# Technician Partnership Conference 2020

## Technicians Stronger Together

### Day Programme - Wednesday, 24th June 2020

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<td>09.30 - 10.00</td>
<td>Mel Leitch, Newcastle University &amp; Helen Sharman OBE CMG FISc FRSC, Institute of Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td><strong>Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework.</strong> Martin Farley, UCL</td>
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<td>10.00 - 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Technicians and the N8 Research Partnership.</strong> Kate Jones, University of Liverpool</td>
<td>A foot in both camps – Industry and Academia, the best of both worlds. Peter Caine, Stanley Black and Decker</td>
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<td>11.00 - 12.00</td>
<td><strong>The Technician Commitment: Exploring Impact and Next Steps.</strong> Kelly Vere, Science Council</td>
<td><strong>CPD: Holding the key to technical career progression.</strong> John-Paul Ashton, IST / NTDC</td>
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<td>12.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>Cross sectoral collaboration the link between the automotive and pharma sectors. Katherine Forbes, NE LEP &amp; Rachael Chambers, CESAM</td>
<td><strong>Evidencing the role of the Technician within the Advance HE Higher Education Academy Framework.</strong> Dr Paul Fleet, James Davoll, Newcastle University</td>
<td>NTDC impact and what this means for the technical sector nationally and globally. Sara Bacon &amp; Natalie Kennerley, NTDC</td>
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<td>13.00 - 14.00</td>
<td><strong>Rebecca Stephens MBE.</strong> Keynote Speaker: The first British Woman to climb the Seven Summits and reach the summit of Mount Everest.</td>
<td>Why and how leaders must develop technical talent. Suhel Miah, HEaTED</td>
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<td>14.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>Commitments and Culture, UKRI’s work on technical career. Nikolay Ogryzko, UKRI</td>
<td>Recognising your professionalism. Marie McCaffrey, Engineering Council, Alex Turnbull, IMechE, Steve Feeley, ICE &amp; Adam Parnell, IET</td>
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<td>15.00 - 16.00</td>
<td>Cross sectoral collaboration the link between the automotive and pharma sectors. Katherine Forbes, NE LEP &amp; Rachael Chambers, CESAM</td>
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<td>16.00 - 16.30</td>
<td>David De La Haye MMus, MIScT, AfCGI, Keynote Speaker: Field Recordist, Sound Engineer and Music Technician at Newcastle University.</td>
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Welcome to the Technician Partnership Conference 2020.

As you may recall the original concept of the TPC2020 was about bringing technicians together and explore how we can work together not only across the HE sector but also partner with Technicians across industry. Originally, we planned to do this in Newcastle but of course world events overtook us. Just when we thought we would have to cancel, there was a lot of enthusiasm for a virtual conference.

The conference team were thankfully brave enough to push ahead and I am delighted to welcome you to the first Virtual TPC2020. The TPC2020 is hosted jointly by the N8 research Partnership, the National Technicians Development Centre and Newcastle University. We have tried our best to provide a diverse programme which we hope will celebrate the work of technicians, illustrate the diverse skillset that they have and sow some seeds around a collaborative approach that we can take forward in the weeks, months and years to follow. Although a virtual event is not quite the same as a physical conference, I hope there is something in the programme for everyone.

Please engage, get involved, tweet @TPConf2020 but most of all enjoy the day!

Mel Leitch FIScT CSci, TPC2020 Conference Chair
Dr Helen Sharman CMG OBE FIScT
Helen started her career with a degree in chemistry from the University of Sheffield before working in industry for GEC and Mars Confectionery. Helen then trained at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre, becoming the first British astronaut when she launched into space on board a Soyuz spacecraft on 18 May 1991.

Helen became a science communicator after her space flight. More recently, she has started a new career in management, working at the National Physical Laboratory and at Kingston University London, before moving to Imperial College in the summer of 2015.

Helen will open the online conference with Mel Leitch.

