



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

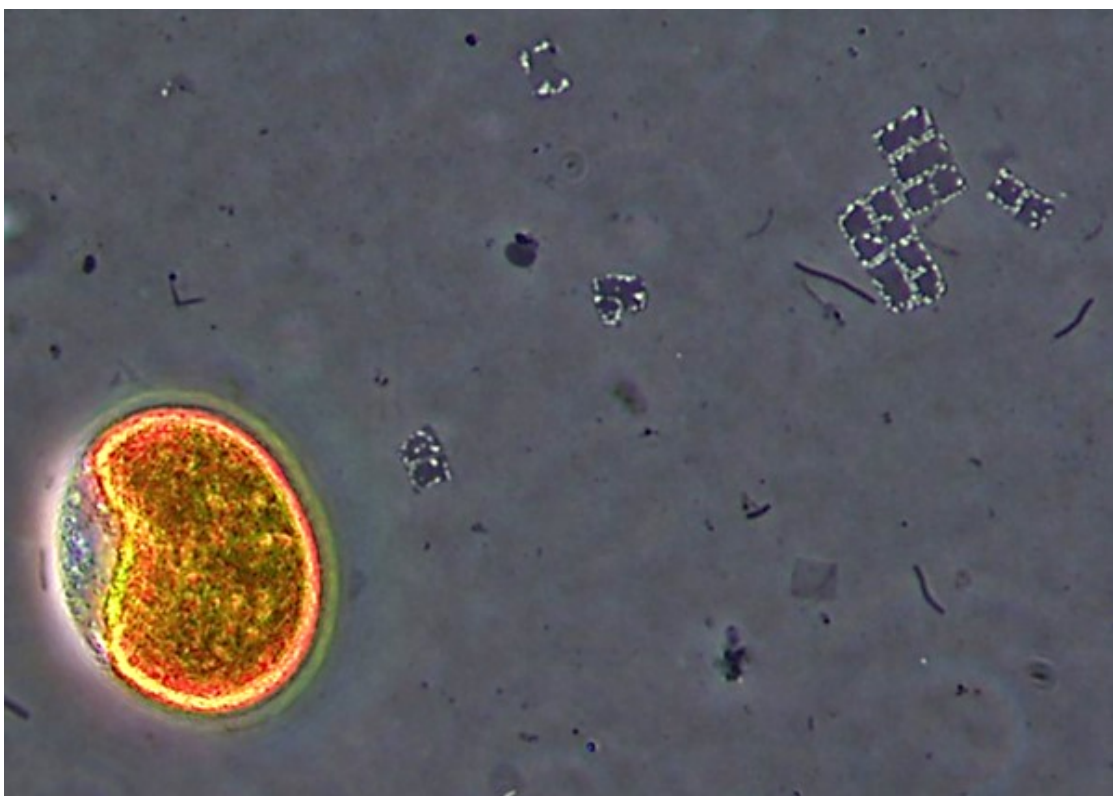


Image courtesy of **Prof Francisco Torrella**. For details see [Diversity in the microbial world](#)

EBNet Newsletter - May 2025

New

Stay connected to keep current with the latest in Environmental Biotechnology. Help us by keeping your contact details and preferences up-to-date - see link at the end of this Newsletter to update details or unsubscribe.

PFAS Workshop

EBNet's PFAS WG is organising a workshop on [Environmental Biotechnology for the management of PFAS and beyond](#), jointly supported by EBNet and the Environmental

Biotechnology Innovation Centre ([EBIC](#)). The workshop will take place on 6 June 2025 at Cranfield and features distinguished international speakers as well as slots for ECR presentations.

[IFEAA reports on on-farm AD and methane capture](#)

EBNet has contributed to two IFEAA [reports](#) on on-farm AD and methane capture. The reports highlight key regulatory barriers and propose practical reforms to promote adoption of this classic environmental biotechnology.

Meanwhile following on from its recent [report](#) on this topic, Task 37 is running a webinar on *Manure to Biogas: Global Lessons and Challenges in Unlocking Farm-Based Potential*.

See [HERE](#) for details.

[Advanced Fluids Modelling for Environmental Biotech](#)

The report and summary outcomes from the Sludge Modelling workshop led by Prof John Bridgeman of the University of Liverpool is now available on the [Resources](#) page. This workshop was part of EBNet's Microbiology/Engineering Interactions theme and brought together hydraulic modellers with biologists and industry end-users to discuss modelling of these complex non-Newtonian fluids.

The group at Liverpool is also hosting the forthcoming [UK Fluids Conference 2025](#).

[Microbes Audiobook](#)

Highlighted stories from our **Green Stories: Microbes to the Rescue** audiobook and ebook are available [here](#) - let us know what you think of this month's selection!

'I am an Environmental Biotechnologist...'

