

Dear network member,

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the BBNet newsletter. It may be summer but we still have lots to share this month, which we hope you will find lots of useful. Most importantly we are launching our comprehensive network evaluation and we need to hear from you! You'll find our usual round up of [funding opportunities here](#).

Read on to find out more...

BBNet

Events

4th BBNet conference

We were thrilled by the amount of interest in attending the conference in October. All places have now been allocated and we are maintaining a waiting list - if you've been

offered a place and are no longer able to attend please let us know as soon as possible so that another member can be offered the opportunity.

The programme has now been finalised and can be found on the [conference page](#) on the BBNNet website.

Continuous BioFlow Webinar - Monday 11th August 2026 2-4pm

Join the Continuous Bioflow Network for their first webinar on Monday 11th August at 2pm, with three exciting speakers:

- Dr Adam Clayton (University of Leeds) - Autonomous Optimisation of Biocatalytic Reactions
- Dr Rebecca Ruscoe (Keele University, ECR short talk) - High-field NMR Analysis of Continuous Biocatalytic Reactions
- Prof Martina Letizia Contente (University of Milan) - Process Intensification in Biocatalysis: Advancing Efficiency and Sustainability

Join the webinar using this link.

News

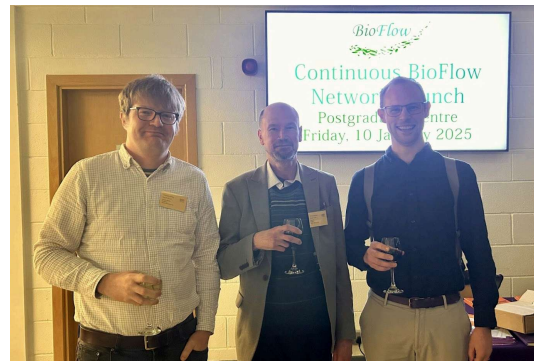
We need your input - BBNNet evaluation

We're excited to announce the launch of a crucial project for the **Biomass Biorefinery Network: our comprehensive network-wide evaluation**. This work will not only evidence the brilliant science taking place within the network but will serve as evidence of the need for such vital government funded initiatives.

If you have felt the benefit from our network then please take the time to tell us about it. You can find out more [on our website here](#). If you have received funding or attended an event with us you should receive an email to your inbox with a survey to complete by **16 September 2025**. Those that have attended our events will be entered into a prize draw to win one of four £50 vouchers - submit by 02 September for the greatest chance of winning!

New Member Spotlight: Dr. Sebastian Cosgrove

Dr. Sebastian Cosgrove, Senior Lecturer at Keele University, co-founded the Continuous BioFlow Network to advance biocatalysis and continuous biomanufacturing. With over 100 members, the network brings together diverse expertise to drive collaboration across academia and industry. [Read more.](#)



New Member Spotlight: Dr. Yongqiang Liu

Dr. Yongqiang Liu, Associate Professor at the University of Southampton, develops biofilm-based fermentation systems to sustainably convert organic waste and biomass into high-value chemicals. Her work supports a circular bioeconomy by overcoming industrial bioprocessing challenges. Yongqiang welcomes collaboration in biomass pretreatment, synthetic biology, and modelling. [Read more.](#)



Share Your Research with Our Community!

Are you conducting groundbreaking research within our network? Do you have exciting discoveries or unique interests you'd love to share? We're looking for passionate members like you to feature in our monthly Member Spotlight!

This is your chance to showcase your incredible work, highlight your contributions to our field, and connect with a wider audience within our vibrant community. We want to celebrate the diverse expertise and fascinating projects happening across our network.

Ready to shine? Simply email us at bbnet-manager@york.ac.uk, and we'll help you craft your spotlight feature and share it with the entire community.

Sector news and opportunities

Opportunities

Royal Society : University Research Fellowship (URF)

The Royal Society University Research Fellowship (URF) scheme is for outstanding scientists in the early stages of their research career and who have the potential to become leaders in their field. The award is for up to £1.87 million over up to 8 years - deadline to apply is 10 September 2025. [Read more.](#)

AIRR advanced supercomputers for the UK

The AI Research Resource (AIRR) is a suite of advanced computers that provides world-leading, AI-specialised computing capacity to:

- public researchers
- academia
- small and medium size enterprises

The AIRR aims to address the acute under-provision of specialised public compute for AI users in the research and development (R&D) community. This is crucial for the acceleration of AI innovation and the government's growth agenda. [Find out how to access them here.](#)

Supergen Bioenergy Hub: Business Interaction Vouchers

The Supergen Bioenergy Hub is inviting applications for Business Interaction Vouchers (BIVs), a new funding stream to provide opportunities for academics and industrialists or non-academics to work together on short-term projects that aim to build new partnerships, accelerate research impact, and strengthen engagement between academia and industry in the UK bioenergy sector. Awards of up to £15,000 - closing date: 31 October 2025, though applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis from 1 Sept. [Read more.](#)

