

Technology Specialists Network update, Funding, and an NMR Strategic Technical Platform

Ralph W. Adams
The University of Manchester

Update: Technology Specialists Network

Technology Specialist Network

Bringing together technology specialists from across the UK

Technology Specialists are technical experts in their field in UK higher education and research.

To **share best practice for technical specialists** across the UK, and in particular to meet others in similar roles, while learning to navigate the **funding opportunities** and **challenges** in the UK setting. Our network is keen to welcome new members to the network, from all levels and disciplines across the UK



UK Technology Specialists Network

Funding from TALENT has enabled the establishment of this network.

<https://www.mitalent.ac.uk/TSN>

Technology Specialist Network



FOUNDING MEMBERS



Alex Sossick

Head of Scientific Facilities and Imaging, Gurdon Institute



Ian Hancox

TALENT Co-Lead: Research Technology Engagement Manager, University of Warwick



Julie Herniman

Senior Experimental Officer at the University of Southampton



Kelly Vere

TALENT Project Lead - University Director of Technical Strategy, University of Nottingham



Andrew Filby

Director, Newcastle University Flow Cytometry and Single Cell Technologies Shared Resource Laboratory.



Lee Murphy

Head of Genetics Core. Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility, University of Edinburgh



Natalie Homer

Mass Spectrometry Core Manager and Senior Research Fellow in the Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility, University of Edinburgh



Peter O'Toole

Director of the Bioscience Technology Facility, Vice-President Royal Microscopical Society, Head of Imaging and Cytometry, University of York



Ralph Adams

Senior Research Fellow and Head of NMR Spectroscopy, Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester



Shonna Johnston

Head of Flow Cytometry University of Edinburgh

<https://www.mitalent.ac.uk/TSN>

Technology Specialist Network – Inaugural Meeting

18th-19th April 2023, University of Edinburgh



The two-day conference brought together **150 research technical professionals** from **50** different **higher education and research institutes**.

It featured talks on topics such as **open science, finance and funding models** and **career development**.

Technology Specialist Network – Inaugural Meeting



Welcome and Introduction

Networking Lunch

Finance and Funding Models

1 keynote and a panel discussion

Future Activities

1 keynote (from EPSRC)

Short facility talks

Network Dinner

Training and Careers

Overview of Technical Pathways and Apprenticeships, T-Levels and Scottish Equivalents

2 keynotes and a panel discussion

Grants and Technology Specialists

Experience of a technology specialist and Personal experiences of winning bids

1 keynote, 4 short talks and a panel discussion

Talks from the meeting are available:

<https://www.mitalent.ac.uk/TSN-Event-Presentations>

Next meeting:

w/c 15th April 2024 (probably)

Bath (probably)

Scholarships / Travel funding will be available

<https://www.mitalent.ac.uk/TSN>

Funding

What do we **need** funding for?

Running the facility

- Fix Equipment

- Replace Equipment

- Consumables

- Staff salaries

- Refurbishment

Training and Professional Development

- Researchers

- Staff (us)

Research

- Consumables

- Time (buy out)

Outreach

Wellbeing

Funding Sources

Internal

Baseline facility budget

Training Budget

Grants (Co-I or named staff)

External

UKRI Grants

Industry

Funding Sources

Internal

Baseline facility budget

Training Budget

Grants (Co-I or named staff)

External

UKRI Grants

Industry



Funding Available: Connect NMR UK Call for Training Mobility Grant

Bursaries of up to **£600** to support **travel, accommodation** and **subsistence** for **NMR training or workshops**

Who can apply? Facility staff ... and staff employed in the industry, in the fields of physical and life sciences

Visiting an NMR facility for training purposes or access to techniques, hardware or tools that are beyond their local capabilities

Attend a UK-based conference where there is an NMR related-workshop/training as part of the conference

How to Apply:
Fill in the application form and send it to benjamin.duff@liverpool.ac.uk

Pay then claim back



Funding opportunity

EPSRC open fellowship

There are no eligibility rules about how many years of postdoctoral experience you need or whether you are currently in a permanent academic position.

We encourage applications from candidates who have taken a non-standard career path after their first degree.

We also welcome applications from candidates who want to move back into research after a career break or any other type of break from active research.

Funding opportunity

EPSRC open fellowship

You could consider applying for an open fellowship if you:

- have already been in receipt of significant funding or have been leading in an area of technical development
- have a planned programme of work up to five years in duration which will deliver high quality research with a focus on discovery science, innovation, instrumentation or technique development, or software engineering
- can demonstrate that you have acquired the skills and expertise to successfully deliver your research proposal, and that you are committed to being an advocate for EPSRC and to implementing good practice in creating a modern and inclusive research environment
- have identified training and development needs to enable you to expand or enhance your role and career.

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Research Fund

Apply for up to £5000. Applications open from 5 June 2023 until 10 July 2023 at 1400 UK time (BST)



The scheme provides up to £5000 of funding for 12 months, covering:

- Chemicals and/or equipment
- Consumables
- Licences for specialist software required for the project
- Equipment repairs not covered by University funds
- Equipment access, for example at a synchrotron facility

www.rsc.org/prizes-funding/funding/find-funding/research-fund/

Technician Skills Development Grant

Grants of up to £7000 are available to support technicians working in all sectors to undertake short to mid-term visits to organisations overseas or within their current country of residence, with the aim of developing skills to support their career progression.



One-off visit (up to 3 months) outside current country of residence (up to £5000*)



One-off visit (up to 3 months) within current country of residence (up to £3000*)



Multiple visits to the same organisation (of up to 3 months each over 2 years) outside current country of residence (up to £7000*)



Multiple visits to the same organisation (of up to 3 months each over 2 years) within current country of residence (up to £6000*)

Outreach Fund

Providing financial support to members, individuals and organisations to enable them to run chemistry-based engagement activities

- Develop science communication skills of chemists - building capacity and opportunities for chemists and chemical scientists to engage with schools and public audiences
- Engage with school students - inspiring and raising aspirations of student audiences to nurture a future generation passionate about the chemical sciences
- Engage with public audiences - involving a wide range of people in relevant contemporary issues in the chemical sciences
- Provide under-represented audiences, communities and places with inspiring chemistry engagement opportunities, delivered or coordinated by skilled people

an NMR Strategic Technical Platform

Funding opportunity

EPSRC strategic technical platform: outline stage

Examples of activities that could be considered include, but are not limited to:

- training opportunities (both in terms of new techniques and career development)
- secondments to other institutions or industries to train on new methods
- pump-priming access for facilities
- importing skills into the UK through visits to international facilities or hosting RTPs from internationally competitive institutes
- raising awareness of opportunities and community development
- conferences and workshops
- pilot projects and feasibility studies
- promotion and development of the role of RTPs in the context of universities in the UK (comparable to the 'plus' option of the current EPSRC Fellowship scheme)

Thank you

Funding



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

More Information

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<https://nmr.chemistry.manchester.ac.uk>

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