



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

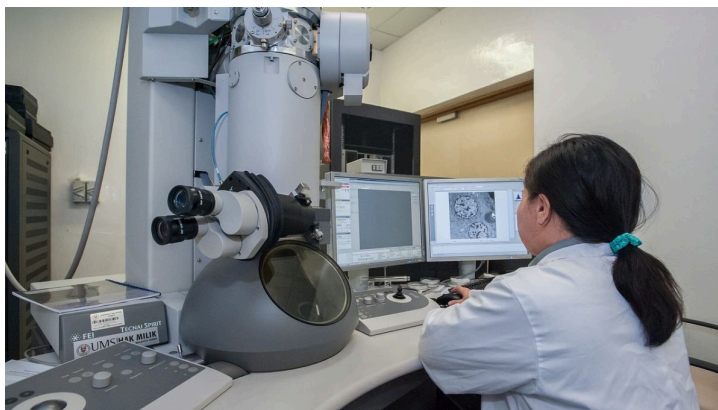


Image by Kenneth Rodrigues from Pixabay

EBNet Newsletter - February 2024

New

[EBNet webinar: Biochar in Environmental Biotechnology](#)

12 Feb 2024, 10:00-11:00 am (GMT)

Hosted by Dr Meredith Barr from the EB Network Biochar Working Group, this features Professor Andy Ball, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and Professor Fred Coulon, Cranfield University, discussing the application of biochar to the field of environmental biotechnology to improve bioremediation, resource recovery, and environmental protection. They will showcase case studies from their respective work. Since this is the inaugural session of the Biochar Working Group, Meredith will lead a short session to explore activities that the community may find valuable to undertake. Register [here](#).

Video Training for ECRs - book now!

26 April 2024, online session – essential preparation. 9am-11am

17 May 2024, workshop, Birmingham. All day. (Bring own phone/laptop.)

Want to improve your video production skills? The online session covers aspects of pre-production; the in-person workshop covers aspects of production. Places are strictly limited for this free, 2-stage training so we advise booking as soon as possible. ECR travel bursaries available. Email: EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk, now.

Bioprocessing Entrepreneurial Skills Training programme for ECRs - interested?

[Expression of Interest](#) (anticipated w/c 2 September 2024)

EBNet would like to gauge interest in a residential week-long programme on bioprocessing entrepreneurial skills. At this week-long, intensive residential training programme, designed around the insights and advice of senior industrialists, you would take part in group-based activities and work with real-life industrial case studies. The programme is designed to engage with the process of entrepreneurship, focus on development of your ability to promote yourself and your research ideas and their value to audiences and the key importance of the societal impact of industrial biotechnology. For EBNet to offer this opportunity we need to ensure there is sufficient membership demand.

Interested? Kindly let us know with an [expression of Interest](#).

[New EBNet Working Group - Environmental Biotechnology and Social Sciences](#)

Led by Dr Adrian Ely, University of Sussex, the purpose of this small group is to examine the histories, contemporary dynamics and potential futures of the field of environmental biotechnology, drawing on insights from the social sciences, in particular science and technology studies (STS). Although not intended as a membership WG, there will be

opportunities for input. Anyone interested should contact EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk to be put in touch.



Now Open

EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

[EBNet Webinar: Unlocking AI and Machine Learning's Potential for Environmental Biotechnology](#)

13:30-15:00, Wednesday, 21 February 2024, online

The webinar, led by Dr Oliver Fisher and Professor Rachel Gomes from the University of Nottingham, features Dr Miao Guo, King's College London, Dr Dongda Zhang, the University of Manchester and Dr Michael Short, University of Surrey, discussing the application of AI and machine learning to improve bioremediation, resource recovery, and environmental protection. A 30-minute panel session will allow attendees to engage with the panellists, asking questions related to the presentations and the overarching theme of the webinar. Register [here](#) and see updates on the webpage [here](#).

[EBNet Proof of Concept Call](#) - Deadline: 19 February 2024

Last chance for EBNet Proof of Concept funding! EBNet POC 2024 - £5k-25k. Intended to support smaller scale and desk-based projects these awards must be completed by 12 December 2024. Find the application form and guidance online [here](#). For all queries email the network managers who are happy to help.

[EBNet Placement Call](#) - Always open

These are worth up to £1,500 for UK-based placements and £3,000 for overseas placements.

[ECR Conference Travel Bursary](#) - 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** (max.) for full oral presentations to our listed conferences in 2023/24. Send in your application as soon as you are notified - we have a number set aside for each conference!

[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](#).

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.



