Dear UBMA members,

Please find below the March 2026 UBMA newsletter

In today's newsletter:

- Reminder to book for the 2026 annual UBMA conference: 8th-10th April 2026, University of Lancashire
- Reminder to attend the UBMA annual general meeting, scheduled for 27th March 10am-11.30am
- Reminder to vote in the UBMA committee elections. You will have been emailed a voting link, the deadline for votes is 12pm on 26th March with results announced at the AGM.
- Highlighting RSB & ITSS "Spring Fest" training opportunities
- 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 conference 2026

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

Terri and Tony have developed an amazing programme of hands-on sessions, facility tours, talks and lots of networking opportunities with fellow conference attendees and scientific company representatives that are sponsoring the event. The full programme is listed on the UBMA website. Please book for the conference using the booking link.

We very much look forward to seeing you in Preston!

Details of the 2026 UBMA annual general meeting

This year, the UBMA AGM will again be online in advance of the conference, to maximise the number of members who can attend.

You will have received an invitation to the AGM with a copy of the minutes of the 2025 meeting via email. The 2026 meeting agenda will be circulated nearer the time.

Committee elections are ongoing in the run-up to the AGM, so that results can be announced as part of it. UBMA secretary, Geoff Blunt, has sent voting instructions via email, following the nomination period. We still welcome nominations for a committee member, feel free to approach secretary@ubma.org.uk or other committee members for further information to help progress the association.

Career Development / Training Opportunities

RSB Training Courses 2026

Take the next step in your professional development with the Royal Society of Biology's wide range of training courses! These include **in-person** courses in:

Introduction to image processing and analysis in ImageJ at the University of Warwick on **20 April**. This practical course introduces beginners to the essential tools and techniques in ImageJ, from basic image handling to object counting, colocalisation and 3D visualisation. Through hands‑on exercises using sample or their own data, attendees will learn how to produce reliable images, extract quantitative measurements, and navigate ImageJ's core workflows.

Microscopy and Microbiology, and Aseptic Techniques at Brunel University of London on **2 – 3 June**. The introductory course on microscopy and microbiology teaches essential skills, including aseptic technique, bacterial purification, staining, colony counting, and the calculations needed to analyse microbial samples. The following ELISA course explores principles and applications, guiding participants through indirect and Sandwich assays, pathogen related immune responses, and the interpretation of diagnostic results using a case study.

Aseptic Techniques, and Cell Culture: The Basics at the University of York on **10 June.** Explore the essential principles and skills of aseptic technique: how to handle microorganisms safely, prevent contamination, and carry out sterile transfers across a range of microbiology applications. The following course on cell culture provides a foundation in sterile technique, thawing, passaging, and maintaining cells, while building the practical confidence needed to work with cultured cells in research laboratories. **A special bundle offer** is available for booking onto both York courses!

Quantitative PCR (qPCR) at the University of York on **11 June**. This extensive full-day qPCR course offers a comprehensive blend of essential theory and practical laboratory experience, ideal for participants already familiar with PCR and molecular biology. The course covers the fundamentals of fluorescence-based detection and primer design, with hands-on experience in setting up master mixes and qPCR plates. Participants will also be able to learn how to troubleshoot common issues and be able to confidently analyse high-quality qPCR amplification data in their own work by the end.

An Introduction to CryoEM at the University of Leicester on **7 July**. This course explores how cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) is used to visualise protein complexes in near native states and generate highresolution 3D structures. Participants gain hands-on experience with sample preparation, vitrification, and cryoTEM imaging while learning how cryoEM data reveal protein function and molecular interactions, including potential drug binding.

Introduction to C. elegans at the University of Derby on **23 – 24 September**. This hands on course introduces researchers to the C. elegans nematode model, covering essential culture, behavioural, longevity, and genetic techniques. Participants gain foundational knowledge and practical skills to understand, apply, and integrate C. elegans methods into their own biological or medical research, with no prior experience required.

RSB also has a range of online courses in:

Laboratory Health & Safety (& COSHH) on **4 May**. This one day online course provides a practical introduction to essential laboratory health and safety practices, covering COSHH based risk assessment, spill management, accident investigation, and safety inspections for those working in or progressing toward roles in biological containment and laboratory management.

Research Ethics on **18 May**. This course introduces the principles of research ethics and guides participants through the process of obtaining ethical approval for studies involving human subjects, clinical samples, or identifiable data, offering practical insight into how ethics committees operate and what applicants should expect.

Leadership in a Laboratory Environment on **22 – 23 June**. This course takes place online over two half days and covers team working and leadership models to help participants practically develop leadership and management skills. The course is designed for Laboratory team leaders and principal investigators who want to improve the way they manage their teams and, Postdoctoral researchers who have been selected for, or aspire to, promotion to team leader positions.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning on **15 May**. This course introduces scientists without prior computer science training to the core concepts, methods and practical applications of computational biology, machine learning and AI. Participants will learn to understand, analyse and interpret complex biological data while recognising the strengths and limitations of modern computational approaches.

Introduction to Reproducible Analyses in R on **24 – 25 August**. This course gives biologists with no prior coding experience a practical introduction to the R programming language, focusing on tidy data principles and reproducible research using real biological datasets. Through hands‑on activities, participants learn to import, tidy, analyse, visualise, and statistically analyse data in R, and produce clear, reproducible workflows.

The **Technioues in Omics** series provides a comprehensive introduction to modern omics techniques - spanning DNA profiling in forensics, high-sensitivity proteomics, targeted mass spectrometry assays, metabolomics, and epigenomic analysis. These courses will equip participants with the practical skills and conceptual understanding needed to analyse biological molecules for research, diagnostics, and personalised medicine. You may book on one or any selection of these courses:

Forensic DNA Profiling in Crime Scene & Paternity Testing on **18 May**.
Techniques in Omics: Nanoproteomics on **27 May**.
Mass Spectrometry Techniques for Target Validation in Drug Development on **8 June**.
High Performance Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry for Metabolomics on **22 June**.
Pyrosequencing: A Tool for Epigenetics Studies on **24 June**.

Most of these courses contribute to the Industry Skills Certificate or Technical Skills Certificate. For those working towards Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) status, the Technical Skills Certificate supports key competencies for professional registration.

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

UK ITSS "Spring Fest" training

The UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy present "Spring Fest 2026": two weeks, 23 free sessions, one festival of learning designed for technical professionals.

From AI tools to leadership, career planning to environmental sustainability, there is something for everyone.

11 - 22 May | Free | Sign up today

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

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