

Naomi Smith

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Royal Society of
Biology



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Industry & Employer Newsletter

13 December 2016

This month's newsletter as usual features a range of updates from a variety of areas of the Society's activities as well as information on courses and aspects of training that may be of interest.

As always please feel free to circulate this newsletter freely within your own networks. Please let us know if there are topics that you would like us to cover and consider either in this publication or at a future meeting, all contributions are very welcome, please contact [Naomi Smith](#). Naomi is also the contact for more information on the Employer Advisory Group and other areas of RSB activity.

Dr Aileen Allsop

Chair of the Employer Advisory Group (EAG)

Employer Advisory Group Update

Employer Advisory Group (EAG) Chair Vacancy

Formed in 2014, the Employer Advisory Group (EAG) has been chaired by Dr Aileen Allsop FRSB, since its inception, ensuring that the EAG developed into a strong employer voice across the biosciences and as a source of expert advice to the RSB on matter related to employer needs across the life sciences. Following a recent review of activities there is a desire to reinforce the voice of the private sector within the RSB by formalising the current advisory group, expanding the network by reaching out to members in both the RSB and its member organisations through a new employer forum and consequently also recruiting a new chair.

Candidates do not need to be current members of the RSB but if successful will be expected to join at the appropriate grade.

Closing Date: 31 January 2017

Please apply via [mySociety](#).

The Royal Society of Biology is launching an Employer Engagement Forum

We would like to invite Member Organisations of the Royal Society of Biology, to nominate appropriate committee members and/or staff members to join this new forum. We would also like to invite Supporting Member Organisations to nominate members for the forum.

The Forum is open to members of our [Employer Advisory Group](#) and nominated representatives from our Member Organisations who have an interest in supporting employer needs. Forum members will be invited to participate in

relevant discussions and to provide comment on consultation responses as they arise. The forum will also offer contributors the opportunity to raise issues affecting them, or their members, and seek feedback from those on the group. The employer forum will feed directly into the work of the RSB's Employer Advisory Group (EAG) which provides an interface between employers and the Royal Society of Biology. For further information please see our [website](#).

Nominated members will be automatically subscribed to this bi-monthly Industry and Employer newsletter, which provides updates on relevant issues. We have also set up an Employer Engagement Forum LinkedIn Group, for which nominated members will receive a LinkedIn invitation; this is a space in which current employer issues can be discussed. Members are welcome to raise issues for discussion in this space and may upload relevant posts. The group will be moderated by the Society.

Please send your nominations to [Naomi Smith](#). Nominations should include the nominee's name (and LinkedIn name if this is different), job title and organisation name, and email address. Each organisation may nominate up to 5 members.

Events and Competitions Update

Degree Accreditation Awards Ceremony

The Royal Society of Biology will soon be hosting its annual [Degree Accreditation Awards Ceremony](#), an evening which celebrates universities who have been awarded Accreditation of their bioscience degree programmes over the last year. In addition, the ceremony will showcase the achievements of top graduates who have attained the highest grade in their accredited degrees.

This provides a unique opportunity for sponsors to engage with these top bioscience graduates, plus leaders and decision makers from academia, industry, and government.

For more details surrounding sponsorship packages please contact [Emma Fowler](#).

Education and Public engagement update

International Biology Olympiad 2017 – Get involved!

23 – 30 July 2017, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

The [Royal Society of Biology](#) is delighted to be hosting the 28th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) in partnership with the [University of Warwick](#) next summer.

[IBO 2017](#) will bring together over 200 of the most talented pre-university biologists in the world from across 70 different countries. The students, who will gain selection through their National Biology Olympiad, will compete in two challenging full-day exams, one practical and one theoretical, which will test their skills in problem solving and practical application.

Alongside the examinations, there will be an exciting social programme which will encompass the themes of the week: the excellence of scientific research within the UK and British culture and heritage. Highlights will include the opening ceremony, 'Zombie Science: Genes of the damned', a cultural night including a science-themed ceilidh and a gala awards dinner to close the competition.

The International Biology Olympiad is a unique event which will showcase the very best of the British life science sector and is the largest celebration focused on biological excellence for pre-university students from across the world. Involvement in the event is an opportunity not to be missed and there are a number of sponsorship opportunities still available. For more information please [contact us](#) or visit our [website](#).

Policy update

Minister: “We will maintain our proud record on environmental science and conservation after leaving the EU”

Government Minister Robin Walker visited the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to hear the views of scientific, conservation and wildlife charities on the opportunities and challenges of Brexit for environmental science and conservation. For further information please see the [GOV.UK website](#).

RSB welcomes importance placed on R&D in Autumn Statement

The first Autumn Statement of the new Parliament has been released, providing details on the economic forecast and predicted Government spending following the EU referendum result. For further information please see our

Training update

The RSB offers a wide range of training opportunities to help you develop professionally and acquire new skills.

