PROGRAMME

26th May 2026



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
College of Science and Engineering

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Foreword by Prof. Jane Hillston, Dean of Research Culture and REF for CSE

Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the College of Science and Engineering's second PostDoc Symposium. This event, organised by our Research Culture Team along with the CSE's PDRA Forum, represents the College's continued commitment to creating a supportive and engaging research environment within our community.

On Tuesday, 26th May, we will recognise and celebrate the essential contributions of our postdoctoral researchers—key drivers of scientific progress and innovation. This symposium offers more than just a chance to learn and network; it acknowledges the diverse roles that postdocs play both in academia and beyond. I know that participants at the first event last year found it both enlightening and enriching.

We have again planned an inspiring programme filled with insightful talks and valuable opportunities to connect with peers. You'll have the chance to explore various career paths with experienced professionals and participate in round-robin sessions tailored to help you make the most of your postdoctoral experience.

We're delighted to have distinguished speakers, including Dr Rhiannon Grant, Chancellor's Fellow (School of Engineering) who reflects on the ups and downs of postdoctoral life across three countries and multiple disciplines. Our interactive "Just One Thing" session aims to capture your input, which will guide the development of future support initiatives.

This symposium is intended as a starting point for ongoing engagement in career development and discussions on improving our research culture. Please take some time to review the programme to make the most of the day.
We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 26th May.

Best regards,

Prof. Jane Hillston

PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Speakers
9:30-9:45	**Registration** (outside Larch)	
9:45-10:15	**Welcome address & Research Culture in Uncertain Times** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Prof. Jane Hillston** - Dean of Research Culture and REF
10:15-11:00	**Top Tips for Postdocs** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Dr Fiona Philippi** - Head of Researcher Development at Edinburgh Research Office (ERO)
11:00-11:30	**Coffee break and networking** (outside Larch)	
11:30-12:40	**Interactive 'Just One Thing' Session** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Prof. Jane Hillston** & **Dr Rohit Pillai -** (School of Engineering PDRA Champion)
12:40-13:00	**The Value of Mentoring** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Nicola Cuthbert -** Researcher Development Manager at Edinburgh Research Office (ERO)
13:00-14:00	**Lunch Break** Outside Rowan Teaching Studio (Floor 2) (Seating available in Rowan & Hawthorn)	**Interact** with the panel speakers and mingle with your peers and **visit** one of the seven stalls available
14:00-14:30	**Careers Panel** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Dr Nisreen Chahid** - Global Health Research Policy Advisor, Department of Health and Social Care.
		Prof. Katherine Baxter - Northumbria University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
		Dr Natalia Herrera Valencia- Leader of Pre-Spinout Project Intertangle, Heriot-Watt University
		Dr Monica Hoyos-Flight - Strategic Operations and Research Coordinator, School of Engineering.
		Dr Elizabeth Stevenson - Programme Director for MSc Science Communication and Public Engagement, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.
14:30-14:40	**Coffee break and networking** (outside Rowan/Hawthorn)	
14:40-15:25	**Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin** Hawthorn Teaching Studio (Floor 2)	**Follow up** with careers panel speakers and learn from their insights as to how they reached their positions.
14:40-15:25	**Parallel Session B: Making the Most of Your Postdoc Round-Robin** Rowan Teaching Studio (Floor 2)	**Discuss** a variety of different options for gaining valuable experience and transferrable skills beyond your project during your postdoc position which will enhance your CV. With: **Emma McCabe, Chris Mowat, Emma Giles, Helen Cross, Rennos Fragkoudis, Vanessa Smer Barreto, Willem Vanderlinden, Simonne Chung**
15:30-15:45	**Feedback on 'Just One Thing'** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Prof. Jane Hillston** reflects on your 'just one thing' comments.
15:45-16:30	**Keynote Talk** Larch Lecture Theatre (Floor 1)	**Dr Rhiannon Grant -** Chancellor's Fellow, School of Engineering
16:30-18:00	**Closing Remarks and Post-Event Networking** – Let's Continue the Conversations	