[IEA TASK 37: Energy from Biogas](#)

The 2022-2024 TASK 37 triennium, which focussed on: *co-benefits of AD, conditions for a better manure utilization, the role of biomethane in industry and transportation and costs and marginal abatement cost*, is coming to an end. EBNet will be feeding into the discussion of challenges for the next triennium. Want to influence the debate? Share your priorities with us. Email your thoughts to EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk.

[Environment Agency Open Consultation: Charge proposals for water quality permits](#)

The EA invite you to share your views on their proposed changes to *water quality charges*. Respond individually or tell us your views to feed in to the EBNet response. Deadline: 11 March 2024. More [here](#).

[Innovate UK: Materials and manufacturing vision 2050 report](#)

The Innovate UK *materials and manufacturing vision 2050* is aimed at stimulating interest, focus and action to make the UK a leading, world-class destination for advanced low carbon manufacturing. See [here](#).

[New UKWIR Report](#)

New UKWIR reports have now been published: *Harnessing Pesticide Degrading Bacteria for Enhanced Drinking Water Treatment* and *Alternative Permitting Approaches*. Find all UKWIR reports [here](#).

[CIWM Podcasts](#)

Access the *Beyond Waste Podcasts* with CIWM. There are lots of episodes available now [here](#) and [here](#).

Science in Society - public lecture

Catch up with MaREI Director Professor Jerry Murphys' lecture in the Science in Society Public Lecture Series: "*Circular Economy, Energy and the Environment*". In it he explains a series of decarbonisation pathways - including for circular economy systems that integrate offshore wind, electrolysers, hydrogen, power to X, biorefineries, biomethane and decarbonisation of agriculture, industry and transport. See [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.

For more, go to: [Events Roundup](#)

- [CIWM: Understanding our Waste: The good, the bad and the hard to recycle](#) - 14 February 2024
- [KTN/New Anglia LEP: Net Zero Innovations Unveiled in Norfolk's Agri-food Industry](#) - 21 February 2024, Norfolk
- [KTN: End of Life of Textiles – Understanding the role for biotechnology in developing a circular textiles industry](#) - 22 February 2024
- [Science Council: Learn more about becoming a Chartered Scientist \(CSci\)](#) - from 26 February 2024
- [Postgrad LIVE London](#) - 28 February 2024, London
- [CIWM: FPF FlexCollect Interim Report - Key insights for the waste and resource industry](#) - 28 February 2024
- [Innovate UK/KTN: Resource efficiency and world-class production in materials and manufacturing workshop](#) - 28 February 2024, Birmingham
- [Horizon Europe Event: The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking](#) - 29 February 2024
- [Low Carbon Agriculture](#) - 6/7 March 2024
- [CIWEM: How to apply for Chartered Environmentalist \(CEnv\)](#) - 12 March 2024
- [IBioIC: 10th Anniversary Conference](#) - 13/14 March 2024, Technology & Innovation Centre, Glasgow
- [WWT Innovation and Smart Water Conference](#) - 14 March 2024, Birmingham
- [Inaugural Lecture: How will microbes and electrons help us to achieve a circular economy?](#) - 10 April 2024, Loughborough University
- [Materials Research Exchange \(MRE\) 2024](#) - 23/24 April 2024, London
- [Eurobiofilms 2024](#) - 26-29 June 2024, Copenhagen, Denmark
- [ECB2024, JBS2024 and NBC-24 Congress](#) - 30 June - 3 July 2024, Rotterdam, Netherlands. (Abstracts by: 12 April 2024)
- [European Wastewater Management Conference & Exhibition](#) - 2-3 July 2024, The Point at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester (Abstracts by 16 February 2024)
- [WasteEng2024](#) - 20-23 August 2024, Sendai, Japan
- [16th International Adhesion conference 2024](#) - 3-5 September 2024, University of Oxford (Abstracts by: 6 March 2024) Includes: *Bio-adhesion* and *Adhesion in the marine environment*.
- [International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium](#) - 9-12 September 2024, Berlin, Germany (Abstracts by: 16 February 2024)
- [IWA 17th International Conference on Small Water and Wastewater Systems \(SWWS\) & 9th International Conference on Resource Oriented Sanitation \(ROS\)](#) - 10-16 November 2024, Curitiba, Brazil (Abstracts by: 15 April 2024)
- [IWA: Nutrient Removal and Recovery Specialist Conference](#) - 17-21 November 2024, Brisbane, Australia (Abstracts by: 15 April 2024)
- [Aqua Enviro: European Biosolids & Bioresources Conference & Exhibition](#) - 19-20

November 2024, The Point at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

[FEMS2025](#) - 13-16 July 2025, Milan, Italy

Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

For more, go to: [Funding Roundup](#)



