Dear UBMA members,

Welcome to the October newsletter, hopefully something for everyone to read about below.

In today's newsletter:

- Save the date for the 2026 annual UBMA conference: 8th-10th April 2026, University of Lancashire
- Highlighting the new members and institutes joining UBMA via the IST conference!
- Member highlights:
  - Highlighting UBMA member and officer Allison Hunter's lifetime achievement award in lab sustainability
  - A Technical Officer from UCC was interviewed recently after a hornet sighting triggered a biosecurity alert in Ireland!
- Reminder to complete the questionnaire to help shape our communications strategy, it will only take a couple of minutes and will be really useful!
- Reminder to spread the word to you colleagues about the UBMA and encourage them to join our community
- Highlighting RSB training courses available at reduced rate to UBMA members
- 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 are working hard to develop the agenda, more details will follow and be posted in future newsletters and in the meetings section of the UBMA website

University of Lancashire

New members and member institutes

Victoria Talbot, UBMA chair, had a table-top stand advertising the UBMA at the recent IST conference. It was a successful day: 15 new members, including three from institutes shown below that had never previously had members, signed up to join the UBMA.

A very warm welcome to all new members!

If you have any membership queries or potential new members, direct them to our website or ask them to get in contact with Gwyneth, our membership secretary

Queen Mary University of London

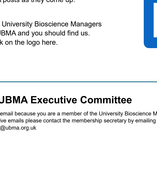
Manchester Metropolitan University

Plumpton College

Member Highlights

At the recent IST conference, UBMA member and committee member Allison Hunter presented a workshop on "Innovative Sustainability"; her contributions to laboratory sustainability were recognized by her being awarded the 2025 lifetime achievement for lab sustainability from My Green Lab. Congratulations to Allison, read more on this story on the news section of our website.

A biosecurity alert was triggered in Ireland after an Asian Hornet was spotted in a beer garden in July! Dr Dave O'Leary, a Senior Technical Officer at the Department of Medicine at University College Cork, spotted the hornet, which is about twice the size of a wasp, and contacted Biodiversity Ireland to report the sighting. Asian hornets could affect bees and other pollinators, a timely reminder to be observant and report anything unusual to relevant authorities to protect native species.



UBMA communications survey

A reminder that we are still looking for your feedback on UBMA communications and for you to tell us what you want to hear about, how you want to hear from us and how frequently that should be?

To facilitate this, we kindly ask you to complete this survey, we don't expect it to take long and any feedback you can give us will be really useful. The link should take you to a google form (which may also be new software to you?!)

With 15 new members we have further extended the survey response date.

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.

RSB Technical Skills courses

Royal Society of Biology

Dr Raksha Harwood, Training & Registers officer at the Royal Society of Biology (for which the UBMA is a member institute and receives reduced rates to training courses), contacted us with details of the latest RSB training courses on offer that might be of interest to UBMA members.

Learn new practical skills and elevate your techniques with the Royal Society of Biology's laboratory-based courses! These include our courses in Aseptic Techniques, and Cell Culture: The Basics, at the University of York on **22 January 2026** – a special bundle offer is available for booking onto both courses!

These courses contribute to the Technical Skills Certificate, which is designed to support the training and development of technical staff – the people who 'make it happen' and are essential for facilities to run smoothly! The certificate also supports applicants working towards Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) status by supporting key competencies for professional registration. These in-person courses are also an excellent networking opportunity!

Visit RSB's training events webpage for full details and to book your place on these courses.

Any queries, contact: Raksha Harwood <raksha.gohel@rsb.org.uk>

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