The Venue

The Nucleus

King's Buildings campus, Thomas Bayes Rd, Edinburgh EH9 3FG, see Map



The Larch Lecture Theatre is located on the 1st Floor

The Hawthorn & The Rowan are located on the 2nd Floor

SPEAKERS

Professor Jane Hillston

Welcome Address & Research Culture in Uncertain Times (09:45-10:15)

Dean of Research Culture and Research Excellence Framework (REF)

Jane Hillston is Professor of Quantitative Modelling in the School of Informatics at the University of Edinburgh. Her research is concerned with formal approaches to modelling dynamic behaviour of resource-based discrete event systems. This includes everything from cloud computing to biological processes, to transport systems in smart cities. Her research has been recognised by a number of awards including the Royal Society of Edinburgh Lord Kelvin Medal, the British Computer Society Lovelace Award and Fellowship of the Royal Society. She was Head of School in School of Informatics from 2018—2023 and Deputy Vice Principal Research 2020—2022. Professor Hillston was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Kings Birthday Honours List in 2023 in recognition of her contribution to computer science and women in science. She is currently the Dean of Research Culture and REF in the College of Science and Engineering and leads the research culture team.



Dr Rhiannon Grant

Keynote Speaker: "Failure as Data" (15:45-16:30)

Chancellor's Fellow in the School of Engineering

Reflects on the Ups and Downs of Postdoctoral Life across Three Countries and Multiple Disciplines

In her talk, "Failure as Data" she will share how treating setbacks as data points-not just obstacles-can redefine a researcher's trajectory.

Dr Rhiannon Grant is a Chancellor's Fellow in the School of Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, where she engineers complex 3D microenvironments for biological systems. Her path to this point was far from linear: after graduating in Medical Genetics (2009), she spent years navigating the "unknown" as a Biomedical Scientist in the NHS and a research technician in Edinburgh before finally earning her PhD in Bioengineering in 2019.

Her postdoctoral journey took her across the UK, US and the Netherlands, where she tackled high-risk projects ranging from corneal implants to microfluidic disease diagnostics. Along the way, she experienced the full spectrum of scientific reality-the breakthroughs, the dead ends, and the inevitable "failures" that rarely make it onto a traditional CV.



Having navigated the ups and downs of postdoctoral life across three countries and multiple disciplines, Dr Grant now focuses on translating those lessons into resilience. In her talk, "Failure as Data" she will share how treating setbacks as data points-not just obstacles-can redefine a researcher's trajectory. She brings a unique perspective on how to build a robust career not by avoiding failure, but by engineering a mindset that thrives (or at least survives!) within it.

Dr Fiona Philippi

Top Tips for Postdocs (10:15-11:00)

Head of Researcher Development and Assistant Director, Institute for Academic Development (IAD)

Dr Fiona Philippi is the Head of Researcher Development, based in the Edinburgh Research Office (ERO) where she leads the team who provide central level development and training for researchers across career stages. She champions the Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers, oversees the Research Staff Hub and contributes to strategic groups shaping development and training for researchers. She has presented internationally, contributed to institutional review processes, and serves as a peer reviewer for the UK HR Excellence in Research Award. Dr Philippi has previously taught on the PgCAP, mentored Edinburgh Teaching Award participants, and is a qualified coach.



Dr Nisreen Chahid

Careers Panel (14:00-14:30) &

Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin (14:40-15:25)

Global Health Research Policy Advisor, Department of Health and Social Care.

Dr Nisreen Chahid is an international research policy advisor at the UK Department of Health and Social Care, working on health research strategy and funding. She completed an integrated master's degree in biochemistry at the University of Warwick, followed by a PhD in biotechnology and microbiology at the University of York in collaboration with Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies. Her doctoral research focused on improving recombinant protein production in yeast, with the aim of reducing the cost and time of manufacturing therapeutics for the NHS.

She now works at the intersection of science and policy, shaping how health research is funded, coordinated, and delivered across a broad portfolio, from clinical research to system-wide healthcare reform. In her role, Dr Chahid represents the UK at the Horizon Europe Health Programme Committee and leads coordination of DHSC and NIHR involvement in international co-funded research partnerships, spanning areas such as antimicrobial resistance, pandemic preparedness and rare diseases.



