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CORE TECHNOLOGIES FOR LIFE SCIENCES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

UPDATE ON CTLS2023

The Ireland organising team would firstly like to thank everyone who has contributed to the planning of [CTLS2023](#) so far, it has been a huge team effort and we are very excited with the content for the conference, social and workshop programmes.

We only have a couple of speakers outstanding to confirm, our sponsor plan is on target, and we just have to keep pushing those registrations to ensure everyone gets the most out of the event.

There will be a keynote talk on each of the first two days and they will be delivered by:

- **Day 1** Prof. Marta Miaczynska, Director International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, Poland
- **Day 2** Ms Kelly Vere, University Director of Technical Strategy (University of Nottingham) and Higher Education and Technician Commitment Lead (Science Council).



Full details are available at <https://www.ctls2023.com/> and if you haven't already registered, you can do so through this webpage.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Dublin in June.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE RltrainPlus WORKSHOP



RltrainPlus is running an all-day workshop entitled '**Best practices to turn diversity into an asset for your research environment**' on 26th June (9am to 5pm) in Dublin, prior to the CTLS2023 congress.

Registration is free and open till 8th May.

Click [HERE](#) to register NOW!

In our research at core facilities, we work and interact with people coming from different backgrounds, cultures, disciplines, gender, personalities. It is enriching and can be challenging at times. Especially when diversity leads to misunderstandings that escalate and hinder our productivity and wellbeing.

With this workshop, we will offer a safe and stimulating environment for sharing experiences on a collegial level so that participants can reflect on diversity in the research setting. Through raising awareness and providing concrete and applicable tools, this Workshop will empower participants to influence building an inclusive culture in their research environment. This workshop will address this issue and allow environment for sharing information between participants.

There are limited spaces available for the event, up to 20 participants. Your registration will be reviewed and a limited number of registrants will be chosen. Please add your motivation for joining the event in the registration form directly.

For more information on the RltrainPlus project please click [here](#).

UK TECHNICAL SPECIALIST NETWORK (TSN) CONFERENCE

The inaugural UK Technical Specialist Network conference was held 18th to 19th April 2023 at the University of Edinburgh.

Building on the pillars of the Technician Commitment, a UK initiative that aims to

increase visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability of technicians, a new UK network – the Technical Specialist Network (TSN) has been set up for technical specialists. TSN has been founded by nine individuals from higher education and research institutes to develop a national group that will enhance skills and knowledge of individuals and strengthen institutional expertise. Funding from TALENT (a project led by the Midlands Innovation consortium of 8 universities) has enabled the establishment of this network. The network has been formed to share best practice, understand the funding landscape, share industry insights and of course to encourage networking amongst a group of staff that can often feel isolated.



We came together for the first time at the inaugural UK Technology Specialists Network (TSN) conference hosted by University of Edinburgh on 18th and 19th April 2023. The conference was opened by college registrar Anne-Marie Coriat and Scott Davidson, Deputy Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability, discussing the importance of technical innovation in environmental sustainability. The first session was on Open Research, which University of Edinburgh place a strong emphasis on, highlighting the role that facilities play in high quality methods, data management and data integrity. The afternoon sessions featured speakers discussing finance models of core facilities opened by Danielle Hoyle, Babraham Institute and a panel discussion, which included Joanne Marrison from University of York, Ian Brewis form Cardiff University, Tony Chapman from EPSRC and Nik Ogryzko from UKRI. Important updates on funding were given from UK government funding bodies (UKRI and EPSRC) highlighting the change in opportunity for technical specialists leading facilities, now able to apply as Co-I or lead equipment bids. Day 1 ended with short talks from a range of technical specialists from scientific and creative specialisms. The networking continued, with an evening meal at the Playfair Library Hall.

The second day was opened by Dr Kelly Vere, lead of the MI Talent project, giving important sector updates, followed by a focus on sustainability of technical skills through Foundation Apprentice schemes in Scotland, with David Dickson from East Lothian Schools and Graham Allen and Annabel Stewart from Charles River Laboratories, while Modern Apprenticeships were discussed by University of Southampton from Gareth Savage. Anneke Lubben, Director of Research Infrastructures at University of Bath gave great insight into infrastructure grant applications and her career development to date, followed by a closing sessions on personal experiences of applying for equipment bids from Tony Larson, David

Walker, Alex Laude and Matthieu Vermeren.

TSN conference event sponsors were Stratocore, SCIEX, INTEGRA, Peak Scientific, Nikon and SpectralWorks. Sponsorship and funding from TALENT and the University of Edinburgh enabled setting up of travel bursaries, which were awarded to 30 individuals.

Feedback from the network during and after the event was incredibly positive and there is a real appetite for the network to continue. To share best practice for technical specialists across the UK, and in particular to meet others in similar roles, while learning to navigate the funding opportunities and challenges in the UK setting. Our network is keen to welcome new members to the network, from all levels and disciplines across the UK.

Are you a Technical Specialist in the UK? Join the network [here](#). Learn more about TSN [here](#).



