

OCTOBER 21ST 2021

NATIONAL TECHNICIAN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

PARTNER FORUM 2021
PROGRAMME

VIRTUAL EVENT

OCTOBER 21ST 2021



PROGRAMME

9:30 - 9:45

Welcome & Introduction

9:45 - 10:30

Keynote: Reaching Net Zero Carbon Campus

10:30 - 10:55

Parallel Sessions 1:

1A. RITG: Who We Are & What We Hope to Achieve

1B. Heated: Future Fit Technicians

10:55 - 11:35

Networking & Coffee Break

11:45 - 12:25

Parallel Sessions 2:

2A. LEAF: Pilot Project

2B. Advance HE for Technical Staff: Aligning Your Activity

2C. Fabric of the City

12:25 - 13:15

Networking & Lunch

13:15 - 13:55

Parallel Sessions 3:

3A. 'Keeping Up With The Jones': a candid look at benchmarking within Higher Education

3B. 'We Got The Power': the role of technicians in addressing challenges facing the research and innovation sector

3C. Professional and Career Development for our Technicians: Imperial College London and University of Glasgow

14:00 - 14:15

Closing Remarks

REACHING NET ZERO CARBON CAMPUS - THE ROLE OF CAMPUS USERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF

In the UK and globally, the Higher Education sector is facing a common challenge towards the development of a more sustainable university and campus. Transitioning towards a net zero carbon campus requires ambitious strategy, clear operations and behavioural change. Central to this is the engagement with users and stakeholders involving staff (academics and professionals including technicians) and students, ensuring both hard (e.g. technology) and soft (e.g. process) solutions are effective and efficient. Under this backdrop, this keynote will shed lights on the recent research on net zero carbon campus, and recommend pathways forward.

Professor Lenny Koh

Professor Lenny Koh is the Founder and Director of the Advanced Resource Efficiency Centre (AREC) and the Head of Communication, Partnership and Internationalisation of the Energy Institute at The University of Sheffield. She is an advisor and on the Board of diverse organisations internationally advising leadership and management on resource efficiency and sustainability. Her work contributes to advancing the understanding and resolution of complex supply chains using interdisciplinary approaches crossing supply chain management and information systems domains. Her research is world leading and is recognised for its scientific novelty and has generated significant impacts for societies, governments and industries from manufacturing to services globally. Her work transforms supply chains towards resource sustainability; and infuses and digitises supply chain life cycle thinking across sectors, technologies and systems. She has established strategic partnerships with industry leaders across sectors on supply chain sustainability, digital transformation, circular economy, carbon neutrality and net zero transformation.



1A. THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE TECHNICIAN GROUP (RITG) – WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

In 2018 representatives from four organisations established a network to share ideas, good practice and frustrations from the institute perspective. The Research Institute Technician Commitment Group (RITG) was formed and has grown into a collaboration of 9 research institutes, all signatories of the Technician Commitment.

This presentation will introduce RITG and discuss our work within an institute context. We will highlight the impacts of our collaboration and discuss future plans. Whilst RITG is an institute-specific collaboration we are keen to share and learn from best practice across sectors and interact with the whole technician community



Dr Clare Stevenson CSci

Clare has worked at the John Innes Centre (JIC) in for nearly 25 years in technical roles. Currently her time is split between managing the Biophysical Analysis Facility which uses several techniques to look at bio-molecular interactions and the Protein Crystallography facility where she has extensive expertise crystallising protein and solving their 3D structures.

In addition to her science role Clare is passionate about technical careers and increasing technician visibility and recognition. She is the lead for the Technician Commitment at JIC was a founding member of the Research Institute Technician Group which now represents 9 research institutes all of which are signatories of the Technician Commitment. In June she joined Kelly Vere and Simon Breeden, on secondment, as associate lead for the Technician Commitment.