Potential new BBSRC ICURe Discover programme

The National Biofilms Innovation Centre is inviting its members to fill in an Expression of Interest form to assess levels of interest in running a dedicated Biofilm-focused ICURe Discover programme to start in the autumn. (Support of up to £2,500 for testing assumptions and market discovery). [Read more.](#)

Elemental Hub's Business Interaction Vouchers

The Elemental Metal Hub launched a new Business Interaction Vouchers (BIVs)

scheme, supporting innovative collaborations between academia and industry in the field of engineering biology for environmental processing of metals. Vouchers of up to £50,000 are available to support research, innovation, technology transfer, and business growth. Application deadline: 5pm, 30th October 2025. [Read more.](#)

Growth Catalyst Early Stage: New Innovators

UK registered micro and small businesses can apply for project between £25,000-£50,000 to develop affordable, adoptable and investable innovations in the five critical technologies, notably engineering biology. Application deadline: 6 August at 11am. [Read more.](#)

ADOPT facilitator support grant: round three

Farming, growing or forestry businesses based in England can apply for a grant of £2,500 to engage an external project facilitator to support the development of a full ADOPT grant application. Application deadline: 3 September 2025 at 11am. [Read more.](#)

Turing AI Pioneer Interdisciplinary Fellowships: outline applications

This opportunity is for established researchers from across UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) remit, without a background in core artificial intelligence (AI) research, who want to build domain-relevant AI capability and develop advanced AI approaches to tackle a specific research challenge in their chosen field. Award range: £500,000 - £2,187,500. Closing date: 14 October at 16.00. [Read more.](#)

Facility access funding for bioscience partnerships (invite only)

Apply for this invitation-only funding opportunity to support UK business and bioscience academic partnerships in accessing and benefitting from STFC skills, capabilities and facilities to find solutions to industrially relevant bioscience challenges. Awards from £10k-200k - closing date 4 December at 16.00. [Read more.](#)

BBSRC Brazil pump-priming award (FAPPA)

FAPPA pump-priming awards supported by BBSRC and FAPESP are for BBSRC-supported researchers and consortia of academics. Applications must be made by a project lead who is currently in receipt of relevant BBSRC research funding. Funding of up to £35,000 over two years is available. No closing date. [Read more.](#)

Agri-tech and food technology, mid and north Wales:

CRD

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £2.7 million for business led projects that grow their innovation activities in the agri-tech and food technology cluster in mid and north Wales. Closing date is 20 August at 11am. [Read more.](#)

Sector news

BBSRC launches refreshed Forward Look

BBSRC has [unveiled a bold vision](#) to harness the power of bioscience with the launch of its updated Forward Look for UK bioscience. This refreshed framework sets out the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's (BBSRC) ambition to deliver a healthy, sustainable and resilient future through the power of bioscience. It highlights bioscience's essential but sometimes unseen role, and the enormous impact it will have in tackling some of the biggest challenges we face as a global society. These include improving lifelong health, building more sustainable food systems and driving clean economic growth.

EU: Opportunities for innovation in the bioeconomy

The European Environment Agency has published a new briefing identifying bio-based innovations with high potential to support the forthcoming updated EU bioeconomy strategy. The briefing also relates to broader EU climate and biodiversity goals, helping inform national and regional strategies. The analysis draws on data from EU and international institutions. [Read more.](#)

How Big and Beautiful is the One Big Beautiful Bill? Defossilistas spar over measures, consequences

Biofuels Digest explores Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), ostensibly a tax and immigration package, which has triggered some of the most polarized reactions in recent memory from the clean energy and fuels sector. [Read more.](#)

A Hint of Mint: Europe's Quiet Green Chemistry Revolution

Europe's dual playbook—scaling the proven while seeding the radical—offers a lesson for everyone who cares about defossilization: sometimes the future arrives without trumpets. It slides under doors. It settles in the corners. It smells faintly of something fresh. [Read more.](#)

UKWIR Report – Hazardous chemicals treatment at sewer entry

A recent UKWIR report investigates which technologies and solutions are available to remove hazardous chemicals either at point of entry to sewers or in the sewer itself. The majority of promising technologies and approaches were physico-chemical ones, with no bio-based or nature-based solutions on the recommended list for bench-scale testing; but biological solutions were identified as relatively effective in removal of industrial compounds, pesticides and PFAS. [Read more.](#)

Korea perfects biobased beauty

World Bio Market Insights explores how the Korean beauty industry, estimated to be worth \$11.2 bn in 2025, has become a leading innovator in biobased ingredients. [Read more.](#)

Recent publications

Jorge, F.T.A., Orynbeke, N., Abduraimova, A., Valakhanovich, A., Flores-Nestor, H.A., Moussa, M., Saulou-Bérion, C. and Sánchez-Castañeda, A.K. (2025), **Biotechnological production of 2-phenylethanol from agroindustrial byproducts: experimental evaluation, techno-economic analysis, and life cycle assessment.** *Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.*, 19: 1190-1206. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2815>