[UKWIR: Expression of interest - chemical modelling](#) - 23 February 2024

[Innovate UK: Environmental monitoring innovation](#) - 6 March 2024

[Innovate UK: innovation loans future economy: round 13](#) - 6 March 2024

[EPSRC: Strategic infrastructure outlines](#) - 7 March 2024

[REAL Schemes: Research Hub Call for Proposals - organics recycling](#) - 8 March 2024

[Innovate UK: CLIMATES: Supply chain innovations for rare earths, strand 2](#) - 13 March 2024

[BBSRC: Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research \(ICURE\) Explore](#) - 19 March 2024

[BBSRC: Follow-on fund](#) - 27 March 2024

[NERC: Doctoral focal awards in the environmental sciences](#) - 9 April 2024

[NBIC 5th Proof of Concept Funding Call](#) - 12 April 2024

[BBSRC: Japan-UK engineering biology for discovery research and cross-cutting technologies](#) - 16 April 2024

[DESNZ: Industrial Energy Transformation Fund Phase 3](#) - 19 April 2024

[Innovate UK: Smart grants](#) - 24 April 2024

[BBSRC/NERC: Doctoral Landscape Award 2024](#) - 30 April 2024

[Innovate UK: UK-Switzerland CR&D Round 2](#) - 1 May 2024

[EPSRC: Accelerating research outcomes to deliver a prosperous net zero](#) - 16 May 2024

[EPSRC: Prosperity Partnerships round six](#) - 21 May 2024

[Innovate UK UK-Germany bilateral collaborative research and development: round 3](#) - 3 June 2024

[EPSRC: Programme grant outline stage](#) - 25 June 2024



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](#))

[WASE: Field Engineer](#) - appoint by March 2024

[JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Call](#) - 6 March 2024

[Senior Research Assistant in Built Environment](#) - 14 February 2024, Northumbria University

[Graduate Research Assistant](#) - 26 February 2024, University of Exeter

Training

[ADBAs: Health & Safety Essentials for AD](#) - 20 March 2024

[IBBK: proBIOGAS #International – Biogas engineering and operating training with plant visits](#) - 17-26 September 2024, Stuttgart, Germany

[UCL: Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\): from Theory to Practical Application](#) - 4-7 November 2024

Awards and Competitions

[The Big Bang Competition](#) - 27 March 2024

[Philip Leverhulme Prizes](#) - 16 May 2024

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

[High-value Chemical Production From Waste Cellulose](#) - 15 February 2024, University of Hull

[Lawn grass microbial fuel cells for widespread energy harvesting](#) - 29 February 2024, University of Nottingham

[Enzymatic routes for the oxidative degradation of waste electronics](#) - 29 February 2024, The University of Manchester

[Modelling the bioelectrochemical response of biofilms linked to microbiologically-influenced corrosion](#) - 31 August 2024, University of Southampton

[Degradable and resorbable polymeric cryoprotectants](#) - open, The University of Manchester

Publications

[Environmental Protection through Aerobic Granular Sludge Process](#)

By: Yong-Qiang In: Processes 2024, 12(2), 243; Special Issue Environmental Protection by Aerobic Granular Sludge Process

[Integrated biorefinery for bioethanol and succinic acid co-production from bread waste: Techno-economic feasibility and life cycle assessment](#)

By: Rendra Hakim Hafyan et al. In: Energy Conversion and Management Volume 301, 1 February 2024, 118033

[The Effects of Biochar-Amended Tropical Soils on Herbicide Pollution: Column Leaching Studies Absorption of Herbicides in Biochar-Amended Tropical Soils](#)

By: Gerardo Aldana, Elisa Lopez-Capel and David Werner. In: Journal of Belizean Research / Health, Natural Sciences, and Technology. Vol. 2 No. 1 (2024)

[Priorities and relevance of bioenergy sustainability indicators: A participatory selection framework applied to community-based forestry in Mexico](#)

By: Elias Martinez-Hernandez et al. In: Energy Research & Social Science Volume 109, March 2024, 103425

[Direct biohydrogen production from chitosan harvested microalgae biomass and an isolated yeast](#)

By: Jessica K. Suastes-Rivas et al. In: Energy Conversion and Management. Volume 302, 15 February 2024, 118081

Still here?

Space Bioprocess Engineering

The constraints imposed by a spacefaring environment drive innovations in sustainability and circularity in bioprocesses. The topic has been well explored in fiction; exemplified in a dystopian way by the 2016 novel [Aurora](#) by Kim Stanley Robinson. A recent paper in Nature ([Domains of life sciences in spacefaring: what, where, and how to get involved](#)) highlights the general upsurge in scientific activity associated with space bioprocess engineering. One example in action is [NASA's Universal Waste Management System](#), which recycles water. It was reportedly under development for six years at a cost more than \$23 million.