Dear UBMA members,

Welcome to the December newsletter, wishing all our members best festive wishes and all the best for 2026.

In today's newsletter:

- Reminder to save the date for the 2026 annual UBMA conference: 8th-10th April 2026, University of Lancashire
- Member highlights
- Sector highlights
- We welcome another member to the UBMA from a new institute—University of Salford, Manchester
- Results of our communications strategy consultation
- Job advert: Biological Safety Officer, University of York
- Reminder to spread the word to you colleagues about the UBMA and encourage them to join our community
- Request for images, news stories or highlights for our website
- Follow UBMA on LinkedIn - share our posts, add content and tag us - useful content will be posted there in-between newsletters

James Fox (Communications Officer)

ubma
University Biosciences Managers' Association

Save the date!

The 43rd annual UBMA conference will be hosted by Terri Blohm and Tony Dickson at the University of Lancashire between 8-10th April 2026.

Terri and Tony have developed an exciting agenda, more details will follow and be posted in future newsletters and in the meetings section of the UBMA website

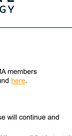
University of Lancashire

Member Highlights

UBMA member Allison Hunter was involved in the production of a guide for "Environmental Sustainability in Life Sciences Labs, 2025", which was published on the 10th December 2025.

Many university labs have embraced sustainable lab certification and this report looks at highlighting sustainability initiatives for small and medium lab enterprises, many of which started life as innovation projects coming out of universities.

In another report published by UKRI and ITSS Technical Professionals, epitomized by Allison, are being recognized for the key role we play in driving environmental sustainability in higher education and research, improving day-to-day work, finding smarter ways to monitor impact, instilling sustainable values into daily teaching and research. Our skills and creativity are making a real difference, cutting environmental impact and saving costs long-term.



Its also timely to mention that Allison will be starting her retirement at the end of this year, she will continue with her role on the UBMA executive committee until the 2026 UBMA conference so if you needed any further incentive to attend, please do so to see Allison and thank her for her work with the UBMA over the past years.

Sector Highlights

- The UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy (UK ITSS) recently wrote about how the technical skills landscape is changing and highlight 14 specialist courses designed to support career development across higher education and research
- The UK ITSS has an equipment sharing fund and showcases specialist equipment from more than 270 technician-led facilities across the UK, giving researchers, PhD students and RTPs easy access to specialist, cutting-edge technology. 42 people have already used the showcase to support their projects, backed by £145,234 in funding through the Equipment Sharing Fund. If you're planning new experiments, developing a proposal or exploring a new area of work, this is a great place to start.
- The Technical Specialist Network released a blog from Peter O'Toole, University of York sharing his insights on raising the visibility of technical roles and his own career journey. View here.
- Reminder about WriterFest—free sessions for technical professionals, covering career development, technical teaching, project management and more. Open to all UK technicians. View event programme and book online.

UK INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL SKILLS & STRATEGY

UBMA communications survey

Many thanks for the members that responded to the 2025 UBMA members communications survey. A summary of the feedback can be found here.

The feedback highlighted such things as:

- our members appreciated the monthly newsletters, so these will continue and following feedback will be posted on the UBMA website
- members are aware and use the UBMA LinkedIn page and jisc email list but, at this time, there is no strong desire for other social media platform usage
- there were suggestions to include training/sector news, member highlights and job adverts, so these have been included here and will continue in future newsletters

Many thanks for all your feedback!

New UBMA Member Institute

We welcome a new member to the UBMA for the first time from University of Salford, Manchester! Please encourage others to join the UBMA and strengthen our membership.

University of Salford MANCHESTER

Job Vacancies

The University of York is advertising to recruit a Biological Safety Officer (BSO), which might suit a BioScience Manager looking to move into a safety role.

The role holder will act as the principal source of expert advice on biosafety and biosecurity, the BSO supports departments and project supervisors in meeting all relevant regulatory requirements. This includes supporting the development of biosafety management strategies, conducting inspections of containment facilities, and ensuring statutory licences and authorisations are in place. Apply by 04/01/2026

University of York

Request for images / news stories / member highlights

The UBMA website was recently redesigned and the new UBMA branding developed. During that time stock images were added to the website but we would like to replace these with images from members. If you have any images you would like to see, please do send them over.

Similarly, if you have any news stories or things you would like highlighted to the community, please also send details to James.

Join us!

You already know what a wonderful community the UBMA is, but do your colleagues?! Please spread the word about the UBMA and encourage other bioscience managers to join us!

Details on how to join are here or contact our membership secretary

SPREAD THE WORD

LinkedIn

For those of you on LinkedIn, please connect, follow and share UBMA posts as they come up.

Search either for University Bioscience Managers Association, or UBMA and you should find us. Alternatively, click on the logo here.

From your UBMA Executive Committee

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the University Bioscience Managers Association. If you no longer wish to receive emails please contact the membership secretary by emailing membership.secretary@ubma.org.uk