Overall, Dr Chahid is interested in strengthening the use of data and evidence in decision-making, and on ensuring that research translates effectively into policy and real-world impact.

Professor Katherine Baxter

Careers Panel (14:00-14:30) &

Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin (14:40-15:25)

Professor in English Literature, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Northumbria University.

Katherine Baxter is Professor of English Literature at Northumbria. She has held a range of leadership roles including Deputy Faculty Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange), Research Director for the Department of Humanities, and Head of English.

She is also a regular mentor for ECRs across a range of disciplines, including colleagues on funded fellowships (AHRC, Leverhulme), postdocs attached to research projects, colleagues on precarious contracts, and PhD students. Beyond the university, she is chair of the Higher Education Committee of the English Association, sits on the Board of Directors for the Lagos Studies Association, on the Board of Kayd: Somali Arts and Culture, on the steering group for Decolonising the Discipline, and is Treasurer for the Joseph Conrad Society, UK.

She has been a member of the Peer Review College for the AHRC since 2014 and is a subpanel member for UoA27 (English Language and Literature) for REF2029. She sits on the editorial board of several journals, and between 2016 and 2020 she was General Editor of English. Prior to joining Northumbria, she worked at Stanford University, Hong Kong University, Richmond the American International University in London, the British Library and UCL's Special Collections.



Dr Natalia Herrera Valencia

Careers Panel (14:00-14:30) &

Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin (14:40-15:25)

Leader of Pre-Spinout Project Intertangle, Heriot-Watt University.

Dr. Natalia Herrera Valencia is a postdoctoral researcher at the Beyond Binary Quantum Information Laboratory at Heriot-Watt University, developing complex-media platforms to harness high-dimensional entanglement. She also leads translational and commercial work through the pre-spinout project Intertangle, focused on deployable photonic systems for scalable and robust entanglement distribution.

With nearly a decade of experience in quantum photonics, she has worked across research groups in five countries. She holds a B.Sc in Physics from the National University of Colombia, an M.Sc in Photonics from the Europhotonics Erasmus Mundus programme, and a PhD from Heriot-Watt University, where she received an award for outstanding research contribution in 2023.

Building on this background, she combines technical and commercial insight to advance quantum networking over fibre infrastructure. Through Innovate UK's ICURe and Scottish Enterprise's High Growth Spinout Programme, she has helped drive Intertangle's early strategy, with UKRI and EPSRC grants supporting technology development and contributing to over £600k in pre-spinout funding.



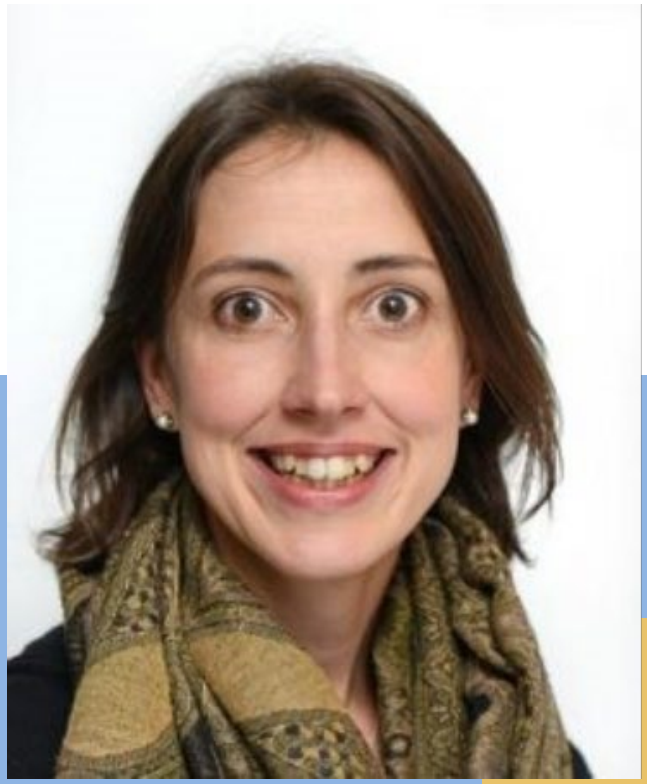
Dr Monica Hoyos-Flight

Careers Panel (14:00-14:30) &

Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin (14:40-15:25)

