



CORE TECHNOLOGIES FOR LIFE SCIENCES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

TechWatch Seminars... Your input and help is required!

CTLS is collaborating with EU-Life to start a new series of events, TechWatch seminars. The vision of this series is to showcase new developments in particular technological platforms implementable at Core Facilities, including new instruments (presented by users not vendors), new applications, and analytical pipelines, both experimental and computational, that might be of a broader interest to the CTLS/EU-Life community.

Each seminar can be a single presentation or several shorter presentations by several presenters within one technological platform (or maybe an integrated multi-platform approach toward well defined analytical or scientific problem).

The seminars are expected to attract specialist audiences, strengthening interactions between CTLS and EU-Life members from different entities within a particular technological platform.

The seminars will be organised by EU-Life, with input from CTLS. To organise this CTLS input, Krzysztof wants to set up a CTLS Steering Committee (as part of Community Engagement Working group) responsible for identifying and choosing new seminar subjects. The aim is to encompass a broad range of Core Facility specialities such as microscopy, flow cytometry, mass spectrometry, genomics and structural biology.



Do you have ideas for subjects and presenters for this webinar series? Please click [here](#) to complete this short survey to give your input, thank you.

Would you like to join this CTLS Steering Committee to support this exciting new initiative? Please email [Krzysztof](#) to find out more and to volunteer.

Save the Date!

The CTLS 2025 Congress will be hosted by CEITEC in Brno, Czech Republic, 10th to 12th June 2025.

Click [here](#) to watch the invitation video!



Are you keen to set a diversity, equity and inclusivity action plan for CTLS?

On Monday 26th June ahead of CTLS2023, 10 of us attended a workshop at Dublin City University, under the RiTrain+ framework, to reflect on diversity in our research settings. The course was conducted by 2 experienced trainers from hfp consulting.



We are now keen to form a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) working group, to set an action plan for CTLS. Please email [Natalie](#) if you would like to be part of the DEI focus group. If you attended we would love your input. But note – you do not need to have attended the workshop to join the focus group.

News from the Training Working Group

After the CTLS2023 meeting, the [CTLS Training Working Group](#) aimed to draw the attention of all CTLS members to the activities supported by the Working Group and its Focus Groups. Consequently, on September 25th, the Training Working Group organized a General Meeting, which was open to the entire CTLS community.



The General Meeting provided an excellent opportunity to outline the objectives of the Working Group and showcase the activities developed by its Focus Groups. Notably, the meeting highlighted the most significant initiatives of 2023:

- In collaboration with hfp consulting, the Training Working Group launched the 2nd edition of the online Professional Development Course for Core Facility Staff within CTLS. This course primarily targets technical or scientific facility staff, excluding those in managerial roles. Its aim is to provide participants with the necessary tools to become an integral member of a core facility team.
- Ian Brewis, Chair of the Shadowing and Staff Exchange Focus Group, presented the accomplishments of the Shadowing and Staff Exchange Programme, now in its second edition. This programme facilitates staff mobility between core facilities in different countries, enabling professional development and fostering international collaboration.
- Joshua Rappoport, Chair of the Mentorship Focus Group, introduced the Mentorship Programme, a flexible initiative that allows members of the CTLS community to receive mentorship in a wide array of expertise areas from CTLS mentors who have volunteered to support this exciting programme.
- The newly appointed Chair of the User Training Working Group, Rafael Camacho, shared his vision for new activities to be developed by the Focus Group, supported by the results of a previous survey.

The intended outcome of this meeting was to attract new CTLS members to the Working Group and define new activities for the upcoming year.

We would like to welcome all interested members in our Training Working Group. So, if you are interested in share your ideas and helping to develop new activities, please complete this [form](#).

Update on the RiTrain Plus programme

The continuous professional development programme, organised as a pilot from the RiTrainPlus project and successfully completed in summer 2023, was designed with the aim of strengthening the managerial capabilities of professionals working in Research Infrastructures and Core Facilities.



The [seven courses](#) covered the most important transversal themes needed to manage any infrastructure, intending to provide the competencies and skills necessary to respond to scientific organisations' new challenges. The courses have attracted 277 applications from over 40 countries. Over 130 participants were selected to enter the programme.

All the courses were very well appreciated and, thanks to the feedback from the participants, asked to contribute actively, the RITRAIN+ team is already at work to improve them in the next edition.

News from the Communications Working Group

Jane Chappelle and Michael Pancher are swapping roles, with Michael being the new Chair and Jane the new Vice-chair. Thanks to both of them for all their on-going work for this working group.



Interested in communications?
Do consider joining our working group.... we are looking to expand our dedicated but small team! Email [us](#) now to find out more...

New candidacies for the CTLS Executive Council are welcome!

All active CTLS members can apply to join the Executive Council by [emailing](#) their motivational letter to the CTLS BoD by 1st December 2023. The email should include a statement of motivation and experience explaining why you want to do it and what you can bring to the role.

Calling all CTLS members!

Please note that the next CTLS Association General Meeting (AGM) will take place online on Monday 11th December from 4 pm to 5 pm CET.

As members, your presence is important for the association.

Please mark your calendar!

The agenda and the Zoom link will follow.



Important Safety Notice

There was a recent serious incident of someone pretending to be a member of the CTLS BoD and asking a CTLS member to arrange a money transfer. This is the first time this fraudulent attempt has occurred.



Please all be aware that no member of the BoD will ever send such a message to a member. Also no member of the BoD will ever send an email asking a member to log in via a link anywhere for any purpose.

If you receive any suspicious emails from the BoD, please take a screenshot and report it to the BoD. Thank you.

Check out the upcoming RMS Events!



RMS is in holding several events in the coming months targeting core facilities.

These events include FlowcytometryUK 2023 (16th November in Cambridge), Virtual European Flow Core Meeting 2023 (4 – 5th December), Flow Facilities Meeting 2024 (8 – 9th January in Birmingham) and EM-UKI 2024 (8 – 9th February in York).

Click [here](#) to view the RMS events calendar. Registration for all the events above is now open.

Funding opportunities for imaging projects



Euro-Biolmaging is involved in a number of important projects that provide funding for User Access to Euro-Biolmaging Nodes. These grants will support researchers to unleash the power of cutting-edge imaging technologies and gain access to other European research infrastructures to enhance scientific results. Cancer researchers, plant biologists and scientists wanting to try a correlated multimodal imaging approach, we have opportunities for you! Please visit [our website](#) to find out more and please help us share the news with your community.

CTLS membership

Remember to invite your colleagues and friends to join us!



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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