I am an Environmental Biotechnologist because I am interested in using microorganisms as tools to solve sustainability problems

Ariadna Vidal i Herrera,
Newcastle University

I work on enriching and maintaining electroactive bacteria for CO2 conversion into commodity chemicals

Abbas Abbas,
Loughborough University

My work aims to minimize public health risks due to microbial processes occurring within drinking water distribution systems

Dinesh Singh Bhandari,
University of Glasgow

We asked EBNet Early Career Researchers to write a sentence on the theme 'I am an Environmental Biotechnologist...'. See some of the responses here and in future Newsletters. (And remember, EBNet has been running for 6 years - so some of them are no longer ECRs but senior scientists!).

[Reminder - Special Issue](#)

Submission deadline: **30 June 2025**

Guest editors for this call in *CIWEM Water and Environment Journal: Environmental Biotechnology* are Dr Tao Lyu, Cranfield University and Dr Anjali Jayakumar, Newcastle

University who lead our PFAS and ECR Working Groups, respectively. This special issue is open for the whole Environmental Biotech

Spotlight On...

Do you have news to share with other members?

Email us details if you want a shout-out in next month's newsletter. We can also post News items on the website.



Environmental Permitting Consultation

The UK and Welsh Governments have launched a [joint consultation](#) to reform the Environmental Permitting Regulations ([2016](#)) - always a thorny area, especially for the introduction of new environmental biotechnologies. The proposed changes will cover waste operations, groundwater and water discharges and flood risk activities. The aim is to update the regulations, allowing the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales to base permitting decisions on the level of environmental risk. The consultation is open until **3 June 2025** and can be accessed [here](#).

Independent Water Commission - CIWEM view

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) has [commented](#) on the Independent Water Commission's call for evidence and forthcoming review of the water sector. Meanwhile the water industry continues to [hit the headlines](#) for all the wrong reasons...

New EU Soil monitoring directive agreed

The EU Council and Parliament have provisionally agreed on a [new directive](#) to establish a framework for soil monitoring, to improve resilience and manage the risks of contaminated sites. EU Member states will first monitor and then assess the health of their soils, as a first step towards appropriate support to prevent and tackle soil contamination and degradation.

IEA Task 36 - Sustainability and MSW

A [report](#) on 'Social and Environmental Sustainability of Municipal Solid Waste in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals' has been published by IEA Bioenergy's Task 36 - but does it give enough weight to bioprocessing of organic waste fractions? For this and more information on events and publications see the IEA Bioenergy Task 36 [website](#).

Bioelectrochemical production reviewed

An [article](#) in Nature Biotechnology looks at the techno-economic viability and

environmental implications of bioelectrochemical production. EBNet applauds the championing of simple first-principle calculations in place of over-elaborate data-hungry approaches - but are we giving enough emphasis to the need to evaluate environmental benefits?

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](#).



Forthcoming Events

Find selected upcoming events below.

Find more at: [KTN events](#)

Webinars

NEW [Manure to Biogas: Global Lessons](#) - 13 May 2025, URA Task 37

[Biochar and Biogas Webinar](#) - 12 May 2025, Carbogenics

[LIFE MYSOIL Final Event](#) - 21 May 2025, Hybrid

In person events

NEW [IWA Resource Recovery](#) - 19-23 May 2025, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

New PFAS workshop - 6 June 2025, Cranfield

New [RENEWGAS Summer school](#) - 11-17 June 2025, Albi, France

New [UK Fluids Conference 2025](#) - 2-4 September 2025, Liverpool

New [WasteEng 2025](#) - 3-5 September 2025, Funchal, Madeira

[Biofilms 11](#) - 13-15 May 2025, Cardiff

[MEWE 11 IWA Conference](#) - 3-5 June 2025, Atlanta, USA

[HVB NIBB Annual Meeting](#) - 9-10 June 2025, York

[IWA WaterMicro 22](#) - 15-20 June, Amersfoort, Netherlands

[AquaConSoil 2025](#) - 16-20 June 2025, Liege, Belgium

[European Wastewater Management Conference & Exhibition](#), 17-18 June 2025, Telford

[IWA ecoSTP2025](#) - 23-26 June, Stockholm, Sweden

[EBIC Early Career Researcher Event 2025](#) - 8-9 July 2025

[World Biogas Expo and Summit 2025](#) - 9-10 July, NEC, Birmingham

[Microfluidics Symposium](#) - 29-30 July 2025 **supported by EBNet's ESWS WG**

[China-UK Young Scholars Summer School on Sustainability](#) - 17-26 August 2025, China

[IWA Agro2025](#) - 10-12 September 2025, Istanbul, Turkey.