Dr Danielle Hoyle

Danielle has worked at the Babraham Institute for 8 years. Originally joining to establish a pre-award research grant support function, she now works in the Operations department. As Head of Research Operations, she has oversight of the Institute's core facilities, policies, scientific capital equipment and other ad hoc scientific operations. She is also a member of the Institute's Executive Committee.

As Institute Lead for Technician Commitment, she is committed to working with colleagues across the Institute to develop a culture where everyone's contributions are recognised and celebrated.

1B. HEATED: FUTURE FIT TECHNICIANS



This session will highlight the technical opportunities that are available for technicians from all disciplines and at all stages of their careers. The training, networking and services of HEaTED will be detailed. HEaTED will also share findings around the impact of learning gained through CPD courses.

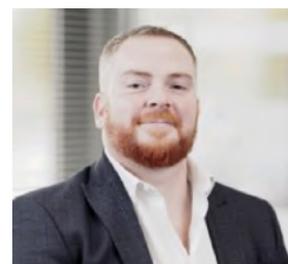


Suhel Miah

MSc, MBA, FCMI, FIScT, CSci

Suhel has a strong academic record (Executive MBA with Distinction) and professional standing (Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, Fellow of the Institute of Science and Technology and Chartered Scientist), which has enabled him to add new perspectives and ideas to achieve business goals. He is a career technician with 28+ years of experience in providing technical services support to academia in higher education. Suhel is a skilled and experienced leadership and management practitioner providing strategy-oriented analysis and improving efficiencies in operations, programmes and projects.

Suhel is currently leading the HEaTED (Higher Education and Technician Educational Development) programme at the National STEM Learning Centre.



Liam Barr

Liam joined the team in March 2020 as part of the transfer of HEaTED ownership back to The University of Sheffield. Liam has over 20 years business and sales management experience and brings a wealth of strategic and operational knowledge to the team. He is an expert in growing brands and increasing engagement through building relationships with customers. Liam also works in partnership with members to encourage engagement with the HEaTED programme. He analyses engagement data trends and works with contacts to strategically increase communication in the right areas to stimulate interaction with services offered. Liam regularly meets with key points of contact, presents to steering groups, at technical managers meetings and at technician events across the UK and listens to the needs of the technical community in real time ensuring HEaTED remains progressive, relevant and responsive to members needs.

2A. LEAF: PILOT PROJECT

Martin Farley of University College London and the NTDC LEAF pilot collaboration group will be discussing the LEAF Framework, how the pilot Universities have implemented it and next steps in the process. Edinburgh Napier, Liverpool, and Reading University will be showcasing their case studies and sharing reflections on using the LEAF framework.



Martin Farley

Martin started as a lab technician and researcher, but his passion for sustainability led him to become the Europe's first green lab specialist at the University of Edinburgh in 2013. He moved south to London where he founded Green Lab Associates. He's since initiated green lab programs at UCL, and King's College London. He has developed the LEAF green lab standard at UCL, where he works as their Sustainable Lab Advisor.



Olga Khutoryanskaya

Olga graduated from Kazakh State National University (Almaty, Kazakhstan) with the first-class degree in Chemistry, she then completed MSc and PhD in Polymer Chemistry. Her PhD research was focussed on the development of novel functional grafted and cross-linked copolymers of maleic anhydride and styrene for different applications. She then worked as a research assistant in the Institute of Chemical Sciences (Almaty, Kazakhstan) and University of Strathclyde, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry (Glasgow, UK). In September 2006, Olga joined the University of Reading as a postdoctoral researcher. She was working on the design, development and characterisation of polymer films, hydrogels and tablet formulations. She then decided to change her career path, and in 2009 Olga became a teaching and research technician. In June 2016, Olga was promoted to Technical Manager. In her current role, she leads a team of technicians and together they provide support to teaching and research across the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy.



Jan Brett

I have worked in technical services for over 25 years. I have a M.Sc. in Molecular Genetics, a B.Sc. (Hons) in Biomedical Technology and I am a registered Chartered Scientist. I currently work in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at The University of Liverpool, as the Technical Development and Planning officer and have been in post since July 2020. My job in the faculty is to enable all our technicians to develop their skills, have equal access to development opportunities and assist in all aspects of technical workforce planning. I also sit on our Technician Commitment Steering Group and I am chair of Liverpool University Technical Network.



