



Joint EBNet/ Carbon Recycling Network meeting on Gas Fermentation - Shrigley Hall, 27-28 March 2024

EBNet Newsletter - May 2024

New

Calling all Industry members

Dr Anjali Jayakumar, Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Newcastle University is currently looking for industrial partners in the UK who could collaborate on joint funding calls in all areas of biochar production (pyrolysis) and application (especially soil-water remediation). She is specifically looking for contacts working in:

- *the biomass/agrowaste sector (Biochar production needs different types of biomass, preferably agricultural wastes abundantly available in the UK; and may need it in large quantities (Kgs) to test scalability of pyrolysis etc.)*
- *Any companies working with mineral-rich wastes such as sewage sludge (Water companies) or mining waste (abandoned mines with spoil heaps) or boiler companies (producing wood ash)?*
- *Any companies producing biochar, especially in large-scale, in the UK*

Interested in co-creating projects, or able to offer help or guidance? Contact Anjali by email: Anjali.Jayakumar@newcastle.ac.uk



Now Open

EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

6th annual EBNet ECR Conference - abstracts by 20 May

24-26 July 2024, Newcastle University

Calling all Early Career Researchers - from PhD students to new lecturer/young professionals. Join us again this year to contextualise your research, meet useful people and practice your communication skills. We have strictly limited place for the optional site visit, so we recommend you book early. Register now [HERE](#) for your free place. Full travel/accommodation bursary support available to UK-based ECRs. Are you a supervisor, or do you have new colleagues? Pass the word!

Lab Visit - Biochar research

The EBNet Working Group: [Biochars for Pollution Prevention](#), led by Dr Meredith Barr, will be holding lab visit to Herriot-Watt University on 24 May 2024. If you are interested to join the group for an interesting tour of the facilities and want to meet others working with biochars do [get in touch](#) with Meredith now to secure a place.

[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.



[DESTINY](#)

This EU initiative aims to train a new generation of bioeconomists.

Transitioning into an economy based on regionally available biological resources will substantially increase the demand for biomass from forestry and agriculture, and may incur adverse effects on biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions or water resources.

Comprehensive, rigorous and transparent assessment procedures are thus required to ensure that the bioeconomy will deliver on its sustainability promise. For more see [HERE](#).

[NBIC: Biofilm Alliance - a Network for Regulatory Sciences, Academic Research, and Industry Collaboration](#)

Regulatory science plays a vital role in evaluating products aimed at controlling biofilms before they hit the market. To ensure these products meet their purpose, scientific evidence is crucial. To bridge the gap between scientific progress, product development, and regulatory decision-making, a collaborative network is needed to bring together researchers, industry representatives, regulatory bodies, and standardisation agencies.

NBIC invite you to participate in their survey [HERE](#).

[REA: Report Published](#)

The *RBP Test Improvements and Alternatives Project report* is now available. It is the outcome of a project focused on the Residual Biogas Potential test, the only digestate stability test specified under PAS 110:2014. The project aimed to understand the cause of RBP test-related failures and invalid results, explore potential improvements to the method, and/or identify suitable alternatives. See [HERE](#).

[AIBIO-UK - a new BBSRC-funded network](#)

This initiative will support and enhance engagement between the Bioscience and AI communities in the UK. The network will support community events, funding of pilot projects and creation of resources for supporting use of AI in the biosciences. 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.

Find more at: [KTN events](#)

[BIA Webinar: AMR New Horizons – Solutions to the threat of antimicrobial resistance](#) - 9 May 2024

[KTN: Navigating Net Zero: Understanding the Role of Hydrogen](#) - 20 May 2024

[The Microbiology Society: Publishing Fundamentals series](#) - from 20 May 2024, London

[ADBA Scottish Conference](#) - 23 May 2024, Aberdeen

The Cranfield Water masterclass series:

[Energy and Water nexus – emerging energy opportunities for the water sector](#) - 4 June 2024

[The PFAS 'forever chemicals' in drinking water – regulation, fate and treatment](#) - 7 June 2024

[There's a wetland design for that: Latest applications of treatment wetlands](#) - 11 June 2024

[Sustainable drainage systems \(SuDS\) and nutrient neutrality](#) - 14 June 2024

[Wastewater-Based Epidemiology; Emerging trends in monitoring pathogens \(i.e., viruses\) and chemicals](#) - 18 June 2024

[E3BNet: Metals in Engineering Biology meeting](#) - 9-10 July 2024, Durham

[Cell Symposia: A circular economy for the chemical sector](#) - 22-24 July 2024, Cardiff

[E3B/BioProNet: Bioprocessing Entrepreneurial Skills Training \(BEST\)](#) - 8-13 September 2024, Durham

[Institute of Water: Annual Conference 2024](#) - 10/11 September 2024, Lincoln

[Environmental Services & Solutions Expo](#) - 11-12 September 2024, NEC, Birmingham

[UKWIR: 5th Annual Conference](#) - 3 October 2024, Hilton London Tower Bridge

[UNC Water and Health Conference](#) - 14-18 October 2024, North Carolina, USA (Abstract deadline: 1 May 2024)

[Testing the Waters 7 Conference](#) - 21/22 October 2024, Portugal

[BIA: The Future of UK Regulation Conference 2024](#) - 6 November 2024, London

[European Biosolids & Bioresources Conference & Exhibition](#) - 19/20 November 2024, Manchester