Paudel, P.P., Park, S., Oh, K.C., Kim, S.J., Kim, S.Y., Kang, K.S. and Kim, D.H. (2025), **Energy recovery from Ginkgo biloba urban pruning wastes: pyrolysis optimization and fuel property enhancement for high-grade charcoal productions.** *Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70017>

Conferences and meetings

Bio-based Policy for People and the Planet

Details: Tuesday 2nd September 2025. 10:00 – 16:00. University of Sheffield, Sheffield Join the BB-REG-NET workshop to explore the latest research on bio-based and biodegradable materials. Participate in interactive sessions focused on economic and environmental impacts, circular bioeconomy, and market awareness, while helping shape the upcoming white paper Bio-based Policy for People and the Planet—a great opportunity to connect with experts and stakeholders in the sector. Registration: [Bio-based Policy for People and the Planet Tickets, Tue 2 Sep 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Online Webinar: Bioplastics from Biomass: Innovative

Pathways for Sustainable Conversion

Details: Monday 8th September 2025. 12:00 - 13:00. Online*

Join BBIA and The Global Center for Sustainable Bioproducts to hear about innovation in sustainable bio-derived composites and plastics.

Registration: [Bioplastics from Biomass: Innovative Pathways for Sustainable Conversion Tickets, Mon 8 Sep 2025 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Microbial genomics of eukaryotes

Taking place on 12 September at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, the event will explore topics ranging from comparative and functional genomics of model organisms to population-scale evolution, epidemiology and microbiome studies, as well as to real-world genomics applications with clinical, veterinary or environmental relevance. Submit abstracts by 12 August 2025. [Event details](#).

Resource & Waste Management Expo (RWM) 2025

At RWM, engage in discussions on critical waste and resource management topics, discover innovative green technologies, and launch solutions to the sector's most pressing challenges in line with the principles of the circular economy. Taking place 17-18 September at the NEC in Birmingham. [Event details](#).

ADBA NI Conference 2025

On September 23 in Belfast, the conference themed "Unlocking Biogas to Energise Northern Ireland's Future," will bring together farmers, AD operators, developers, policy makers, investors, and technology leaders to chart a path from vision to delivery. [Event details](#).

Towards a Biobased Chemical Future

Details: Thursday 30th October 2025. 13:00 – 17:00. Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA

Join the Royal Society of Chemistry, RSC, and the Bio-Based and Biodegradable Industries Association, BBIA, for an insightful afternoon considering our chemical future and the role of pioneering sustainable chemical production. Notable academic and industry leading speakers will consider the practices, policy landscape, feedstocks and opportunities for moving to a biobased chemical future. There will be Q&A session and some interactive mini-workshop sessions to allow you to discuss with the speakers, network with other attendees and shape your own views as to the future for biobased chemicals.

Registration: [Towards a Biobased Chemical Future](#)

BBIA Demeter Awards & Innovation Showcase 2025

Details: Monday 17th November 2025 - 11:00 -19:00. Royal Society of Chemistry, London

Join BBIA for their Demeter Awards & Innovation Showcase 2025, the premier event celebrating innovation and excellence in the bio-based sector. Hosted by the Bio-based and Biodegradable Industries Association (BBIA), this event brings together industry leaders, investors, policymakers, and innovators shaping the future of sustainable materials

Registration: [Demeter Awards & Innovation Showcase 2025 Tickets, Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

UK Sustainable Chemicals Summit

Details: Tuesday 18th November 2025. 10:00 – 16:45. Wilton Centre, Teesside
Join Pioneer Group and the UK Alliance for Sustainable Chemicals and Materials (UK-ASCM), for this exciting event focused on driving innovation, collaboration, and a greener future for the chemical industry.

Registration: [UK Sustainable Chemicals Summit - Pioneer Group](#)

Job opportunities

Knowledge Transfer Manager – Chemistry & Industrial Biotechnology

Innovate UK Business Connect are seeking a Knowledge Transfer Manager (Grade 5) who can support the delivery of activities and projects that align to the technical thematic areas: “Supporting the UK Sustainable Carbon Ambition for the UK Chemical Industry” and “Accelerating Cross-Sector Diffusion & Adoption”. Application deadline: 24 August 2025. [Read more.](#)

Do you have a role to advertise?

BBNet members can use our self-service system on the [website here](#) to upload and advertise relevant, jobs and we'll feature them in the newsletter too.

BBNet membership

Contacts

Email bbnet-manager@york.ac.uk for any queries relating to BBNet funding, events and membership.

Let us know if you would like to advertise details of a vacancy or other opportunity on our website by completing the [Opportunities form](#) and emailing it to bbnet-manager@york.ac.uk.

Terms and conditions

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