[GapSummit 2025](#) - 15-17 September 2025, University of Cambridge

[IWA 1st Photogranules](#) - 17-19 September 2025, Delft, Netherlands

[4th BBNNet conference](#) - 15-17 October 2025, Sheffield

[IWA Sludge Management 19](#) - 21-24 October 2025, Kyoto, Japan

Funding

Selected funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

Find more at: [UKRI funding](#)



New [Supergen Energy Networks Flexible Fund](#) - 20 June 2025

New [Innovate UK KTP 2025-6](#) - 11 June 2025

New [Farming Futures R&D: low emissions](#) - 25 June 2025

New [Pushing the frontiers of environmental research](#) - 15 July 2025

New [BBSRC Standard research grant 2025 round 3](#) - 24 September 2025

New [BBSRC New Investigator award 2025 round 3](#) - 24 September 2025

New [BBNet Collaborate and Innovate](#) - open

[BBSRC sLoLa Stage 1](#) - 20 May 2025

[UKRI Proof-of-Concept 2025](#) - 29 May 2025

[UKRI Future Leaders 2025 Round 10](#) - 18 June 2025

[UKRI Transdisciplinary AMR](#) - 18 June 2025 (notification stage)

[UKRI Cross-Council Pilot](#) - 3 July 2025

[CBE JU 2023 calls](#) - 18 September 2025

[EPSRC Programme grant full proposal](#) - open

[EPSRC Network Grant](#) - open

Travel and related awards

NEW [NBIC ICURe Engage programme](#) - 19 May 2025

[EPSRC Overseas Travel Grant](#) - open

[NBIC Flexible Talent Mobility Account](#) - until 2027

[JSPS Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowships \(Short Term\)](#) - 26 May 2025

[Royal Society Short Industry Fellowship](#) - 28 May 2025

[BBSRC International Travel Award](#) - 30 September 2025



Jobs, Training, Awards & PhDs

We still have funding available for Share-with-a-peer (SWAP) exchanges - for details see EBNet website

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

New [Associate Prof in Environmental Engineering](#) - 11 May 2025, Birmingham City University

New [Research Assistant/Associate - Wastewater Surveillance](#) - 15 May 2025, Imperial College

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

NEW [Anaerobic Digestion Microbial Ecology](#) - 15 May 2025, EPFL, Lausanne

NEW [Short-chain acids as fermentation feedstock](#) - 31 May 2025, University of Strathclyde

NEW [Rejuvenate Soil: Living biogenic hydrogels to stop soil](#) - open, Freiberg University of Mining and Technology

[Removal of Emerging Micropollutants From Wastewater in Biofilm Reactors](#) - 31 August 2025, University of Southampton

[Enhancing the Efficiency of Biological Waste Treatment with Nanobubbles](#) - 31 August 2025, University of Southampton

Training

NEW [RENEWGAS Summer School](#) - 11-17 June, Albi, France

NEW [AquaEnviro: Optimising AS Plants](#) - 3 June, online

NEW [AquaEnviro: Optimising Food, Beverage, Paper effluent treatment](#) - 10 June, online

[ADBA: Temperatures and Biology](#) - 13 May 2025, online

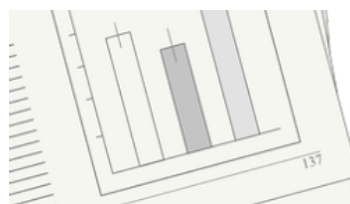
[BBNet: Introduction to Life Cycle Assessments](#) - 2-4 June, York

[CIWEM: Potable Water Treatment](#) - 9 June 2025 (10 weeks), eLearning

[CIWEM: Municipal Wastewater Treatment](#) - 9 June 2025 (15 weeks), eLearning

Publications

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



[Understanding the limitations of substrate degradation in bioelectrochemical systems.](#)

Bird, H., Velasquez-Orta, S. and Heidrich, E., 2025. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 15, p.1511142.

[Partitioning and removal of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) in full-scale surface flow](#)

[treatment wetlands with different upstream wastewater treatment.](#)

Sarti, C., Souleymane, A.A., Dotro, G., Cincinelli, A. and Lyu, T., 2025. *Journal of Water Process Engineering*, 71, p.107236.

[Global diversity and distribution of antibiotic resistance genes in human wastewater treatment systems.](#)

Zhu, C., Wu, L., Ning, D., Tian, R., Gao, S., Zhang, B., Zhao, J., Zhang, Y., Xiao, N., Wang, Y. and Brown, M.R., 2025. *Nature Communications*, 16(1), p.4006.

Still here?

[Green Stories Project](#)

Prof Denise Baden will give a talk on 'Stories to Change the World' at the Urban Wild Festival on 28 May in Southampton. To register and for details of other Green Stories events see [here](#).

[Dance competition](#)

Worth watching the results of the 2025 'Dance Your PhD' competition. The winner (well deserved) is in Chemistry, on how foods taste. A great entry from Biology too, on plant-microbe interactions. Time for an Environmental Biotechnology entry in 2026?

Where else to look?

There is a wide choice of UK Networks and Hubs in the Environmental Biotechnology sector. Our sister-NIBB, [BBNet](#), runs to January 2026. [NBIC](#) continues to support research into biofilms. [IBiolC](#) serves the biotech sector in Scotland. And the 6 [Engineering Biology Mission Hubs and 22 Mission Awards](#) the [Environmental Biotechnology Innovation Centre](#), which builds on and expands some of the themes in EBNet. Sign up for EBIC's Newsletter [here](#). For details of two other Hubs with an environmental theme see [Elemental](#) and [P3EB](#).



