



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council



Group photo - ECR23

## EBNet Newsletter - September 2023

### New

#### **Webinar: Nanobiotechnology Enabled Sensing of Current and Emerging Pandemic Threats**

11.30-12.30, 21 September 2023. Venue: Stafford Cripps SC2, Cranfield University & MS Teams.  
Join [Professor Peter J. Vikesland](#), Virginia Tech, for a fascinating look at nanobiology enabled sensing. Brought to you by the EBNet Working Group on [Environmental Sensors and Wastewater Surveillance](#). Find the Teams link and more details [here](#).

#### **ECR Workshop: Realising the potential of your ideas through partnership and funding**

10-11 October 2023, The Edge, University of Sheffield  
Brought to you by BNet, HVB, EBNet and the Supergen Bioenergy Hub this in-person interactive workshop is for early career researchers (ECR) who want to learn more about winning funding – from research proposals to investment pitches. Through a series of talks, facilitated discussions, knowledge-sharing and advice clinics, we will explore how to develop your ideas, form partnerships and identify and apply for funding opportunities. This is a free event with all meals and accommodation on 10 October 2023 provided. The registration deadline is 18 September 2023. Details [here](#).

#### **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for the EBNet Industrial Community - Goal & Scope**

30 October 2023, University of Surrey  
This EBNet workshop aims to establish the Goal and Scope Definition of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) following the ISO14040-44 principles for the UK anaerobic digestion (AD) systems. Key players in the field will be invited to set out the objectives and outreach of the fundamental tools and standardized methodologies. Industrial practitioners will be invited to share their problems. From here, the aim will be to merge the problems and solution approaches through more discussion-oriented meetings. The working group will identify some tangible problems to work on, e.g., optimising AD for net-zero. Pre-reading required; see [here](#) for information and registration. Places are limited, so register now.  
Industry welcome.

#### **Save-the-date**

Coming soon from the *Bioelectrochemical Development for Environmental Technology Working Group*: **Bioelectrochemical Systems Workshop**: 23-24th November, Newcastle University. Details available soon!

## 5th annual EBNet Early Career Conference 2023



### **ECR23**

This year's ECR conference was the biggest yet! Nearly 90 delegates and 3 invited speakers managed to evade the train strikes to join us for 3 days of intense activity. Our thanks to: *Prof. Mike Manefield, UNSW; Dr Ian Fotheringham, Ingenza; and Dr Angela Sherry, Northumbria University* for sharing their career experiences with us.

Congratulations go to:

#### Best Overall Presentation:

*Mr Sergio Serrano Blanco, Newcastle University*

*Effect of carrier fill ratio on *T. obliquus* growth and productivity in heterotrophic conditions*

Best in Session 1:

*Ms Maggie White, Newcastle University*

Best in Session 3:

*Miss Beatriz Delgado Corrales, Northumbria University*

Best in Session 4:

*Miss Kathleen Dunbar, University of Surrey*

Best in Session 5:

*Mr Sergio Serrano Blanco, Newcastle University*

Best in Session 6:

*Dr Alice Banks, Imperial College London*

#### Best Overall Poster:

*Mr Neeraj Chauhan, University of Birmingham*

*Monitoring Toxic Elements in River Water and Wetlands Using Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*):*

*Safeguarding Endangered Species and Ecosystem*

Poster 2nd place:

*Miss Fiona Bunn, University of Edinburgh*

Poster 3rd place:

*(Joint) - Ms Maira Anam, University of Nottingham, Miss Okelani Aworabhi, Cranfield University, Dr Dinesh S. Bhandari, University of Glasgow, Miss Nnenna Chukwuekezie, Cranfield University, Miss Karen Fung, Heriot Watt University, Ms Christine Steffen, University of Nottingham.*



### **Now Open**

*EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.*

#### **EBNet: 6th Business Interaction Voucher (BIV) Call**

Deadline: 16 October '23

If you want EBNet support for an academic/industry project don't delay - our BIV and POC funding must all be completed by autumn '24. Details [here](#).

#### **EBNet Short Story Competition. Theme: Microbes to the Rescue!**

Deadline: 21 September 2023

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

### 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.*



### DSIT: Engineering Biology Call for Evidence

EBNet will shortly be responding on the area of the *Environment*. We encourage members to feed us any comments and information they would like to see incorporated.

Do you have experience to share on: Public interest & uptake of engineering biology products, UK value chain for engineering biology, Knowledge pipeline, talent & skills, Business ecosystem, Regulatory environment or Future expectations? Email us at [EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk](mailto:EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk). Individual responses are also warmly welcomed - make your voice heard.

### The Environment Agency Survey

Deadline: 8 October 2023

The EA has launched an eight-week consultation on scrapping the £250,000 cap on civil penalties. This follows the government announcement that it will lift the current limit of £250,000 that the EA can impose directly on operators, as well as expand variable monetary penalties to cover more offences under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. 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.*

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

[RWM Expo](#) - 13/14 September, NEC, Birmingham

[KTN: Net Zero Chemical Manufacturing - Unlocking the power of biotechnology to transform the UK chemicals industry](#) - 14 September 2023

[CIWEM: Trials at the Resource Recovery and Innovation Centre](#) - 18 September 2023

[Future of the Ofwat Innovation Fund webinar](#) - 19 September 2023

[RSC: Water at interfaces Faraday Discussion](#) - 20-22 September 2023, London

[Briefing event: The Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge](#) - 21

September 2023

[CIWEM: Resilience planning in the water industry](#) - 26 September 2023

[UKWIR 4th annual conference](#) - 30 November 2023, Hilton London Tower Bridge, London

