

Departmental Contact Briefing No. 4

1st March, 2002

Welcome to the spring DC Briefing no. 4. Christmas is now a distant memory, but all at LTSN Bioscience are looking forward to the rest of 2002 and hope you are too. You will also notice that there is more than just this Briefing in the envelope: **Origin** is a product of a Teaching Development Grant. The editor, Jac Potter, would appreciate your feedback, and has enclosed a short evaluation form for your use.

We want to involve the DC network in a number of new initiatives, and I will now dip our collective toes in the water, so to speak, to see what you think.

Departmental Contact Event

Following evaluation of previous events, it has become clear that facilitating face-to-face networking between the UKHE Bioscience Community is one of the most important and popular services LTSN Bioscience can offer. We are keen to develop our relationship with the Departmental Contacts network: an event, or number of regional events, specifically aimed at our Departmental Contacts, seems appropriate. We would value your opinion on what would be useful to you:

- Would one event, or a number of regional events, be preferred?
- This/these events could take any number of forms: themed workshops [issues, practical ideas, chalk-face/C&IT], involvement of Special Interest Groups, invited speakers, L&T swapshops aimed at harvesting ideas from within the network
- Timing: when would you be able to attend an event?
- **Would your department/school be willing to host such an event?**

Please let us know what would be of most value to you as soon as possible. Email us at ltsnbioscience@leeds.ac.uk with your thoughts.

Upcoming LTSN Bioscience Events

Can I draw your attention once again to our upcoming events. For further information and details on registration for all events, visit our website <http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk> under EVENTS. A small poster of events is included for your LTSN Bioscience display board.

- **Forensic Science Swapshop**
6th March, 2002, University of Central Lancashire

LTSN Bioscience and LTSN Physical Sciences are running the above event with the help of our Forensic Science Discipline Consultant Dr Dave Phoenix. The purpose of this swapshop is to provide the opportunity for staff teaching Forensic Science-related courses to share their experiences and resources. Colleagues are invited to attend and to bring examples or details of teaching activities developed in-house. Registration is free, and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

- **New Legislation, New Opportunities- Implementing the New Disability Legislation**

8th April, 2002, Loughborough

This event is a collaboration between LTSN Bioscience, LTSN Engineering, LTSN GEES, LTSN Physical Sciences, the UK Centre for Materials Education and the Centre for Education in the Built Environment. The day will focus specifically on issues for subjects that use laboratory and fieldwork in their teaching and will also examine the implications of using technology in learning and teaching.

If you would be willing to share your experiences of how you have assisted students with disabilities to access your course, either at this meeting, or by completing a short case study, we would be very happy to hear from you. Registration is free of charge, but we ask that you register in advance, online.

- **Virtual Learning Workshop, S.E.B. Annual Education Event**

10th April, 2002 Swansea

LTSN Bioscience, the Society for Experimental Biology and the Journal of Biological Education are organising a day of presentations, workshops and posters based around the theme of virtual learning. This day is being held during the S.E.B.'s annual main meeting, with non-SEB member registrants being charged for this day at member's rates.

Is your department interested in hosting an event with LTSN Bioscience? Email or ring us and we will discuss your requirements.

Departmental Contacts Webpage

There is now a Departmental Contacts webpage that will hold current information of relevance to this network. There are links to information on our Change of Practice Notification request and to our continuing requests for reviewed resources.

All previous Briefings will be held on archive, with the most current available for download as a word file. This Briefing will be the last sent out hard copy unless specifically requested. All future Briefings will be found on this webpage:

<http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/NV/departmentalcontactpage.htm>

If there is any further information or links you would like to see held, or you would like to receive the Briefing hardcopy, please contact the Centre.

As a follow-on to this, can I remind you of:

Demonstrating Effectiveness; Change of Practice

As mentioned in Briefing No. 2 and 3, we need your help in the evaluation of LTSN Bioscience.

The outcome in particular (from our Strategic Plan) that we would ask you to concentrate on is as follows; ***that schools/departments/individuals change their learning and teaching practices based on the help and advice given by the Centre.*** One possible way of recording such an outcome is through a short report showing a change (or indeed an ***intent*** to change) made in teaching that has involved some input from the Centre.

To this end, we would like you to record any such situation in your school/department; we are interested in any alteration to the student learning experience to which LTSN Bioscience made a contribution (however small). This material is not envisaged as occupying more than 1 side of A4 unless the nature of the activity requires a longer report. A proforma and further information can be found at:

<http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/NV/changeproforma.htm>

This request is being sent to you 12 months before the deadline to allow you to capture and record information about changes(/intent) in teaching ***when they are made.*** Please return any reports to us as soon as they are available. We will also be in touch to request such reports periodically over the next 12 months.

As Departmental Contacts you are vital to the successful evolution of LTSN Bioscience: we are very much in your hands both for these reports and for your ideas regarding the collection of evidence of effectiveness.

***** **The first 50 notices sent to us within the *****
deadline will receive a £10 voucher in return.**

Teaching Development Grants

Another reminder: the call for the third round of Teaching Development Grants is out now. Further information can be found on our website under NEWS.

Closing date is 28th March, 2002.

Subject-based Personal Development Planning (PDP)

LTSN Bioscience is currently involved in a joint project with the LTSN Generic Centre on PDP, with LTSN Bioscience gathering information on practice in Bioscience schools/departments across the country. **All schools/departments in all UKHE Institutions are expected to have created opportunities for students to engage in PDP by 2005.** If you wish your school/department to have a say in the development of PDP, please visit

<http://bio.ltsn.ac.uk/NV/forms/pdpsurvey.htm>

where you will find further information and a web-based survey on your school/department's current use of PDP.

Finally.....

I will be leaving LTSN Bioscience at the end of February. Therefore, if you wish to contact the Centre, please ensure that you use ltsnbioscience@leeds.ac.uk.

Indeed, it is all change- as from the 18th of March, the Centre's phone number will also be undergoing a metamorphosis to:

0113 343 3001

Yolande Knight and all at LTSN Bioscience