ENU LEAF Team

Our LEAF team is formed from our previously established Green Lab Group which was launched by Lisa McMillan (Microbiology Technician) and Josephine Brown (Technical Assistant in Biomedical Science) who are the driving force behind the group after previous success in implementing other environmental sustainability projects. Russell Wilson (Sport, Exercise and Health Science Technician) has a key role and all of our technical staff contribute and feed into the LEAF project.

2B. ADVANCE HE FOR TECHNICAL STAFF: ALIGNING YOUR ACTIVITY

Is Advance HE fellowship for technicians? Why is it important? What activities count?

The session will explore examples at Newcastle University and the subsequent creation of a technician centred guide to help technicians align their daily activities with the UKPSF requirements. The session will then go on to detail the work MMU has undertaken to progress technical staff through the PSF fellowship process, using the Newcastle guide as a tool for better enabling technical staff to articulate their role against the Advance HE Professional Standards Framework.



James Davoll

James Davoll is the Technical Manager of the School of Arts and Cultures at Newcastle University and a Fellow of the HEA. His team support and teach across 3 departments (Fine Art, Media and Music).



Chris Little

Chris Little is a Senior Lecturer in Manchester Metropolitan University's University Teaching Academy and the co-lead of their institutional PSF programme. Alongside a colleagues, Chris leads of the institutional provision of AdvanceHE Fellowships, working to ensure staff from all departments have avenues for progression.

2C. FABRIC OF THE CITY

In this session, the Studios and Galleries technical team from Manchester School of Art reflect with humour and insight on the challenges posed by the stretching and installation of 'Fabric of the City' - a monumental textile artwork by British artist Alice Kettle installed in the new Grosvenor Building.

The work's unusual scale, pattern matching and the broad array of surface techniques used - from print to digital stitch - posed novel technical complexities for the technicians. Making use of their expertise in art handling, exhibition install, AV, mount making, canvas stretching and picture framing, the team devised bespoke methods that were essential to realising the artwork.

Adam Butler



Working previously at Manchester Art Gallery, I joined MMU in 2018 bringing expertise as an Art Conservation technician, with a thorough understanding of the technical gallery and workshop environment and experience delivering large scale exhibitions worldwide. As team leader, I am very proud to manage a team of highly skilled Technicians to deliver ambitious professional/student exhibitions and support Fine Art studios and workshop facilities, providing expert technical support for students and academics across the School of Art.

Robin Broadley



As a BA (hons) Fine Art sculpture graduate and current practicing artist within the City I'm well placed to speak to students about their creative endeavours, both inside and outside the art school. I enjoy working practically and creatively with the future artists of Manchester.

Owen Ramsay



I have a multidisciplinary background in contemporary art, creating video, sculpture and installation work as well as 6 years industry experience constructing and making for design, exhibition, museum and arts. I enjoy using this blend of creative and technical skills to help people with ambitious ideas and unusual technical challenges.

3A. "KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES": A CANDID LOOK AT BENCHMARKING WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION

This workshop explores why benchmarking data for universities is a valuable set of data. In particular, how many technical staff do institutions have? Are they research or teaching intensive? Are technicians included in research grant proposals? Why is this important? These questions and many more will be explored within this workshop setting.



Natalie Kennerley

Natalie is Technical Services Development Manager at Manchester Metropolitan University and Director of the National Technician Development Centre. She began her technical career 30 years ago - her passion is to promote technicians as a skilled, valued and recognised sector - the "Hidden Heroes" of academia. Natalie became the Deputy Director of the NTDC in January 2019 and was appointed the title of Director in August 2019 when Terry Croft MBE undertook his new role of Founding Director.



