Network and Micro Network Plus](#) - 2 October 2024

[Leverhulme Trust: Visiting Professorships](#) - 3 October 2024

[Innovate UK: Smart grants](#) - 23 October 2024

[BBSRC/NSF/BIO: Work with US researchers](#) - 31 October 2024

[EPSRC/NERC: Sustainable Industrial Futures](#) - 11 December 2024

[FEMS: Research and Training Grants](#) - 1 January 2025



## Jobs, Training, Awards & PhDs

*Did you know we have funds available to help members access placements in industry or academia?*

### **Jobs (also see [FindAPostDoc](#) & [Jobs.ac.uk](#))**

[Post Doctoral Research Associate \(Grade Z\)](#) - 12 August 2024, University of Liverpool

[Research Fellow - Civil, Maritime & Environmental Engineering](#) - 15 August 2024, University of Southampton

[Postdoctoral Research Associate/Fellow](#) - 29 August 2024, University of Exeter

[Associate Professor/Professor in Microbial Biofilms](#) - 30 September 2024, University of Southampton

### **Training**

[CL:AIRE: Practical Aspects of Ground Gas, Vapour and Water Monitoring & Sampling](#) - 10 September 2024, Reading

[Cranfield University - various](#)

- 17 September 2024 'Energy and Water nexus – emerging energy opportunities for the water sector'

- 19 September 2024 'Wastewater-Based Epidemiology; Emerging trends in monitoring pathogens (i.e., viruses) and chemicals'

- 26 September 2024 'There's a wetland design for that: Latest applications of treatment wetlands'

- 1 October 2024 'Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and nutrient neutrality'

[REA: Understanding PAS100 in Full](#) - 18/19 September 2024

[REA: Understanding PAS110 in Full](#) - 24/25 September 2024

### **Awards and Competitions**

[CIWEM: Urban Drainage WaPUG Prize](#) - 9 August 2024

[CIWEM: Glyn Ellis Early Career Paper Competition](#) - 16 August 2024

[GRIPS 2024 - Poster Competition](#) - 10 September 2024

### **PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))**

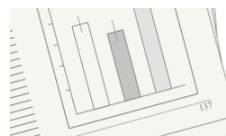
[Patchy sweet bullets against bacteria](#) - 20 August 2024, Swansea University

[Developing imaging and artificial intelligence to tackle antimicrobial resistance](#) - 21 August 2024, University of Exeter

[Machine Learning of Multi-Species Microbial Consortia Representations](#) - 29 August 2024, University of Leipzig

## Publications

*Have you seen or published anything recently that you would like us to highlight? Send your suggestions in!*



### **[Environmental and economic spatial analysis system for biochar production – Case studies in the East of England and the East Midlands](#)**

By: Yuzhou Tang, Yue Li and Tim T. Cockerill. In: Biomass and Bioenergy Volume 184, May 2024, 107187

### **[Scaling-up Engineering Biology for Enhanced Environmental Solutions](#)**

By: Francis Hassard *et al.* In: ACS Synth. Biol. 2024, 13, 6, 1586–1588

### **[Global challenges and microbial biofilms: Identification of priority questions in biofilm research, innovation and policy](#)**

By: Tom Coenye *et al.* In: Biofilm. Available online 4 July 2024

### **[Effects of shading & calcium peroxide suspension on landscape water quality and CH4 and N2O production](#)**

By: Tian-Tian Fu *et al.* In: Journal of Water Process Engineering. Volume 65, August 2024, 105813

### **[Biochar with KMnO4-hematite modification promoted foxtail millet growth by alleviating soil Cd and Zn biotoxicity](#)**

By: Xirui Kang *et al.* In: J Hazard Mater. 2024 Jul 29:477:135377

### **[UKWIR Reports:](#)**

- [Prevalence of Viruses and Somatic Coliphage in UK Waters – Method Development and Data Gathering](#). By: John Fawell *et al.*

- [Process Emissions](#). By: James Blair *et al.*

- [Harnessing pesticide degrading bacteria for enhanced drinking water treatment](#). By F. Hassard *et al.*

## Still here?

### [Perplexity AI](#)

This newest AI assistant combs reputable and cited sources on the web to answer your scientific questions. Ask it anything, and get an answer backed by checkable references. This new tool will be of great assistance to researchers worldwide. Although there are as yet no shortcuts for peer review in the first place!

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