Organising committee (Peter O'Toole, Lee Murphy, Julie Herniman, Natalie Homer, Ian Hancox, Andy Filby, Ralph Adams, Kelly Vere)

News from the Community Engagement Working Group



We would like to remind you that CTLS members have a preferential registration fee for [CTLS2023](#) that allows you to fully recover the cost of your membership fee.

If you haven't done it yet, you can still renew your 2023 CTLS membership [here](#), and you can register to the conference CTLS2023 [here](#).

Please note for the UK based members that CTLS is now on the list allowing to claim tax relief on membership fees.

- Info about the list and being able to claim your tax back is [here](#)
- The HMRC list of tax exempt is found [here](#)

As a valuable member of CTLS, we would kindly ask you to forward this message,

and the attached information about becoming a [CTLS member](#) and the [CTLS2023 conference](#), to all you colleagues and friends. You will find the [full programme here](#) which can also be printed and distributed, or displayed in your labs.

We truly appreciate your help in broadcasting this event, which promises to be a fabulous one, as well as the **CTLS membership!**

We hope to see many of you in Dublin!

News from the Partnership & Funding Working Group



There has been a change in leadership of this Working Group with Lavanya Premvardhan stepping down from her role as Vice-Chair and Spencer Shorte stepping up as the new Vice-Chair. The Working Group would like to thank Lavanya for all her hard work and thank Spencer for volunteering to do this role in the future.

Spencer Shorte will be at CTLS2023 to represent this Working Group.

Partnership & Funding Working Group member Josh Rappoport will be presenting on the synergy between ABRF and CTLS at the ABRF 2023 Annual Meeting in Boston this month. This session will be chaired by Raif Palmisano.

News from the Communications Working Group

To support the recruitment of new CTLS members, the Communications Working Group has created a new page entitled [CTLS Promotional Tools](#). From this page you can download copies of the CTLS poster, CTLS brochure, two CTLS membership presentations (short and long versions) and a presentation template.

Use these documents to promote the benefits of CTLS membership whenever and wherever you can.

These documents are all also available in the Downloads section of the Members Area of the website.



FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN CORE FACILITIES NETWORK (NICO)

The First National Congress of Italian Core Facilities Network (NICO) was held in March with CTLS endorsement. This first meeting, organised by University of Milan in the historical location of Ca' Granda, provided the opportunity to get to know the different realities that actively participate in the innovation challenges in Italy, to encourage system initiatives, and to build critical mass.

The outcomes we expect from this kind of initiatives are increasing the number of scientific and technological synergies, common management practices, and participation in research projects and funding initiatives.

The audience, researchers, facilities staff, administrators, companies, and policymakers had the chance to learn about the importance of the Italian Core Facilities for the national and international research in life sciences and to listen to the CTLS achievements and efforts in an exciting talk by one of our CTLS Board of Directors, Lola Martinez.

Many other CTLS members have been presenting and attending, including the CTLS BoD member Valentina Adami who introduced, with CTLS member Gabriella Tedeschi, the newly created Italian Network NICO to the audience, and Training group vice-chairs Viktoryia Sidarovich and Veronica De Sanctis, the last one participating in a round Table on “Career development and professional updating of the Core Facility Technical Manager.”



CTLS INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

We welcome our two new [CTLS Institutional Partners](#). Read on below to find out all

about them...



[Human Technopole](#) is Italy's life science institute, located at the heart of MIND (Milano Innovation District). Human Technopole's overarching mission is to improve human health and well-being, by: carrying out frontier research in the life sciences aimed at developing novel approaches in preventive and personalised medicine; setting up and operating scientific services and facilities, to also be made available to external researchers; training the next generation of leading scientists; promoting innovation and progress through technology transfer. Once fully operational, HT will employ over 1.000 scientists from all over the world.



[Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities, GmbH \(VBCF\)](#) is a publicly funded non-profit research-performing medium-sized company situated at the Vienna BioCenter, one of the most outstanding and prominent life sciences hubs in Central Europe. The company's primary goal is to provide access to state-of-the-art research infrastructures and scientific services for research institutions and private customers in Life Sciences. The company encompasses ten core facilities focusing on various aspects of R&D in life sciences, either as routine investigations or finding new, original solutions. Besides providing services, VBCF conducts its own research and developmental activities, mainly in further developing the infrastructure, methodology, and services.

CTLS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Take the opportunity to learn all about the CTLS [Mentorship](#) and [Shadowing](#) Programs at the Mentorship session on 28th June at the CTLS2023 Congress. Josh Rappoport and Ian Brewis are chairing this session which includes a presentation by mentor Peter O'Toole from the University of York, a presentation from the perspective of a mentee and a panel discussion.



REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR CTLS MEMBERSHIP!

And remember to invite your colleagues and friends to join too!



CTLS membership has many benefits including:

- Reduced rates and priority registration at CTLS congresses and events
- Access to CTLS sponsored trainings at preferred rates
- Networking opportunities with other core facility staff
- Access to CTLS webpages with news, job listings and event

Click [here](#) to renew or join.



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