

## **Collated comments and feedback about Centre activities and impact from various individuals in 2010-11**

Dr Carol Wakeford, University of Manchester; comments from a letter to the Centre sent following our conference in summer 2011:

“I have been prompted to write to you following the great success of the Effective Learning in the Biosciences International Conference. It is a tribute to you all that, as ever, the event ran seamlessly (at least to all those on the outside!) and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. I think it is appropriate at this point in time, before some of you move on to other things, to thank you for your tireless efforts in organising events, coordinating activities and taking the initiative to move Biosciences Education forwards in so many ways. From a person perspective, it has been a real education for me to be involved on various levels, and I am truly grateful for the opportunities that have arisen as a consequence. I feel privileged to have been able to take part, and to meet and work with so many like-minded colleagues across the UK over the years. Thank you again for your hard work, professionalism and inspiration.”

Examples of email responses to an email update from the Centre (Nov 2010) announcing withdrawal of funding for Subject Centres:

- “There’s absolutely no doubt that without the Centre for Bioscience and the excellent working relationships we have had with all of you, we would not have been able to deliver the quality curriculum we managed to produce in the last 10-15 years.” *Dr Glenn Baggott, Birkbeck College*
- “I think you have been incredibly effective in improving and enhancing teaching in the Biosciences over the years of operation of the Centre for Bioscience” *Dr Martin Todd, Director Strategy and Performance at AstraZeneca UK Ltd*
- “As I hope you all know, I and my colleagues have greatly valued the work you have all done: it has been a real force for positive change in the bioscience community”. *Dr Jon Scott, University of Leicester*
- “This is a tragic loss for the bioscience subject community and support for its teaching. HEABio has done a huge amount of innovative work to enhance the student experience and to develop and support staff. I am still not quite clear on the rationale as the proposed new system seems to have aspirations towards what the old system was already doing and doing well! The Subject Centres supported the activities of academics who were enthusiastic about teaching and lent credence and even approval to their activities at the subject level. This support will be greatly missed!” *Dr Stephen McClean, University of Ulster*
- “My work in higher education in general and bioscience in particular has been assisted tremendously by the Bioscience Subject Centre and everyone on the team has been nothing but helpful and inspiring.” *Prof. Stephen Gomez, University of Plymouth*
- “I’m not sure what this means for you all, but whatever happens I’d just like to say that since Steve got in touch with me to [*invite me*] to give a presentation in Dundee four (five?) years ago, I have realised what it means to be a teacher in HE, and thank you for all the opportunities that you were able to give me.” *Anne Tierney, University of Glasgow*
- “I must say it was sad news concerning the HE Academy reorganisation. I feel the Centre for Bioscience does a valuable job in reaching academics who are often too focused in their

disciplines to consider dealing with a generic organisation” *Dr Stephen Merry, Staffordshire University*

- “I was really disappointed to hear about the changes in Higher Education Academy, especially the disappearance of the subject centres. Do you have any clue yet about the likely fate of Bioscience e-Journal [*Bioscience Education*], and the Bioethics Working Group, both of which I’ve found very valuable?” *Prof. Roger Downie, University of Glasgow*
- “May I say how disappointed I am to see the demise of the Biosciences Subject Centre. In my view you have been the biggest success of the HEA and deserve to continue. I am sure any involvement you have in the future set-up will be successful, but the loss of the Centre will be a blow.” *Prof. Alistair Warren, University of Sheffield*