[IWA: Water and Development Congress & Exhibition](#) - 10-14 December 2023, Kigali,

Rwanda

[The Carbon Recycling Network: 4th Annual Conference](#) - 25-27 March 2024, Cheshire

[4th International Conference Waters in Sensitive and Protected Areas](#) - 10-14 April 2024

[IWA: International Conference On Wider- Uptake Of Water Resource Recovery From Wastewater Treatment](#) - 18-21 June 2024, Palermo, Italy

[19th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies](#) - 24-28

June 2024, Essen, Germany

[IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition](#) - 11-15 August 2024, Toronto, Canada

## Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

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



[The Royal Society: International Exchanges](#) - 27 September 2023

[The Royal Society: Industry Fellowships](#) - 28 September 2023

[Sandpit: novel sensing for UK defence and security](#) - 3 October 2023

[BBSRC: follow-on fund](#) - 4 October 2023

[DEFRA/Innovare UK: Farming Innovation Programme Small R&D Partnership Projects](#) - 25 October 2023

[The Royal Society: Short Industry Fellowships](#) - 26 October 2023

[NERC: Innovation in environmental monitoring](#) - 7 November 2023

[NERC: Independent Research Fellowship](#) - 8 November 2023

[HVB: Annual meeting](#) - 14-15 November, Crowne Plaza, Manchester

[NERC: Large grant to tackle big environmental science questions](#) - 16 November 2023

[EPSRC: Equality, diversity and inclusion \(EDI\) sharing hub](#) - 5 December 2023

[Innovate UK: UK-Singapore collaborative R&D call sustainability and net zero](#) - 6

December 2023

[BridgeAI: Innovation Vouchers](#) - 31 December 2024

[BBSRC: Pre-announcement: Sustainable Aquaculture Partnerships for Innovation](#) - to be confirmed

[BBSRC: Pre-announcement: business and academia prosperity partnership: round 2](#) - to be confirmed

[BBSRC: Pre-announcement: Alternative Proteins Innovation and Knowledge Centre](#) - to be confirmed



## 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 on Plant-Microbe Interactions](#) - 15 September 2023, Imperial College London

[Science Officer - Bioinformatics Tools & Training](#) - 24 September 2023, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) - ELIXIR Hub

[Roving Researcher](#) - 16 October 2023, University of Cambridge

### Training

**CL:Aire Training:**

[Statistics for Land Contamination](#) - 20 & 27 September 2023, online

[Introduction to Controlled Waters Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment](#) - 7 November 2023, CL:AIRE Training Centre, Reading

[Definition of Waste Code of Practice](#) - 20 September 2023 (Manchester), 25 October 2023 (Reading), 22 November 2023 (Manchester)

[Industrial Biotechnology for Lignocellulosic based Processes](#) - 23-27 October 2023, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

[ADBA: Biogas, Biomethane and Grid Injection](#) - 26 September, 2023

[Free Cloud-SPAN course on METAGENOMICS](#)

- 6-24 November 2023 (deadline for registration and scholarships: 18 October 2023)

[CAR-SOIL](#) - 21 November 2023, CL:AIRE Training Centre, Reading

### Awards and Competitions

[Biofilm Create! Photography and art competition](#) - 20 October 2023

[The Biochemical Society Awards](#) - nominate by 1 November 2023

[RAEng Awards](#) - various

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

[Plastic waste as a feedstock for sustainable solar-driven hydrogen generation](#) - 30 September 2023, University of Strathclyde

[Impact of organic pollutants on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in aquatic](#)

[environments](#) - 30 September 2023, University of the West of Scotland

[Hydrocolloid extraction and spent biomass valorisation for a novel, high-value macroalgal biorefinery](#) - 29 October 2023, University of Bath

## Publications

### [Rising stars in aquatic microbiology: 2022](#)

By: Tony Gutierrez and Hongbin Liu. In: Front. Microbiol., 15 August 2023

### [Differential utilisation of dissolved organic matter compound fractions by different biofilter microbial communities](#)

By: Marta Vignola *et al.* In: September 2023 AQUA - Water Infrastructure Ecosystems and Society

### [A comprehensive review of bioleaching optimization by statistical approaches: recycling mechanisms, factors affecting, challenges, and sustainability](#)

By: Tannaz Naseri, Vahid Beiki, Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi and Sebastien Farnaud. In: RSC Advances Issue 34, 2023

### [Development of a UAV Based Framework for CH4 Monitoring in Sludge Treatment Centres](#)

By: Hiniduma Gamage, Kavindi Abeywickrama, Yadira Bajón-Fernández, Bharanitharan Srinamasivayam, Duncan Turner and Mónica Rivas Casado. In: Remote Sens. 2023, 15(15), 3704

### [Emergent Lag Phase in Flux-Regulation Models of Bacterial Growth](#)

By: Fiona Bate, Yumechris Amekan, Dmitri O. Pushkin, James P. J. Chong & Martin Bees. In: Bulletin of Mathematical Biology volume 85, Article number: 84 (2023)

## Still here?

### Noble Prizes

This year's [Nobel Prize](#) announcements will take place 2–9 October 2023. Always enlightening, they tend to crown the achievements of a whole career. And at the other extreme are the [Darwin Awards](#) - always an eye-opener! Between the two, it is always nice to be recognised for your achievements and acknowledged by colleagues. Or even just make your CV stand out! With so many opportunities out there, why not nominate a colleague or project for an award in your field - they have to be in it to win it. EBNet would like to recognise the work by all our delegates at ECR23. We couldn't hold this without you! Standards were high, the research was exciting - and we are grateful to everyone who participated to make the event a success.

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