

National conference for science technicians: Develop new skills and improve your future

The Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Society of Biology and Institute of Physics invite you to a half day conference for technicians working in all sectors, focusing on professional development at any career stage.

As supporters of the Technician Commitment, this joint professional body event will bring together technical staff from across science to hear from other technicians, have the opportunity to attend mini training workshops from a range of top training providers, and learn more about career development through professional registration.

The programme for the conference is as follows:

13:00 – Opening remarks from the Chief Executive of the Science Council, Helen Gordon.

13:10 – Keynote: *Skills not exams! Growing technical talent that reflects our local communities. A technician's approach to encouraging children from minority groups to chase a career as a technician. From applying for funding, engaging with teachers and students and measuring impact.*

Michael Hughes, University of Manchester

Mike will be taking questions from attendees after his presentation.

13:40 – Networking session - network with colleagues and discuss the previous session.

13:55 – Break

14:05 – Parallel training sessions. **Upon registration, attendees will choose their preferred workshop from the following:**

Leveraging Strengths for Productivity – Mario Moustras, Mazamo Limited / RSC Management Group

Teaching and learning skills for technicians – HEaTED

Career management – Coaching 4 Careers

Wellbeing – Coaching 4 Careers

See below for more details on each session.

15:05 – Networking – another opportunity to network with colleagues and discuss the previous session.

15:20 – Break

15:30 – Professional registration session.

Becoming registered is a great opportunity to demonstrate your skills, responsibilities and technical excellence, and gain public recognition for your work as a professional scientist. With a talk from Ailish Harikae and Olga Kuzmina from Imperial College (accredited / employer champions), attendees will be equipped with information about the professional awards, the associated benefits, and be guided through the application process. There will be opportunities to pose questions to the professional bodies and our guest speakers.

16:00 – Closing remarks from Helen Gordon

Parallel training sessions

Leveraging Strengths for Productivity

This workshop is designed to give you practical tools and techniques that you can apply immediately to help you use and develop your strengths. By developing your strengths, you will be able to improve your performance and move forward with your goals. This workshop, delivered by Mario Moustras, will:

- Explain what the benefits are from focusing on your strengths
- Help you identify your strengths
- Provide you with tips to use and improve your strengths

Teaching and learning skills for technicians

The aim of this session is to provide a taster of the 2 day HEaTED course, Teaching and Learning Skills for Technicians. The full course provides a detailed exploration of teaching and learning skills over 2 days, using established theories of learning to help participants make sense of and develop their own teaching and learning practice. Today's session will provide an insight into the some of the theory and teaching methods used on the full course. By the end of the session, delegates should

- Be aware of the 7 factors of Learning (Race, 2014)
- Have related the 7 factors to their own experiences of Learning and Teaching

Career Management

A career/future plan is a practical strategy that allows you to set career goals and put actions in place that will help you reach them. Take time to think about personal and professional goals, what drives you, what experience and knowledge you currently have to help you achieve your goals and what you may need to develop to help you achieve them.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand the different elements of a future/career plan.
- Understand how to plan to achieve your personal and professional goals.

The Well of Wellbeing

When we are feeling good, in a happy place, and coping positively with life, we can take steps to keep ourselves in this place, by paying attention to the 8 areas of our Wellness Well. During this time, we can focus on filling up the Well, by putting in place behaviours, thoughts and activities that nurture us.

Learning outcomes:

- Help you to take time to know yourself and what works for you and others.
- Give you tools to draw upon at times when you need a reminder of what it is that really helps you with your emotional health and wellbeing.

Speaker list

Helen Gordon MBA, Science Council

Helen has been Chief Executive of the Science Council since February 2019. She has 16 years' experience as a CEO in professional membership organisations, namely, the Royal Society of Medicine, Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Prior to this she was a Chief Executive in the National Health Service at The Hillingdon Hospital for a year and then Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust in South East London for five years following a clinical career in nursing and then management roles in the NHS.

She was appointed as one of the Vice Presidents at University of Reading in August 2020, and has served on their council for over three years. Helen chairs the Alumni and Development Board at Henley Business School and is also a trustee of AESOP (Arts Enterprise for Social Purpose).

Michael Hughes BSc MRSC, University of Manchester

Michael's career in chemistry did not take the "straight path" through school college and university then into work. After two years studying chemistry at university, Michael left the degree he had worked so hard to start.

