

## Centre News

We continue to live in interesting and challenging times. I imagine you will all be aware that the Higher Education Academy is currently reviewing its role and structure, and the outcome of the review process should be made known later in the autumn. I know that, during the review period, many of you have made plain your backing for the UK Centre for Bioscience and we should like to thank you very much indeed for your support. I am pleased to report that the Centre has not been distracted by plans for reorganisation; on the contrary we continue to go from strength to strength. We are working closely with other organizations (e.g. BBSRC, Society of Biology, Sector Skills Councils, Office for Life Sciences) and getting closer to an encouragingly joined-up approach to bioscience education in HE. In addition the Centre is engaged in new projects including: plans for our first ever international conference on bioscience education to be held during 2011; a further HEA/JISC-funded OER project; and publication of a book, involving several collaborators, that will showcase a range of our activities. My colleagues and I look forward to telling you more and hearing your news during 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September. *David Adams, Director.*

## New Resources

### Directory of Expertise

Interested in becoming, or looking for, an external examiner? The Centre's Directory of Expertise is designed to assist in matching the needs of university departments with the expertise of academics willing to act as external examiners. A key aim of the Directory is to enable new external examiners to become established.

Find out more and register at [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/ExpertDirectory/](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/ExpertDirectory/)

### Open Education Resources (OER)

#### – Developing an Interactive Laboratory and Fieldwork Manual for the Biosciences

Finding, adopting and adapting resources to support practical work can be difficult. Many projects produce outputs that may be suitable for use in other institutions but for some reason fail to get adapted as widely as they might be. The Centre led OER project has culminated in a large number of high quality, proven teaching resources being released and made available. Find out more about the project and download the resources from [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/oer/](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/oer/)

## New Publications

### Short Guides

Our Short Guides aim to provide an introduction to various aspects of teaching and learning in the biosciences. Since the 2009 Forum we have published six new guides.

- **For staff:** Creativity Skills; and Differentiated Learning – Stretching Able Students
- **For Students:** Making the Most of Practical Work; A Bioscience Degree, Why and What Next?; Feedback – Make it work for you; and Assessment.

[www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/shortguides.aspx](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/shortguides.aspx)



### Improving First-Year Laboratory Classes in Bioscience – Students' Views

This report brings together the results of a second survey carried out in order to identify the features of lab classes valued by students and thus help university teachers improve the student experience in lab classes. [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/themes/practicals.aspx](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/themes/practicals.aspx)

### Understanding the UK Mathematic Curriculum Pre-Higher Education

Commissioned by the STEM Subject Centres and aimed at higher education teaching staff, this guide outlines what students with given prior qualifications in mathematics are likely to know and be able to do.

[www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/pre-university-maths-guide.pdf](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/pre-university-maths-guide.pdf)



## Forthcoming Events

- Mathematical Challenges for Biologists – 16<sup>th</sup> November, University of Reading
- Using Technology to Enhance Feedback / Feed-forward - 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Graduate Attributes – 8<sup>th</sup> February
- Practical Work – 6<sup>th</sup> April
- National Bioscience Conference – 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011

We would be delighted to see you or any of your colleagues at our events, further details about all our events will be available from [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/bioevents.aspx](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/bioevents.aspx)

## Reward and Recognition

### Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award

Supported by the UK Centre for Bioscience and sponsored by Oxford University Press, the Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award



recognises outstanding learning and teaching practice in the biosciences. The winner will receive the Ed Wood Memorial Prize: £1,000 to spend as they wish and one year's subscription to an OUP journal. The remaining finalists will each receive a £150 prize for their case study. Applications are now open and close at noon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/award.aspx](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/award.aspx)

### Student Award 2011

Our Student Award will be launched at the Mathematical Challenges for Biologists event on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, and this year we will be asking a question focussed on maths in the biosciences. The question, Award criteria, guidelines and entry form will be available from [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/essay/](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/essay/)

## Forthcoming Publications

### Self-and Peer-Assessment – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Published in 2004, Self- and Peer-Assessment, authored by Paul Orsmond, was the first out our Teaching Guides. Six years on the guide is being updated and we are seeking new case studies for inclusion in the guide.

Interested in writing a case study for the updated guide? You have until 24<sup>th</sup> September to submit an expression of interest. [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/teachingguides/eoicall.pdf](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/teachingguides/eoicall.pdf)

### Ethics Briefing

Similar to our Assessment Briefing published in December 2009, the Ethics briefing will bring together resources and references on ethics and bioethics, covering a range of topics, such as assessment of ethics, keeping up-to date and environmental ethics.

## Feedback From You

### Impact Survey

We are always interested in your feedback on the Centre and our activities and in June we asked you to tell us about the impact the Centre has had on your teaching, how you have used the resources and support available from the Centre and the issues important to you as teaching staff. The results of the survey will inform our work and our reporting to our funders.

Thank you to all of you who took part, over a quarter of the responses were from Reps and your feedback truly does influence our activities and may also have a bearing on our future.

A poster summarising some of your responses will be shown at the Forum.