



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



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EBNet Newsletter - June 2023

New

[EBNet Proof of Concept Call - now open](#)

Open: 1 June '23. Close: 15 August '23. Notification: end November 2023.

This final open "mop-up" Call is sufficient to fund a single £50K or several £25K bids. Can you come up with something new and exciting which will provide a platform for future impact? Details [here](#).

[EBNet Short Story Competition. Theme: Microbes to the Rescue!](#)

Now open. Deadline: 21 September 2023.

£500 prize (or local currency equivalent) plus runners up prizes of £200 (2nd) and £100 (3rd) place.

This short story competition is a collaboration between the [Green Stories Project](#) and EBNet. Green Stories writing competitions are a series of **free** writing competitions across various formats to solicit stories that showcase what a sustainable society might look like.

(Research indicates that stories are a powerful communication tool!) Their latest competition is sponsored by EBNet and may appeal to writers with a scientific bent as it aims to use fiction to raise awareness of Environmental Biotechnology and what microbial systems can do for us.

Do enter, and pass this round widely - now open [here](#).

[E3B/EBNet: Bio-recovery of technology-relevant metals - Poster* session open](#)

12-14 December 2023, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Manchester. Attendance, meals and overnight accommodation are free

EBNet are supporting this E3B led event with a **joint Poster session**. Register [here](#) now - before the event reaches maximum capacity! Are you working on the biorecovery of metals, bioremediation or want to learn more about the enzymes or industrial applications?

This is a chance to learn about the very latest research from across the UK. ECR? We have a limited number of £200 Travel Bursaries* to facilitate attendance from our members to this co-badged event. First, register for a place via E3B. Then just email us direct to request a bursary. (*You must contribute to the poster session for support.)



Now Open

EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

[EBNet Early Career Researcher Conference \(ECR23\)](#)

30 August-1 September 2023, Edinburgh

Registration remains open for this popular, entirely free 2-day conference. Each year we gather as many of our ECR members together as we can to mingle, network, and share their research and ideas. This year we focus on career development with top speakers - [Prof. Mike Manefield](#), UNSW, Australia and [Dr Ian Fotheringham](#), Ingenza. Share the [Flyer](#) with new colleagues; we welcome new PhD students to New Lecturers/Young Professionals. Register for a place [here](#).

[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](#).

[Testing the Water 6](#)

26/27 June 2023, Oxford

Are you an ECR aiming to go to TTW6, Oxford? EBNet can help with ECR Travel Bursaries worth £200 towards Travel and Accommodation - just ask us to see if you are eligible.

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.



New EBNet Report: [Reflections on the move to a double-blind Proof of Concept Call](#)

EBNet take inclusion seriously and aim to safeguard the quality of funded research by eliminating, wherever possible, opportunities for bias in our processes. With these concerns in mind, EBNet moved to a 'double-blind' system for our 2022 Proof of Concept funding call. Take a look at our processes and read the full report [here](#).

UKWIR Report: [Microbial standards and wastewater - what next?](#)

This provides a review of latest research into microbial and viral pathogen standards in the context of the UK and Irish water sector and an overview of existing bathing water standards and microbial standards for faecal indicator organisms.

OfWAT Innovation Fund - winners announced

16 solutions have been awarded a share of £40 million in the water regulator's latest innovation competition – the Water Breakthrough Challenge, including the "[Net Zero Hub](#)". This ground-breaking project, will transform a large, carbon intensive Wastewater Treatment Plant into the world's first retro-fit carbon neutral site. Innovative suppliers are developing technologies to reduce, remove and avoid carbon trialing them at scale to deliver a blueprint for water companies to retro-fit their wastewater treatment plants to achieve their 2030 Net-Zero commitments.

UKRI: Call For Evidence

Want to contribute to a Call For Evidence on current and past activity to improve the UK culture and environment across the R&I sector? Sign up [here](#).

Micromeritics Academic Grant Program

Matching grant funds or a lump-sum to apply toward the purchase of Micromeritics systems for characterization of surface area, porosity, density, powder flow, and catalyst activity are available. See [here](#).

Insights from the Microbiome One Health Conference

Interested in the current state of microbiome innovation in the UK, as well as challenges and opportunities across the human, animal, plant, soil, and environment microbiome? Find insights from the conference summary here: [Exploring Microbiome Innovation](#).

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](#)

[Biovale: Developing the circular bioconstruction sector in the North East and](#)

[Yorkshire](#) - 14 June 2023, York

[JSPS: Funding Programme Information Event](#) - 15 June 2023

[Innovate UK: Analysis for Innovators\(A4I\) Roadshows](#) - 4-18 July 2023, Strathclyde and Swansea

[Microbiology Society: Early Career Microbiologists' Forum Summer Conference](#)

[2023](#) - 24/25 July 2023 (Abstracts: 15 June)

[16th International Congress Thermophiles 2023](#) - 29 August-2 September 2023, Bangor, North Wales

[Microbiology Society: Microbial Genomics Roadshow 2023](#) - 12 September 2023, Selwyn College, Cambridge

[26th European Nitrogen Cycle Meeting](#) - 13-15 September 2023, Oslo

[Microbial Stress 2023](#) - 18-21 September 2023, Vienna

[IWA Resource Recovery Conference](#) - 1-4 November 2023, Shenzhen, China

[ECB-IBS Congress](#) - 30 June-3 July 2024, Maastricht, The Netherlands

[13th IWA Micropol and Ecohazard Conference](#) - 16-20 June 2024, Taiwan

[Reservoir Microbiology Forum \(RMF\) 2023](#) - 15/16 November 2023, London (Abstracts: 21 July)

Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

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



[FEMS: Research and Training Grants](#) - 1 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Knowledge transfer partnerships](#) - 5 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Future Economy Investor Partnerships SME: round 2](#) - 5 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Innovation loans future economy competition: round nine](#) - 7 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Farming futures: environmental resilience, industrial research](#) - 19 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Farming futures: environmental resilience, feasibility](#) - 19 July 2023

[UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme: round 1](#) - 20 July 2023

[Innovate UK: Engineering biology collaborative R&D round two](#) - 26 July 2023

[EPSRC: New investigator award: responsive mode](#) - 28 September 2023

[EPSRC: Network grant: responsive mode](#) - 28 September 2023

[EPSRC: Working with overseas scientists: responsive mode](#) - 28 September 2023

[EPSRC: Standard research grant: responsive mode](#) - 28 September 2023

[AMI: Scientific Conference Abstract Scholarship](#) - 10 October 2023

[Horizon Europe 2024 ERC Grant deadlines](#) - starting from 24 October 2023

[AMI: Small Research Projects and Equipment Fund](#) - 31 October 2023

[AMI: International Capacity Building Fund](#) - 10 November 2023



Jobs, Training, Awards & PhDs

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

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

[Associate Professor in Biotechnology \(Bioprocess Engineering\)](#) - 13 June 2023, Dublin City University

[Research Scientist \(Microbial Genomic Epidemiology/ Bioinformatics\)](#) - 13 June 2023, Quadram Institute Bioscience

[Senior Research Associate](#) - 20 June 2023, University of East Anglia

[Lecturer in Computational Biology](#) - 2 July 2023, Newcastle University

Training

[Cloud-SPAN: Free Core R Workshop](#) - 20 June 2023

[World Biogas Association:](#)

Biogas from waste water - 13 July 2023

Technical aspects for Implementing a successful biogas project - 14 September 2023

Power to gas - 19 October 2023

Managing summer temperatures and biological health - 7 November 2023

[MIC Summer School: Corrosion management for the sustainability of assets in aqueous environments](#) - 22-25 August 2023, Prague, Czech Republic

Awards and Competitions

[AMI: Horizon Awards](#) - 14 July 2023

[NBIC: Biofilm Create! Art and Photography Competition](#) - 20 October 2023

[AMI: Applied Microbiology Product of the Year](#)

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

[Adsorption-based Biotechnology](#) - 30 June 2023, University of Galway

[Hydrocolloid extraction and spent biomass valorisation for a novel, high-value macroalgal biorefinery](#) - 9 July 2023, University of Bath

[Anaerobic Digestion Process Modelling, Optimisation, and Control using Artificial Intelligence](#) - 21 July 2023, University of Surrey

[Microbial and METabolite-based indicators for Soil Health](#) - 1 September 2023, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo

Publications

[Low-cost and rapid sensors for wastewater surveillance at low-resource settings](#)

By: Yang, Z. In: Nature Water 1, pages 405–407 (2023)

[Biohybrids: textile fibres provide scaffolds and highways for microbial translocation](#)

By: Angela Sherry, Bruna M. Dellagnezze and Jane Scott. In: Front. Bioeng. Biotechnol. Sec. Biomaterials. Volume 11 - 2023

[Environmental DNA clarifies impacts of combined sewer overflows on the bacteriology of an urban river and resulting risks to public health](#)

By: Rixia Zan, Adrian Blackburn, Jidapa Plaimart, Kishor Acharya, Claire Walsh, Ross Stirling, Chris G. Kilsby, David Werner. In: Science of The Total Environment. Available online 18 May 2023, 164282

[Substrate-independent expression of key functional genes in Cycloclasticus pugeti strain PS-1 limits their use as markers for PAH biodegradation](#)

By: Anjela L. Vogel, Katharine J. Thompson, Constantin B. App, Tony Gutierrez, Frank E. Löffler and Sara Kleindienst. In: Front. Microbiol. Sec. Microbiotechnology. Volume 14 - 2023

[Unlocking the Full Potential: New Frontiers in Anaerobic Digestion \(AD\) Processes](#)

By: Sigrid Kusch-Brandt, Sonia Heaven, and Charles J. Banks. In: Processes 2023, 11(6), 1669

Still here?

Did you know?

Enlivening a PowerPoint can be as easy as finding a surprising fact or two. Luckily, the [Guinness Book of World Records](#) can help.

- The world's **most polluted river** is the Citarum river in Indonesia. The pollutants come from industries (many textile plants are located in this area), as well as from domestic households. Analysis performed in 2013 showed very high concentrations for metals such as aluminium, manganese and iron – 97, 195 and 194 parts per billions (ppb) respectively. These figures are well above the world average – 32, 34 and 66 ppb respectively.
- According to the IQAir 2020 World Air Quality Report, the country with the **worst air pollution** is Bangladesh, which has an average PM2.5 particulate pollution level of 77.1 µg/m³, close to 8 times the maximum level considered acceptable by the WHO.

- The Russian town of Dzerzhinsk (population 285,000 in 1995) is the world's most **polluted industrial town**. In Dzerzhinsk, 440km 275miles east of Moscow, life expectancy is only 42 for men and 47 for women.

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