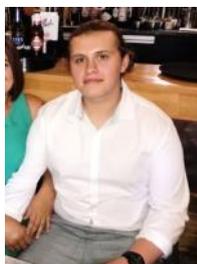
Richard Cutting

Richard is the Head of University Technical Operations, Resources and Services at Sheffield Hallam, which involves leading and managing all aspect of business associated with the University's technical team. He recently led the restructuring and reorganisation of this team to create a single unified service which is responsible for the provision of teaching, research, outreach and health and safety support to staff and students. The team possess the expert practical skills and knowledge required to operate specialist areas such as laboratories, workshops, controlled environments, art studios and theatres.



Jared Carnie

Jared joined the Technical Development and Modernisation project in October 2014. He worked as a data analyst, developing and piloting the Technician Skills, Roles and Responsibilities Audit that made up an integral part of the TDM toolkit. This continued to evolve into the Technician Survey in the NTDC Toolkit available now. As part of the National Technician Development Centre, Jared has a dual role. He continues to oversee the development and implementation of the Technician Survey, whilst also working as Operations Manager for the office-based NTDC team.



Tyla Jasper

Tyla is a recent Computer Science Graduate and a postgraduate Data Science student from Middlesbrough, studying at Manchester Metropolitan University

3B. 'WE GOT THE POWER': THE ROLE OF TECHNICIANS IN ADDRESSING KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SECTOR

Two of the biggest challenges facing the research and innovation sector in the UK are Climate Change and Research Culture.

Technicians have vast stores of knowledge and expertise, ideas and informal power that can help (or hinder) the path to finding solutions. This session will explore why technicians are so crucial for Net Zero research and culture change - two key priorities for the N8 Research Partnership.

Dr. Annette Bramley

Since 2018 Annette has been the very driven and inspiring Director and 'Chief Collaboration Officer' of the N8 Research Partnership, the strongest university research alliance in the UK.

As one of the U.K's foremost experts in research culture she has become a regular, compelling and in demand speaker on the subject.

A graduate of Oxford University where she achieved a first class degree and D.Phil in Materials Science, her particular niche is bringing people from different backgrounds to work together on research that has a tangible, genuine and long-lasting impact on the world. It's fair to say N8's successes in this arena are both as fascinating as they are many.

For over 20 years now she's guided scientists and engineers of all disciplines at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (part of UK Research and Innovation) with great skill, inclusivity and creativity.

When not excelling in her profession Annette is also a gifted artist in the medium of embroidery and acrylic and again to the highest accolade. She holds the Certificate in Technical Hand Embroidery from the Royal School of Needlework with Distinction and has exhibited countrywide.



3C.PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR TECHNICIANS: IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON AND UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Paul Paterson will give an overview of the technical support at the University of Glasgow including internal and external career development opportunities, modern apprentice scheme and future plans and to address communication and other challenges.

Ailish Harikae and Allison Hunter will give a brief overview of technical services at Imperial, with a snapshot of the learning and development offer for professional, technical and operational staff and some of the barriers they have experienced in engaging technicians with this. Mini case studies of three successful initiatives will be presented; Technicians' Network events, apprenticeships for established staff and professional registration.



Paul Paterson

Paul Paterson is Chief Technician for Institute Molecular Cell & Systems Biology as University of Glasgow as well as being the Convenor of Health & Safety Institute Molecular Cell & Systems Biology. Paul is also a proud Member of University of Glasgow Technician commitment steering Group



Ailish Harikae

Ailish Harikae (MA (Hons), PGDip, Assoc CIPD) works in People and Organisational Development at Imperial College London, where she manages the apprenticeship programme and Imperial's Technician Commitment.



Allison Hunter

As Technical Operations Manager, in the Department of Life Sciences at Imperial College London, Allison's role requires an overarching view of complex multisite operations acting as the main contact and reference across all sites for our department. This entails knowledge of the research and teaching needs, finance and budgets, safety issues, regulatory requirements, ethical standards, equipment provision, disaster management planning, energy requirements and savings, building fabric and technical staff training and supervision.