Rebecca Stephens MBE
The first British woman to climb Everest – this is the achievement for which Rebecca is best known. She tells the story as if it were yesterday, transporting her audience – and seemingly herself – to the summit of the highest mountain of the world. It is a deeply personal story. She was working in London as a reporter. An assignment took her to Everest, to report on an expedition attempting to scale an unclimbed ridge, and curiosity – why do climbers climb? – led her to climb herself, beyond the base camp to a point high on the North East Ridge. Her life was changed. For the first time in her 27 years she knew exactly what it was she wanted to do.

Rebecca talks of the importance of listening to your inner voice, to ensure that thoughts, feelings and actions are aligned – and of not fearing to be overly ambitious. But most importantly she talks about the team, how nothing of any scale is achieved alone, and about the three graces of teamwork – respect, trust and honesty. She talks about overcoming obstacles and the ‘circle of influence’, accepting what you can and cannot control, and doing everything within your power, working with others, to succeed. The messages from Rebecca’s stories are timeless and pertinent for people of any age and particularly relevant to our current situation where resilience is so important.

David De La Haye MMus MIScT AfCGI
is a Music Technician from Newcastle University. In 2019, David was the first technician to receive the Pioneer Award for a cross-disciplinary project to explore marine conservation efforts through creative arts practice. His specialist interests are field recording practices and immersive audio technologies.

"As a working musician I have an empathetic understanding of what our students are trying to achieve. Technicians have been there and done it."
LEAF, short of the laboratory efficiency assessment framework, is a standard in sustainable laboratories. It helps technical and research staff alike improve the sustainability of their labs, and helps users quantify savings and impact. Piloted for the past 2 years, this talk will review why LEAF is needed, what is and how it works, outcomes from using it, and how you can get involved.

**LEAF – A standard in Sustainable Labs**

**Speaker:**
**Martin Farley**
Sustainable Laboratory Advisor,
University College London
m.farley@ucl.ac.uk

How do we take the great learnings of the academic system and plant them as seeds to grow in a dynamic, constantly morphing industrial business? One that has traditionally had an uneasy relationship with the academic world, considering the pace of academia an unacceptable barrier to rapid growth and progress.

• *This blue-collar kid, from a local category D village was certainly an unlikely candidate to unite the two worlds. The quest to build a bridge between the very differing constituents has become a passion, constructing an internal business case to support additional post graduate education in conjunction with local universities and a more responsive model of industrial engagement from the same institutions.*

Whilst I certainly have not been able to come up with the definitive answers, I may have been able to frame some of the questions?

**A foot in both camps – Industry and Academia, the best or both worlds**

**Speaker:**
**Dr Peter Caine**
Quality Director, Europe Middle East, Africa et al Stanley Black and Decker
peter.caine@sbdinc.com

Generously funded by the Gatsby Foundation, the Science Council have embarked upon a project to embed and align professional registration to appropriate apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. The project seeks to influence the evolving technical education infrastructure to allow technicians to seamlessly progress to registered status as a result of their studies and importantly raise the overall prestige and status of technical education.

The workshop is designed to provide an overview of the project and provide the opportunity for delegates to help shape the activities that shall play such a significant role with the project.

**Technical Pathways project**

**Speaker:**
**Richard Holliday**
Head of Technician Pathway Development
r.holliday@sciencecouncil.org
Exploring the N8 Research Partnership and why our technicians are vital to our success.

The N8 Research Partnership is a collaboration of the eight most research intensive Universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York. Working with universities, industry and society, N8 aims to maximise the impact of this research base by: promoting collaboration, establishing innovative research capabilities & programmes of national and international prominence, driving economic growth.

Talk: Technicians and the N8 Research Partnership
Speaker: Kate Jones
Kate.Jones@liverpool.ac.uk

Continuing Professional Development or CPD as it’s more commonly known is an often-overlooked opportunity which the technical sector often seen as an abyss amongst the myriad of technical roles and responsibilities. This workshop looks at how CPD can be revolutionary in progressing technical careers; opening doors and breaking down barriers. Each and every one of us engages with CPD on a daily basis, although we often perceive this as "just the job" - learn how you can use your CPD more effectively to make a positive difference to your career, which has the potential to be life changing.

