

An Introduction to the Analytical Biosciences Group

WHAT IS THE ANALYTICAL BIOSCIENCES GROUP?

The Analytical Biosciences Group (ABG) is one of the many subject interest groups within the Royal Society of Chemistry, bringing together members with an interest in the use of analytical chemistry techniques in “bio” applications, and promoting the development and propagation of such techniques. In fact, it is one of the oldest such groups with its origins going back to 1945. The ABG came into being as the Biological Methods Group when it first became obvious that the properties of complex new pharmaceuticals, such as penicillins, could not be adequately characterised by traditional analytical chemistry alone. Thus it acted as an early forum for the development of bioassays for drug potency.

The field of analytical biosciences has expanded massively from these beginnings and the ABG has evolved to promote the development and application of a wide range of bioanalytical techniques.

Progress remains rapid in this area and partly for this reason, it is impossible to define too precisely the ABG’s exact scope – new methods and applications emerge all the time. However, examples of “analytical biosciences” include techniques for use in forensics, food science, diagnostics, clinical engineering, agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals as well as research methods with no particular application in mind.

WHO ARE THE ABG COMMITTEE?



Dr Mark Baron, Principal Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Lincoln. Research interests include optical sensors, spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques.

[Mark Baron](#)



Dr Dan Bracewell (Chair), Lecturer in Biochemical Engineering, University College London, whose research concerns the acquisition of analytical data for bioprocess development, control and understanding.

[Dan Bracewell](#)



Mr Alastair Dent (Treasurer), Managing Director of Fleet Bioprocessing Ltd., a Hampshire-based company specialising in conjugation chemistry for diagnostic and biopharmaceutical applications. [Alastair Dent](#)



Mr. Ken Fantom, Investigator in the Biomolecular Analysis group at GlaxoSmithKline. Group uses mass spectrometry to analyse proteins. [Ken Fantom](#)



Mr. Chris Gee (Secretary), Senior Scientist in the Bioprocess Sciences group at MedImmune Ltd, responsible for evaluation and development of a battery of methods for the analysis and comparability testing of therapeutic antibodies. [Chris Gee](#)



Dr Anna Hills, Group Leader, Lonza Biologics. Lonza specialises in the large scale manufacture of biopharmaceutical products. [Anna Hills](#)



Prof John Hunt, UK Centre for Tissue Engineering, University of Liverpool. UKCTE conducts fundamental and applied research into material design and cellular interactions to develop medical interventions and devices. Quantitative biological analysis is critical to the development of future implantable medical therapies. [John Hunt](#)



Dr Wayne Price, Senior Research Scientist at Mars Chocolate UK. Responsible for deconstructing complex food materials in order to understand and utilise component interactions. My research interests are varied, but include; rheology, calorimetry, microscopy and chromatography techniques. [Wayne Price](#)



Dr Mark Seymour, Head of Bioanalysis at Syngenta's Jealott's Hill International Research Centre. Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness with products in crop protection and seeds.

[Mark Seymour](#)

We are always keen to hear from anyone with an interest in joining the committee – feel free to get in touch with any of the committee members if you would like to help with the work of the Group.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

The principal purpose of the ABG is to sponsor and organize events in the field of analytical biosciences in order to disseminate information and promote networking. In line with this, the committee has two main roles:

The first of these is to sponsor conferences, seminars, training courses, etc. in relevant subject areas. Sometimes such events arise directly from ABG discussions but often the ABG will co-sponsor events already being planned by other parties providing financial support, publicity, and/or administrative input.

Secondly, the ABG operates a bursary scheme whereby UK-based students can be reimbursed for expenses up to £500 for attendance at relevant events regardless of whether these events are ABG-sponsored. The bursary application form can be found at::

[ABG Bursary Application Information](#)

As well as carrying out activities directly supporting the ABG's aims, together with the associated administrative tasks, committee members try to maintain good links with other groups and organizations which have complementary interests including other groups within the RSC.

HOW TO CONTACT THE ABG

As mentioned earlier, please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

You can also find information at our interest group page on the RSC website:

www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/AnalyticalBiosciences/index.asp