Fostering Innovation

Event Schedule

The event starts at 5.30pm when there will be the opportunity to meet the finalists and participants from each competition.

This will be followed by a discussion session at 6.30pm.

Discussion Session

Chair
Richard Gray, Science Correspondent, The Sunday Telegraph

Speakers
• Dr Deborah Keith, Head of External Collaborations, Syngenta
• Ruth McKernan, Senior Vice President, Pfizer; Chief Scientific Officer, Neusentis
• Mike Coupe, Group Commercial Director, Sainsbury’s

Followed by awards and further networking
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Welcome to Fostering Innovation 2013

BBSRC has a unique and central place in supporting the UK’s world-leading position in bioscience.

As the principal public investor of bioscience research and training, BBSRC strives to invest in research that can and does make a difference – to society and the economy. Our funded research promotes economic growth, wealth and job creation and improves the quality of life in the UK and beyond.

Fostering Innovation 2013 brings together a suite of competitions that aim to promote excellence amongst researchers, knowledge exchange practitioners and institutions by recognising successful approaches to innovation and impact in the biosciences.

Tonight we are here to celebrate and reward academics who have harnessed the potential of their science by announcing the winners of BBSRC’s Innovator of the Year competition.

The winners of a new competition, Activating Impact, will be also be announced. Activating Impact champions teams or individuals who deliver impact from excellent bioscience research and investments.

Finally, we will launch the Excellence with Impact competition. This will run until 2016 and will recognise institutions that can develop and deliver a vision for developing a culture that maximises impact.

Welcome to the representatives from the institutions taking part in the Excellence with Impact Competition, and I wish them luck for the competition. Lastly, I would like to congratulate the finalists of the Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact competitions and praise them for their achievements.

Douglas Kell, BBSRC Chief Executive
About Innovator of the Year

This competition recognises and rewards individuals and small teams who have harnessed the potential of their excellent research. It is designed to recognise the full breadth of impacts that BBSRC-funded research can have.

There are seven finalists who have been shortlisted by an independent panel. Yesterday (19 March 2013) a judging panel met with each of the finalists and have selected winners in three categories:

- Commercial
- Social
- Most promising

The judges have also selected one overall Innovator of the Year. Winners in each category will receive a £10,000 award and a trophy. The overall Innovator of the Year receives a further £5,000 and their department will be awarded £15,000.

This is the fifth year that BBSRC has run the Innovator of the Year Awards.

For previous winners and more information please see:

www.bbsrc.ac.uk/innovator
Meet the Finalists - Commercial

Professor Stefan Przyborski
Durham University

Reinnervate’s 12-well multi-welled plate product containing 12 discs of Alvetex Scaffold.

3D differentiation of human stem cells producing neurons (green) in Alvetex Scaffold.

Full thickness 3D culture of developing human skin using Alvetex technology.

3D culture of human breast cancer cells in Alvetex Scaffold.

Images © University of Durham
Meet the Finalists - Commercial

Professor Hagan Bayley
University of Oxford

Researchers at The Bayley Laboratory.

Dr Anna Hine
Aston University

One of Isogenica’s robots that automates ProxiMAX randomisation.

Molecular model of three zinc fingers binding to DNA, created from protein data bank co-ordinates. Zinc finger proteins are important subjects of protein engineering.

Images © Isogenica

Images © The Bayley Laboratory
Meet the Finalists - Most Promising

Dr Ryan Donnelly
Queen’s University Belfast

Silicon microneedles (300 µm in height) beside a biro pen.

Dr Tim Dafforn
University of Birmingham
Co-applicant
Dr Matthew Hicks

Prototype reader for a bacteriophage-based pathogen detector.

Laser engineered hydrogel-forming microneedle arrays imaged with scanning electron microscopy (A) and light microscopy (B and C). The swollen microneedles after removal from skin (D).

Images © Queen’s University Belfast

Images © University of Birmingham
Meet the Finalists - Social

Professor Ian Graham
University of York

Professor Peter Mertens
The Pirbright Institute

Co-applicants
Dr Simon Carpenter
Dr Simon Gubbins
Dr Carrie Batten

Images © The Pirbright Institute

Green capsules and nascopine

Poppies and nascopine

Adult female Culicoides sonorensis (a known vector for the bluetongue virus) from the insect colony at The Pirbright Institute.

The Structure of the bluetongue virus.

Images © University of York
About Activating Impact

This competition has been developed to acknowledge, raise awareness of and celebrate the activities of successful Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation (KEC) teams or individuals that make an essential contribution to delivering impact from excellent bioscience research and investments supported by BBSRC.

There are six finalists who have been shortlisted by an independent panel. Yesterday (19 March 2013) a judging panel met with each of the finalists and have selected one overall winner and two runner-ups.

The winning organisation will receive £50,000 and the runners-up will receive £25,000 to contribute to an aspect of the organisation’s strategy for KEC, as identified in their application to this competition.
Meet the Finalists

Dr Ann Lewendon
University of Aberdeen
(University of Aberdeen Research and Innovation)

Silencing varroa genes may cause the mites to self-destruct helping to cure infestations in bee colonies.

Research at the University of Aberdeen on shark antibodies may lead to new treatments for diseases such as cancer.

Dr Iain Thomas
University of Cambridge
(Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, University of Cambridge)

This image shows a DNA molecule that is methylated on both strands on the center cytosine.

Images © University of Aberdeen

Image © Christoph Bock (Max Planck Institute for Informatics)
Meet the Finalists

Dr Wendy Nicholson
University of Edinburgh and Roslin Institute (Edinburgh Research and Innovation Ltd)

Genetically modified chickens that do not transmit avian influenza virus

Ark Genome Analyzer at Roslin

H1N1 influenza virus
Meet the Finalists

Dr Richard Ferrie
University of Manchester
(The University of Manchester Intellectual Property (UMIP), a division of UMI3 Ltd)

Ai2 Ltd’s research into ant-infective coatings for catheters and other medical equipment.

Dr Alan Burbidge
University of Nottingham (University of Nottingham Technology Transfer Office)

Pilot-scale fermentation systems showing the production of the vitamin riboflavin. The wildtype stain of Clostridium acetobutylicum has been cultured in the left hand fermenter and a modified strain of Clostridium acetobutylicum using novel recombinant technology pioneered and developed in the Minton Laboratory has been cultured in the right hand fermenter – hence yellow colour due to over production of riboflavin.

Image © Curtis Dobson (University of Manchester) and Nicola Cousins (Ai2 Ltd)

Image © Wouter Kuit
Meet the Finalists

Dr Caroline Bucklow
University of Oxford
(Research Services,
University of Oxford)

Sorghum seedlings in
C4 Screenhouse

Low CO₂ screening
chambers

Images © International Rice Research Institute
About Excellence with Impact

This competition aims to recognise institutions that can develop and successfully deliver a vision for maximising impact, alongside a relevant institution-wide culture change.

The competition aims to:

- Encourage research organisations (ROs) to develop a vision that supports a wide range of impacts arising from their research
- Encourage ROs to drive forward a strategy that maximises impacts that could arise from their research
- Support ROs in embedding their agenda to deliver impact from their research
- Stimulate and enhance relationships between BBSRC and participating ROs
- Recognise and reward efforts by all members of a RO to maximise the social and economic impact of BBSRC-funded bioscience research.

The winning organisation will receive an award of £500,00 and there will be a further £0.5M available to be awarded at judges’ discretion to highly commended runners up.

For further information please see:

www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence
## Participants

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