Talk: CPD: Holding the key to technical career progression
Speaker: John-Paul Ashton
j.p.ashton@istonline.org.uk

This workshop will provide an overview and examples of the impact of the Technician Commitment, a higher education and research sector wide initiative launched in 2017 to increase visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability of technical skills and roles. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to a discussion on the progress of the Technician Commitment to date and input directly into the initiative's future activity.

Talk: The Technician Commitment: Exploring Impact and Next Steps
Speaker: Kelly Vere
k.vere@sciencecouncil.org
This session will explore how to identify your technician activity within the HEA framework. Translating and recognising daily technician duties within the context of teaching. If you are able before the session we would recommend undertaking the questions on the following hyperlink (should take no longer than a cup of tea): Click Here. Advance HE accreditation enables all staff to gain professional recognition for their successful professional practice as an educator. And, raises the profile of teaching and learning, celebrating its importance alongside research activities. This session will look at Associate Fellowship (D1) and Fellowship (D2) level applications from the perspective of Technicians.

Dr Paul Fleet
Senior Lecturer in Music

Katherine Forbes
Health & Life Sciences Programme Lead
katherine.Forbes@nelep.co.uk

Rachel Chambers
Project Director, CESAM

This session will be a combination of presentation and workshop and is being delivered jointly by Katherine Forbes, Health and Life Science Lead for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and Rachel Chambers, Project Director, Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing, CESAM. They’ll be looking at cross sectoral collaborative opportunities provided by CESAM – and how it will harness innovation and learning across sectors.

Some leaders are happy to simply manage day to day processes, systems and people. Yet, a fundamental role of those leading others, is not to manage, but to develop talent, by way of engaging and empowering, to help boost an individual’s potential, and in so doing, achieve success for the team and the organisation. This is an important factor that can enable the achievement of the Technician Commitment initiative, in addition to really enhancing the capability of the technical workforce in the organisation. If you’re serious about who you are as a leader, come and explore the ingredients that will enable you to succeed and become a more effective leader.

Suhel Miah
HEaTED Programme Manager
suhel.miah@sheffield.ac.uk
The NTDC has now been in existence for 2 years, offering support to technical communities within universities and research institutions to enable an agile and sustainable workforce. Highlighting the skills and talent which technical staff possess, which underpins the support of teaching and research within our universities and research institutions. The NTDC is currently working with 30 partner institutions on initiatives which support their technical communities as well as the Technician Commitment. As a result, the NTDC has collected a wealth of data which provides a clear demonstration of their impact on the sector and the positive changes being made for technicians and technical communities, many of which have longer term implications for the UK economy. This workshop will explore the impact seen at these universities in a series of evidence based illustrative collaborative case studies.

Talk: 
Shaping the future: NTDC impact and what this means for the technical sector nationally and globally

Speaker: 
Dr Sara Bacon
Centre Manager, NTDC
s.bacon@ntdc.ac.uk

UKRI became a signatory of the Technician Commitment in December 2019. We’re committed to producing an action plan to support technical careers and need the help of members of the technical community. Join a representative of UKRI's Talent and Skills team for an interactive session discussing our current work and have an opportunity to influence the development of our action plan.

Talk: 
Commitments and Culture, UKRI’s work on technical careers

Speaker: 
Nikolay Ogryzko
Innovation and Skills Manager, UKRI BBSRC
nikolay.ogryzko@bbsrc.ukri.org

An overview of the Engineering Council and what it does as a regulatory body for the engineering profession, including Licensing of Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs). The PEIs also presenting i.e. the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) are all licensed to recognise individuals for professional registration in the categories of Engineering Technician (EngTech), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Chartered Engineer (CEng) with the Engineering Council and are able to advise on their processes as well as to highlight their benefits of membership.

Talk: 
Recognising your professionalism - how professional registration can help you on your journey

Speaker: 
Marie McCaffrey
Education & Skills Executive, Engineering Council
mmccaffrey@engc.org.uk
Technician Profiles and Networking Space.

These slots on the programme will show a slideshow presentation with 60+ technician profiles for individuals to read and appreciate. This space will also be available for networking to take place.