In 2007, at the age of 23, Michael joined the University of Manchester as an Apprentice Laboratory Technician. He is now the Teaching Laboratories Manager, leading a team of six other technicians

Now established in his role, and building on his experience developing apprentices, Michael has found himself becoming interested in promoting a career as a technician to young people with good technical skills.

Dr Mario Moustras ACC CSci CChem FRSC, Mazamo Limited

Dr Mario Moustras is a coach, facilitator and works in learning and development for Mazamo Limited.

A PhD chemist, Chartered Scientist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Mario is also an accredited member of the International Coach Federation. He was also delighted to receive a 2021 Royal Society of Chemistry Inspirational Member Award for his volunteer work chairing the RSC Management Group.

With a research background and having worked with the research community his entire career, Mario brings a unique perspective. He focuses on leadership and talent development and delivers programmes that nurture better leaders and entrepreneurs and make their teams more productive.

In his previous career at the Royal Society of Chemistry, Mario led teams delivering programmes in industry, higher education and at the interface between universities and business. He has worked with leaders, researchers and entrepreneurs in many industry sectors, from pharmaceuticals to Government and Higher Education.

Helen Charlwood PGCHE SFHEA, HEaTED

Helen Charlwood is a HEaTED Training and Development Consultant and a Lecturer at Hertfordshire Business School. Helen has been involved in the training and development of technicians since 2008, both within the University of Hertfordshire and through her long-standing association with HEaTED. Helen is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and brings to her development workshops extensive experience in learning & development and coaching, specialising in using experiential and learner centred approaches.

Ali Bond BA (Hons), Coaching4Careers

Ali has over 30 years experience to Director level in a range of government, public sector and educational settings, and has led teams of up to 25 people. She has worked alongside senior leadership teams to create strategy and enhance performance, and has always taken a strong coaching approach.

As an Emotional Health and Career coach, Ali is passionate about supporting others to understand themselves, their motivations and their strengths, to help them make better decisions, in their careers and personal lives. She has a particular interest in helping people understand how to nurture their emotional health to enhance their performance, by working with a range of tools and techniques for resilience, wellbeing and confidence.

Ali is an Executive Coach for Warwick Business School, an Associate Coach with Coaching4Careers and a Partner of Cairney & Company. In addition, she partners with the Be Well Collective to deliver training and coaching in emotional health and resilience. She also has a successful private client practice and delivers training for Action for Happiness.

Sarah Jackson MA, BEng CEng FIMechE, Coaching4Careers

Sarah has a portfolio career focused on helping professionals unleash their potential and become more fulfilled at work. Her main job is the career development manager for MBAs at the Warwick Business School where she coordinates and delivers a range of careers management and skills workshops for MBA students and Alumni. She is an experienced career development professional and coach who is passionate about developing people and helping them reach their potential from school age to senior professionals.

Prior to joining WBS, Sarah managed the Global Graduate Programme for IMI plc with responsibility for recruitment through to managing & developing their graduates through a series of placements with the aim of producing IMI's future business leaders. Sarah has also designed and delivered development interventions (Business leadership programme, team building sessions, graduate workshops and assessment/development centre training) to a wide range of people from graduates through to senior management.

Ailish Harikae MA (Hons), PGDip, Assoc CIPD, Imperial College

Ailish Harikae works in the Learning and Development Centre at Imperial College London, where she manages the apprenticeship programme and Imperial's Technician Commitment. Since 2018, she has been involved in supporting technical staff and managers to achieve professional registration.

Dr Olga Kuzmina CEnv CSci CChem MRSC FHEA CMIOSH, Imperial College

Dr Olga Kuzmina is a qualified Health and Safety specialist, with 15 years' experience of working in manufacturing, research and academic environments. She routinely advises on handling, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals, including corrosives, oxidisers, carcinogens, toxic substances, pyrophoric and otherwise hazardous materials. Dr Kuzmina is highly skilled in chemistry and engineering and fluent in English, Russian and Polish. She holds project management, teaching and professional qualifications including: PRINCE2, FHEA, CMIOSH, CChem, CSci and CEnv. She was a winner of the 40under40 outstanding Health and Safety professionals award in 2018 and Imperial College Provost Team award for Excellence in Health and Safety in 2019. Olga is a Senior Mentor for the Membership and Accredited Recognition Scheme (MARS) at Imperial College London and is Scheme Coordinator for RSC.