The EBNet Social Sciences Working Group Workshop - 4 November 2024, London

EBNet Newsletter - December 2024

New

New webinar! BEC Systems – a talk by Dr Deepak Pant, VITO

13.00-14.00, Monday, 13 January 2025

This webinar series is brought to you by the "*Bioelectrochemical Development for Environmental Technology*" Working Group. Dr Deepak Pant is a senior scientist at the Flemish Institute for Technological Research, currently working on electrosynthesis and resource recovery, specifically, the design and optimization of bio/electrochemical cells for CO_2 conversion and microbial electrosynthesis. Join him for insight into the latest international research in BEC systems.

For your TEAMs link, Register **HERE**.

Coming Soon! #EnvBiotechAware, 3-7 March 2025

EBNet will come to an end in 2025 with a week of online content - celebrating and showcasing our Network and its work over the last 6 years. Join us online from 3-7 March 2025 for a feast of activity about Environmental Biotechnology. We will be showcasing

animations, outreach, reports, and focussing the spotlight on the members who have made it all possible. Make a point of dropping by to see what we've achieved together.

New EBNet videos!

Following our summer call for animation ideas to illustrate EBNet's Microbiology/Engineering Interactions Theme, we now have 3 new videos to enjoy on YouTube. Our thanks to *Dr Hemaka Bandulasena, Loughborough University*, *Dr Francis Hassard, Cranfield University* and *Dr Yue Zhang, University of Southampton* for working with Senate Media to create these. Want to know more about Aeration, Anaerobic Fermentation or Slow Sand Filtration? Made to be freely available for outreach, do let us know how you use them!

Now Open

EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

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**.

ECR Conference Travel Bursary, Placement Award & SWAP Travel Bursary

Always open

Applications for support are now considered on a case-by-case basis, but *must* occur prior to the end of the Network early next year. Enquire early to see if we can help.

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.

Tender Opportunity: Appraisal of the impact on digestate quality with a final screening step, from introduction of a smaller screen size

REAL's Research Hub Project have another Tender open. For full project details and submission instructions see here. Deadline: 20 December 2024.

New UKWIR Report: Circular Economy - Water Treatment Sludges

Find all the latest UKWIR reports online here.

World Biogas Association: Activity Report

Keep up to date with the latest from industry at WBA publications.

The UP-TO-ME project

UP-TO-ME is an EU-funded initiative aimed at transforming decentralised power-to-methanol production. It tackles converting CO_2 emissions from hard-to-electrify sectors into renewable fuels. See the project website or follow them on LinkedIn/ X. They are seeking to gather insights from two distinct groups: 1. Experts in the field of methanol and fuel production: Link. 2. Individuals with no relation to the field of methanol and fuel production: Link. Could you respond, or help share these links with your network or relevant contacts?

Euro-Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion (MIC) Survey

Support and disseminate knowledge on the field of by adding your experiences to the survey

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

The SusBioMM Cafe Series: Reimaging leather waste, making material circularity possible on an epic scale - 14 January 2025, webinar

The WWT Wastewater 2025 Conference & Exhibition - 28/29 January 2025, Birmingham

The SusBioMM Cafe Series: NPK recovery from human waste - 11 February 2025, webinar

World Water-Tech Innovation Summit - 25/26 February 2025, London

The Carbon Recycling Network: Annual Conference - 9-12 March 2025, Shrigley Hall

IBioIC: 11th Annual Conference - 12/13 March 2025

Emerald Isle Conference on Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering - 9-11 April 2025, Belfast

Biofilms 11 - 13-15 May 2025, Cardiff (abstracts by: 3 February 2025)

Utility Week Live - 20/21 May 2025, Birmingham

11th Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering Conference - 2-5 June 2025, Atlanta,

Georgia, USA

Letters in Applied Microbiology ECS Research Symposium 2025 - 12 June 2025, University of Liverpool

7th IWA International Conference on eco-Technologies for Wastewater Treatment - 23-26 June 2025, Stockholm (abstracts by: 31 January 2025)

The British Science Festival - 10-14 September 2025, University of Liverpool

Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

*Find more at: **UKRI funding***

Marshall Sherfield Fellowship - 13 December 2024

The Water Breakthrough Challenge 5 - 6 January 2025

The Leverhulme Trust: Study Abroad Studentships - 7 January 2025 (final call for the scheme)

Innovate UK: Contracts for Innovation: Clean Energy Demonstrators in Tanzania - 17 January 2025

