

Bulletin – July 2024

Committee Contact Details

Chairman

Bill Edwards

Secretary

Dermot Hanna

Treasurer

Michael Roberts

Other Committee Members

Simon Binyon

Keith Earnshaw

John C. Fetzer (*)

Jeroni Franco (*)

Bruce Green

John Gushit (*)

Andy Kowalski (*)

M Fahed Qureshi (*)

Hooshang Zavareh

(*) Members indicated above were recently elected to the Consultancy Group Committee.

Linked-in page:

Royal Society of Chemistry Consultancy Group

RSC: <https://my.rsc.org/groups/home/157>

The Consultancy Group

The Group is one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's many Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are member-driven groups which exist to benefit RSC members, and the wider chemical science community, in line with the RSC's strategy and charter.

The Group provides a forum for RSC members who are consultants. The Group arranges meetings and workshops to provide networking opportunities and training in aspects of setting up and running a consultancy business.

There are currently vacancies on the Consultancy Group Committee. These have been advertised to all Consultancy Group members and applications have been received. The applicants are in the process of being contacted with respect to the next stage.

If you are interested in helping to support the work of the Group in any way, please contact the Group via the RSC link: <https://www.rsc.org/membership-and->

[community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact](https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact)

Tax Tips for Consulting Businesses

- A Webinar held on 11 April, 2024 at 7pm

This webinar was a discussion on aspects of the UK tax regime that may be of interest to Consultants, including Entrepreneur's Tax Relief and a comparison of Sole Trader v Limited Company operation as a consultant. Further similar events are planned.

Psychedelics: old medicines – new molecules

- Presented at Burlington House by Dr Amir Lofti of Beckley Psytech on 3 July 2024.

Dr Lofti presented an overview into psychedelic compounds from a wide range of compounds and ideas about their mechanism of action. He also highlighted the development of a classic psychedelic into clinical development at Beckley Psytech where the company is aiming to transfer psychedelics into rapid-acting, effective and licensed medicines.

Analytical Techniques in Forensic Science

- Presented at Burlington House by Dr Nick Dawnay of Liverpool John Moores University on 3 July 2024.

Dr Dawnay has worked on applied forensic science in relation to human and non-human DNA analysis. An "end-user" or client motivation is to help provide on the spot detection platforms that can be operated in the field by non-experts. Human DNA applications include crime scene triage, disaster victim identification and sexual assault whilst non-human applications include the illegal trade in endangered species and animal persecution. Canine DNA recovery from livestock in order to identify dogs and link them to killed animals is an important example of this where the insurance costs can be in the millions of pounds.

Field studies of Environmental DNA can help quickly identify the species in a river and where ecological damage, particularly of protected species, has taken place.

Scientific papers are being published in this area however Court adoption as a technique, through precedent, can take years.

Related references:

Dawnay, N., Stafford-Allen, B., Moore, D., Blackman, S., Rendell, P., Hanson, E.K., Ballantyne, J., Kallifatidis, B., Mendel, J., Mills, D.K. and Nagy, R., 2014. Developmental Validation of the ParaDNA® Screening System-A presumptive test for the detection of DNA on forensic evidence items. *Forensic Science International: Genetics*, 11, pp.73-79.

Blackman S, Dawnay N, Ball G, Stafford-Allen B, Tribble N, Rendell P, Neary K, Hanson EK, Ballantyne J, Kallifatidis B, Mendel J. Developmental validation of the ParaDNA® Intelligence System—A novel approach to DNA profiling. *Forensic Science International: Genetics*. 2015 Jul 1;17:137-48.

Dawnay, N., Flamson, R., Hall, M.J. and Steadman, D.W., 2018. Impact of sample degradation and inhibition on field-based DNA identification of human remains. *Forensic Science International: Genetics*, 37, pp.46-53.

Lewis, M., Lainé, K., Dawnay, L., Lamont, D., Scott, K., Mariani, S., Hanfling, B. and Dawnay, N., 2024. The forensic potential of environmental DNA (eDNA) in freshwater wildlife crime investigations: From research to application. *Science & Justice*.

Dawnay, N. and Sheppard, K., 2023. From crime scene to courtroom: A review of the current bioanalytical evidence workflows used in rape and sexual assault investigations in the United Kingdom. *Science & Justice*, 63(2), pp.206-228.

Morrison, J., Watts, G., Hobbs, G. and Dawnay, N., 2018. Field-based detection of biological samples for forensic analysis: Established

techniques, novel tools, and future innovations. *Forensic Science International*, 285, pp.147-160.

Annual General Meeting

Burlington House, London 3 July 2024

Since the last AGM an additional five members have been elected to the Committee. The membership has grown from 1108 to 1181 over the year. A useful discussion by the members attending on increasing engagement by the membership was held.

Any members who would like to help support the work of the Consultancy Group are encouraged to contact the Secretary or the Chairman.

Further event information can be found by contacting the RSC using the following details:

Royal Society of Chemistry,
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 432509
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 423623
Email: eventsdatabase@rsc.org

Directory of Consultants

The Royal Society of Chemistry has a list of consultants that are registered with them. It can be found at:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/directory-of-consultants/>

The Directory is a service provided by the Royal Society of Chemistry to members, professionals and the public. The information supplied in this directory, and the services offered and delivered, are entirely the responsibility of the consultants themselves, and not the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The consulting experts listed in this directory are all full members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and are bound by the RSC [Code of Conduct](#).

The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for the content of external websites.

If you wish to be added to the Directory, please complete the application forms found on the RSC webpage above.

Member Articles

The members of the Consultancy Group come from a wide range of industries, as can be seen from the list of areas of expertise outlined above. Is there an area of your knowledge and expertise that you think might be of interest to others in the Group?

The Group is keen to encourage information dissemination and networking to provide a background to consultancy activities.

If you have, or could write, a 200-300 word piece which outlines aspects or anecdotes that you think will be of interest to other members, please contact the Secretary via the following link:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact>

The author of an article published in this bulletin will receive a £25 Amazon gift voucher.