Strategic Operations and Research Coordinator, School of Engineering

Dr Monica Hoyos Flight has extensive experience as a freelance science communications consultant providing writing and editing services to researchers, research organisations and publishing companies. She has a PhD in neuroscience and extensive experience as an editor for Springer Nature journals and science communications manager at the University of Edinburgh. She is particularly interested in writing about the translation of research and emerging technologies into societally useful products and services. Since last year she has been working at the Centre for Electronics Frontiers (CEF) as Strategic Operations and Research Coordinator.



Careers Panel (14:00-14:30) &

Parallel Session A: Career Round-Robin (14:40-15:25)

Programme Director for MSc Science Communication and Public Engagement, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Dr Elizabeth Stevenson graduated, as a mature student, from the University of Edinburgh with a PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1999. During the part-time PhD, she developed an interest in science communication and public engagement and became the Engagement Officer for the School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, a role which she combined with chemistry teaching for undergraduates. She embraced the opportunity to develop a Masters in Science Communication and Public Engagement and was appointed Programme Director. She has subsequently developed an online version of the programme. She was successful in securing funding from EPSRC, Wellcome and Scottish Government to deliver science communication projects throughout Scotland and has delivered science communication activities and training in Italy, Germany, Malta and China.

Making the Most of Your Postdoc

Parallel Session B: Making the most of your postdoc (14:40-15:25)

Visit a variety of table hosts and join informal discussions about topics that interest you. At the ring of the bell, we will ask you to move to another table of your choosing. In total you will get the chance to talk to 3 table hosts in total.



Helen Cross is a Senior Research Funding Specialist in the Research Funding Team within the Edinburgh Research Office. Helen currently supports the Schools of Engineering, Physics & Astronomy, Maths and EPCC specialising in funding from UK sources including research councils, the academies, industry, charities and government. Helen also works with Edinburgh Innovations supporting the EPSRC Impact Acceleration Accounts. (IAA) team.



Emma Giles is a Senior Research Funding Specialist, in the Research Funding Team within the Edinburgh Research Office. Within CSE, Emma supports the School of Geosciences with applications to a wide variety of UK funders including research councils, WT, Nuffield, UKSA, BA, RS, RSE and others from industry, charities and government. Emma also works with colleagues in ERO supporting the ESRC Impact Acceleration (IAA) Grants.

Dr. Vanessa Smer-Barreto is a Cross-Disciplinary Postdoctoral Research Fellow with a background in Physics whose research focuses on developing Artificial Intelligence technologies for early drug discovery in cancers of unmet need and aging-related conditions. Vanessa moved to the UK from Mexico in 2012 to study a PhD in Astronomy, after which she worked in the computer games sector for two years as a data analyst. In 2019, Vanessa won a cross-disciplinary post-doctoral fellowship with the MRC Unit for Human Genetics at the University of Edinburgh and began her research in Biomedicine. Her research has been featured in multiple international media outlets, and led to multiple invitations to participate at venture capital, academic and outreach events, and filming opportunities.





Dr Willem Vanderlinden obtained MSc degrees in Biochemistry and Bioengineering from KU Leuven and VUB in Belgium. He completed a PhD in Chemistry at KU Leuven under supervision of Steven De Feyter and his thesis "Quantitative Scanning Force Microscopy of the Loops and Curls in DNA" received the PhD Thesis Prize from the Belgian Society for Microscopy. As FWO Postdoctoral Fellow he then moved to LMU Munich and Utrecht University to work with Jan Lipfert on DNA supercoiling dynamics and retroviral integration. In 2023 he joined the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh as Reader in Experimental Biophysics. He will be exploring how to supervise and mentor students.