Individual members and organisational members of the Royal Society of Biology are entitled to substantial discounts on training.

A Practical Guide to Successfully Navigating the Patent System for those in the Life Sciences field

13 February 2017, 2 - 5pm

This half-day course aims to give you an overview of the patent system and provide practical tips to scoring successes and avoiding pitfalls.

You'll get an understanding of important points to consider if you are trying to obtain patent protection and if you are trying to avoid infringing any third party rights.

What does it involve?

This half-day course will guide attendees through the following questions:

- Have I done enough to patent yet?
- What does the patenting process entail?
- Will exploiting my invention infringe anyone else's patents?
- What's patentable in biological sciences?
- How do I engage efficiently with my patent attorney?

Who is the trainer?

[Isobel Finnie](#) and [Catherine Williamson](#), UK and European Patent Attorneys specialising in biotech, chemistry and life sciences will answer these questions.

Certification and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

A certificate of attendance will be issued to each attendee who completes the course. This event has been approved by the Royal Society of Biology for purposes of [CPD](#) and can be counted as 9 CPD points.

Fees From £50 plus VAT

For more information please see our [website](#).

For the full list of upcoming training courses please see our [website](#).

RSB training courses are also delivered in-house for organisations. If you would like to find out more about this, please contact [Naomi Smith](#).

Forthcoming training events

23.01.17

[An Introduction to Exhibition Design](#)

26.01.17

[Persuasive Scientific Report Writing](#)

13.02.17

[A Practical Guide to Successfully Navigating the Patent System](#)

28.02.17

[Laboratory Health and Safety Training](#)

16.03.17

[Science Podcast Production Workshop](#)

23.03.17

[Writing for a non-specialist audience](#)

10.04.17

[Presentation Skills Course](#)

12.05.17

[Time Management Course](#)

25.05.17

[Scientific Laboratory Leadership and Management](#)

External news and opportunities

Integrative Pharmacology Fund Evaluation: report launch

The British Pharmacological Society has completed an evaluation of the Integrative Pharmacology Fund (IPF) in collaboration with the University of Exeter. The aim of the IPF was to support *in vivo* sciences in the UK. The report considers the outcomes and draws forward-looking recommendations from them. The full report is available online at

the [BPS website](#).

The British Pharmacological Society plans to explore the recommendations in partnership with those in the laboratory animal sciences community. In the first instance, the Society will be working to develop core learning outcomes for the *in vivo* sciences (recommendation 1). Recruitment for an expert group to support this project is underway: more details can be found online alongside the report. The deadline for applications is **27 January 2017**.

Please contact the [BPS education team](#) for more details about the evaluation and next steps.

Antimicrobial Resistance: Diagnostic Solutions. By invitation only

Date: Wednesday, 25 January 2017

Location: [St Hugh's College](#), St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6LE

Hosted by [Diagnostic Evidence Co-operative Oxford](#)

Identifying unmet clinical needs for diagnostics in AMR

The NIHR Diagnostic Evidence Co-operative Oxford in collaboration with [NIHR DEC Leeds](#) and the [Knowledge Transfer Network](#) (KTN) are delighted to be hosting a clinician/ industry workshop on diagnostic solutions for antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The aim of this workshop is to outline the clinical need for AMR-relevant diagnostic tests, to consider the clinical and system barriers to their implementation and to stimulate new collaborative approaches.

Bookings will open shortly; please check the [event webpage](#) for updates and draft programme.

Royal Society of Chemistry Industry and Technology Awards 2017 now open for nominations

Resilient entrepreneurs, driving chemistry ideas to commercial success. Dedicated individuals, demonstrating technical excellence in the laboratory. Inspirational teams, innovating together.

Whoever they are, the Royal Society of Chemistry's nine industry awards could give them the recognition they deserve.

Nominations close 16 January

For further information please see the [Royal Society of Chemistry website](#).

AIAS-COFUND Fellowships

Ten- 12 AIAS-COFUND Fellowships are available and the scheme is co-funded by Aarhus University's Research Foundation and the European Union's 7th Framework Programme. It provides research opportunities for the most talented researchers from around the world. **Deadline for applications: Friday, 3 February 2017 at 12.00 (noon) CET.** For further information please see the [Aarhus University website](#).

Open call for topics for scrutiny: #MyScienceInquiry

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee has decided to create an open opportunity for the science community and the wider public to suggest science and technology areas for scrutiny. The deadline for proposals is **Wednesday 4 January 2017**. For further information please see the [Parliament website](#).

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

Target group: All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation. Contributions are particularly sought from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and all types of organisations that have participated in Horizon 2020.

Period of consultation: From 20.10.16 to 15.01.17

Objective of the consultation: The objective of the consultation is to collect information from a wide audience on

different aspects of Horizon 2020 implementation.

Please submit your application by taking the [online questionnaire](#). It should take about 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire, depending on how detailed your answers are. For further information please see the [European Commission website](#).

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