[BIA: bioProcessUK Conference 2024](#) - 19 November 2024, Liverpool

Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

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



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

[BBSRC: 2024-25 strategic Longer and Larger \(sLoLa\) grants](#) - 21 May 2024

[NBIC: Biofilms ICURe Engage](#) - deadline extended to 24 May 2024

[Innovate UK/BBSRC: Resource-efficient or bio-based materials and manufacturing](#) - 29 May 2024

[JSPS London: Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers \(Short Term\)](#) - 3 June 2024

[UKRI: Future Leaders Fellowships](#) - 18 June 2024

[Innovate UK: New innovators in life and health sciences, Northern Ireland](#) - 19 June 2024

[NERC: Delivering training courses for environmental scientists 2024](#) - 26 June 2024

[Innovate UK: Knowledge transfer partnerships \(KTP\)](#) - 26 June 2024

[BBNet: Business Interaction Voucher Funding](#) - 30 June 2024

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

[BBSRC: New investigator award](#) - 25 September 2024

[BBSRC: Standard research grant](#) - 25 September 2024

[Royal Society: Faraday Discovery Fellowships](#) - 2 October 2024

[EPSRC Pre-announcement: Sustainable Industrial Futures](#) - 19 November 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](#))

[2* Research Fellow in AI for Anaerobic Digestion \(AI4AD\)](#) - University of Surrey (short-term placements)

[Portfolio Manager - Capability and Innovation](#) - 14 May 2024, BBSRC

[Research Fellow - microbial interactions](#) - 15 May 2024, University of Warwick

[Senior Lecturer in Biotechnology and Education](#) - 16 May 2024, University of Galway

[Postdoctoral Research Associate](#) - 21 May 2024, The University of Edinburgh

[Research Assistant/Associate in Textile Ecosystem Design and Analysis](#) - 23 May 2024, Newcastle University

June 2024

Training

[ADBA: Temperature and Biology](#) - 14 May 2024

[EMBO Practical Course: Synthetic biology in action: engineering synthetic systems](#) -

15-22 September 2024, EMBL Heidelberg and Virtual. (Apply by: 23 June 2024)

[EMBL-EBI: Genome bioinformatics: from short- to long-read sequencing](#) - 18-22

November 2024

Awards and Competitions

[St Andrews Prize for the Environment](#) - announced 31 October 2024

[Earthshot Prize](#) - announced November 2024

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

[Role of symbiotic microbes of phytoplankton in future ocean carbon storage and productivity](#) - 17 May 2024, Imperial College London

[Identification, characterisation and novel expression of plastic-degrading enzymes in bacterial spores](#) - 31 May 2024, Anglia Ruskin University

[Understanding the mechanisms behind co-linkage of antimicrobial and heavy metal resistance genes in pathogenic bacteria from livestock in the UK](#) - 24 June 2024,

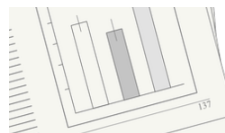
University of Reading

[Developing Hybrid Physics-Informed AI Digital Twins for Bioenergy Applications](#) - 1

July 2024, University of Surrey

Publications

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



[Activated carbon amendment of sand in the base of a permeable pavement reduces total nitrogen and nitrate leaching](#)

By: Rixia Zan, Ross Stirling, Adrian Blackburn, Claire Walsh and David Werner. In: Science of The Total Environment. Available online 27 April 2024, 172831

[The role of feedstock and activation process on supercapacitor performance of lignocellulosic biochar](#)

By: Jiacheng Sun *et al.* In: Biomass and Bioenergy. Volume 184, May 2024, 107180.

[Sustainable low carbon and bioaugmentation strategies for bioremediation of oil-contaminated acidic wetlands](#)

By: RB Jumbo, E Atai, I Azuazu, I Bortone, F Coulon – In: The Handbook of Sustainable Chemistry

[Deciphering the interplay of sludge age and aeration on reactor performance and microbial dynamics in high-rate contact stabilization](#)

By: LeiYu He, Bing Guo, Siegfried E. Vlaeminck, and Meng Wang. In: ACS EST Engg. 2024, 4, 4, 851–860

[Techno-economic assessment of bioleaching for metallurgical by-products](#)

By: Ipek Tezyapar Kara, Stuart T. Wagland, Frederic Coulon. In: Journal of Environmental Management. Volume 358, May 2024, 120904

[Understanding microplastic presence in different wastewater treatment processes: Removal efficiency and source identification](#)

By: Min Ma *et al.* In: Science of The Total Environment. Volume 929, 15 June 2024, 172680

[Investigating the influence of sulphur amendment and temperature on microbial activity in bioremediation of diesel-contaminated soil](#)

By: Clara Delanau, Thomas Aspray, Mark Pawlett, Frederic Coulon. In: Heliyon. Volume 10, Issue 9, 15 May 2024, e30235

Still here?

UN World Environment Day - 5 June 2024, Saudi Arabia

Superseding last year's focus on plastic pollution, this year's [World Environment Day](#) has three challenges: land degradation, desertification and drought. Want something more specific? There is a helpful calendar of [UN action day dates](#) which lets you check them all out including: [World Soil Day](#), [World Water Day](#), the [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#) and [World AMR Awareness Week](#).

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