Dr Chris Mowat is currently Dean of Students for the College of Science and Engineering but was Director of Teaching in the School of Chemistry until recently. The Director of Teaching role involves oversight of the teaching and assessment activities of the School, including delivery of teaching by academic staff, early-career researchers and postdocs, and PGR students. His first experience of lecturing was as a postdoc in the Schools of Chemistry and Biological Sciences, which was useful preparation for a career in teaching.





Simonne Chung the EDI Manager at the School of Informatics, where she leads and develops inclusive practices across the staff and student community. She is also involved in CSE wide projects focused on systemic change. Previously in the School of Engineering, she worked in organisational development, and is passionate about creating environments where everyone feels valued and able to thrive.

Facilities/Shared Lab Services (Rennos Fragkoudis)



Dr. Rennos Fragkoudis is a virologist and engineering biology expert, currently leading the Edinburgh Genome Foundry at the University of Edinburgh. He earned his PhD in molecular virology from the same institution, focusing on the pathogenesis of arboviruses. Over 15 years, his research has delved into alpha-, flavi-, and bunyaviruses, examining their effects in both vertebrate and invertebrate systems. Before returning to Edinburgh in 2019, he held research positions at The Pirbright Institute and the University of Nottingham. At the Genome Foundry, Rennos champions automation in life sciences, enhancing high-throughput DNA assembly and synthetic biology applications.



College HR (Emma McCabe)
Emma has worked within the College of Science and Engineering as HR Partner since 2022. As Senior HR Partner she is responsible for providing a comprehensive professional HR service (advice, expertise, guidance and support) to managers and staff within CSE.

Stalls



The Institute for Academic Development (IAD) provides University level support for teaching, learning and researcher development. Our remit includes continuing professional development and dissemination of best practice in teaching and assessment, curriculum enhancement and innovation. Our Researcher Development Team offers development and support opportunities for researchers at all stages of their career. We also have a dedicated Careers Support Team for staff on fixed-term research contracts.

Eleanor Hennige and **Nicola Cuthbert** will be available at the IAD **Research Development** stall.

EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS

Edinburgh Innovations (EI) is the University of Edinburgh's commercialisation service. We benefit society and the economy by helping researchers and industry drive innovation. We seek opportunities, we build partnerships for mutual benefit, we make the journey easy, and we add value at every stage. This team will continue the work of the Wellcome iTPA, acting as a gateway to EI services for postdocs and providing tailored mentorship, support, access to funding, and upskilling, to help them make real-world impact with their research. We have experience with a broad spectrum of applications, from clinical and commercial, to community interest companies and policy.

Come and speak to us about your research or ideas and their applications, regardless of how early you think these are. Also check out our online Translational Community for the latest opportunities, information and resources: https://translational-community.ed.ac.uk

Joe Murphy will be available at the **EI** stall.

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Digital Research Services

Edinburgh's Digital Research Services offer a single point of access for data and computing services at the University of Edinburgh. The resources and support are organised in line with the research lifecycle, from the planning phase of your research project to the publication of research outputs, sharing, and preservation of datasets. Such services enable world-class research, support discoveries, and improve research outcomes.

The Research Facilitation team can help you navigate the complex Digital Research Services landscape through tailored advice and support. The team also organises events, training and networking opportunities across disciplines and domains and can help you scale up your research, develop your digital skills and become part of the digital research community.

Andre de Araujo Vieira and **Eleni Kotoula** will be available at the **Digital Research Services** stall.



Edinburgh Open Research

We work with various teams across the University to support and advocate for Open Research best practice, helping all research activity at the University to become more Open.

Kerry Miller will be available at the **OR/EORI/ReproducibiliTea** stall.



At ERO, we work alongside researchers to grow ideas into successful projects. We provide expertise at all stages, from developing your idea and identifying funding to crafting your application and managing your award. We work with research leaders to develop research strategies based on sound funder insights and intelligence. We offer expertise across UK, European and international funders. We are enablers and connectors, networked across the University, able to provide the best advice to researchers and research leaders in all disciplines.