Innovate UK Smart Grants - 22 January 2025

The Leverhulme Trust: Emeritus Fellowships - 30 January 2025

Innovate UK: India – UK Collaborative R&D for industrial sustainability, round 2 - 12 February 2025

EPSRC: Critical mass programmes to drive a sustainable future - 4 March 2025

AMI: Sustainable Microbiology Novel Research Grant - 15 March 2025

NERC: Opening up the Environment 2025 - 1 April 2025

AMI: New Lecturer Research Grant - 30 April 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**)**

Research Associate in Geomicrobiology Related to the Geodisposal of Radioactive Waste - 16 December 2025, The University of Manchester

Research Associate / SRA - Individual Based Modelling for Environmental Biotechnology - 5 January 2025, Newcastle University

Interdisciplinary Research Fellows in Chemistry / Chemical Engineering / Microbial

Sciences - 5 January 2025, University of Surrey

Postdoctoral Research Associate - 6 January 2025, The University of Edinburgh

Lecturer in Biochemistry - 6 January 2025, University of Galway

<u>**Training**</u>

AquaEnviro: Wastewater Treatment - 19 March 2025

AquaEnviro: Optimising Activated Sludge Plants - 26 March 2025

EMBL: Microscopy data analysis: machine learning and the BioImage Archive - 31 March - 4 April 2025

AquaEnviro: Optimising Anaerobic Digesters: Sewage Sludge - 2 April 2025

<u>**Awards and Competitions**</u>

The AD and Biogas Awards - 31 December 2024

The MacRobert Award - 31 January 2025

The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education - 28 March 2025

AMI: Horizon Awards - 11 July 2025

<u>**PhDs**</u> **(see** FindaPhD**)**

Synthetic organelles for biofuel biomanufacturing from waste biomass - 6 January 2025, University of Hull

NERC RED-ALERT CDT: Mobile genetic elements landscape in planktonic and sedimental microbiomes of Conwy catchment - 7 January 2025, University of Bath

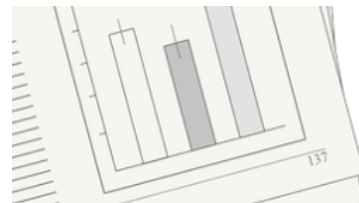**Bio-engineering of biochar for enhanced remediation of contaminated environments** - 15 January 2025, Heriot-Watt University

Single-cell profiling: Exploring individualism and group behaviour within bacterial populations - 29 January 2025, Queen Mary University of London

Using microencapsulation to study biofilm formation - 31 May 2025, University of Birmingham

Publications

Have you seen something, or published anything recently, that you would like us to highlight?

Acidogenic Fermentation of Organic Residual Solids: Effect of Different Alkaline Sources on pH, Alkalinity, and Fermentation Performance

By: Maria Ramos-Suarez,Yue Zhang &Sonia Heaven. In: Fermentation 2024, 10(11), 571

Book: Sample Handling and Trace Analysis of Pollutants: Innovations to Determine Organic Contaminants, Second Edition

Ed. Damià Barceló & Yolanda Pico

Further Investigation of the Power Generation and Pollution Removal Capacity of Microbial Fuel Cells for the Treatment of High Nickel Content Wastewater

By: Qilu Chen, Eljamal, Osama, Elizabeth Heidrich & Sam Bessai. In: Proceedings of International Exchange and Innovation Conference on Engineering & Sciences (IEICES). 10, pp.1122-1128, 2024-10-17

Techno-economic analysis and process simulation of alkoxylated surfactant production in a circular carbon economy framework

By: Oliver J. Fisher et al. In: Digital Chemical Engineering. Volume 13, December 2024, 100199

Still here?

Something to pass the time over Christmas

It may or may not be true that 'everyone has a book in them'. But Christmas is a great time of year for popular science authors to cash in as the annual shopping frenzy hits bookstores. Amongst many relevant options... *Our Future is Biotech* by *Andrew Craig* is currently advertised as #1 most gifted in 'Chemical & Biochemical Engineering'. *Transformer: The Deep Chemistry of Life and Death* by *Nick Lane* is *#336* in *'*Biology*'* and *How Life Works: A User's Guide to the New Biology* by *Philip Ball is* #21 in 'Genetics in Popular Science'*.* Or take a look at the new Green Stories anthology '*Stories from the Microbial World*'.

The Royal Society run an annual science book prize and if you are interested in the idea yourself, Penguin helpfully have a list of major writing competitions for prospective authors. Or just play with some existing text. A colleague recently shared an AI generated* 'podcast' created entirely from the text of his short story. It was uncannily good. (*Google NotebookLM)