Helen Cross and **Emma Giles** will be available at the **ERO** stall. Helen and Emma sit within the ERO funding team so have particular insight into crafting your application from costing and submitting proposals for research grant funding to supporting the initial stages of awards.

UCreate Makerspace is the University of Edinburgh's Library Makerspace. Located in the Main Library and open to all University of Edinburgh students, researchers, staff, alumni, and SCONUL users, it is a vibrant, interdisciplinary hub for creativity, ingenuity, exploration, and experimentation. We offer free access to equipment and materials, as well as an extensive equipment loan service, all supported by a team of enthusiastic technicians and a range of bite-sized, beginner-friendly training opportunities. Whether you want to create a prototype, learn something new in your free time, record a podcast, or repair a prized possession, uCreate Makerspace is here to support you.

Simeon Newbatt will be available at the **uCreate** stall.

PDRA Champions

School	PDRA champion
Biological Sciences	Dr Jenny Regan
Chemistry	Dr Andres Garcia Dominguez
Engineering	Dr Rohit Pillai
GeoSciences	Dr Andrew Schurer
Informatics	Dr Laura Sevilla-Lara
Physics and Astronomy	Dr James Aird - Institute for Astronomy (IfA) Dr Gavin Melaugh - Institute for Condensed Matter and Complex Systems (ICMCS) Dr Cheryl Patrick - Institute for Particle & Nuclear Physics (IPNP)
Mathematics	Dr Torben Sell
EPCC	Dr Joe O'Connor

Post-Doctoral Societies

Joining your local society is a great way to get to know your community through social interactions, information sharing and regular wide-ranging career and training events.

These societies often host cross-campus events, so joining a society will allow you to meet and interact with post-docs across the wider College community.

There are currently four active post-doc societies in the College:

BioDocSoc - School of Biological Sciences
Email: biodocsoc-committee@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk
Website: https://edin.ac/42PWcqA

School of Chemistry Post-doc Committee
Email: chempostdoc-committee@ed.ac.uk
x: @EdiChemPostdocs

IRSS – Informatics Research Staff Society
Email: research-staff-society@inf.ed.ac.uk
Website: https://edin.ac/4gZ156H

EngDocSoc - School of Engineering Post-doc Society
Email: pdra.forum.eng@ed.ac.uk
Join the Teams Channel using QR Code →

Join the EngDocSoc Teams Channel here:

If you are interested in forming a society in your school, please speak to the relevant contact person:

School of Mathematics	- Dr Torben Sell	- torben.sell@ed.ac.uk
School of Physics and Astronomy	- Dr Pamela Knoll	- pknoll@ed.ac.uk
School of Geosciences	- Dr Andrew Schurer	- A.Schurer@ed.ac.uk

The Long-Term Research Staff Network is for research staff who have been on research-only fixed-term (or open-ended subject to funding) contracts for more than 8 years in total. The 8 years do not have to be consecutive and do not have to have been solely at the University of Edinburgh. Sign up via the Teams Channel accessible here:
Long-term research staff network | General | Microsoft Teams

Long Term Research Staff Network

CSE Facilities

Edinburgh Genomics (SBS)
https://genomics.ed.ac.uk/
From Sanger sequencing through to next-generation and whole genome sequencing across all species, training in bioinformatics, experimental design, and data analysis.

The Genome Foundry (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/edinburgh-genome-foundry
The only automated UK facility for the design and assembly of large DNA constructs.

EdinOmics (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/edinomics
Proteomics and metabolomics analytical workflows using conventional and innovative label-free mass spectrometry techniques. In-line robotics and advanced mass spectrometry provide capacity for medium to high-throughput screening.

The Discovery Research Platform for Hidden Cell Biology (DRP-HCB) (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/drp
Extensive expertise in technologies including Proteomics, Bioinformatics, Cryo-EM/ET, Imaging, Protein Production and high-throughput Cell Biology.

Edinburgh Protein Production Facility (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/edinburgh-protein-production-facility-eppf
Production and purification of high-quality proteins, supported by biophysical analysis of proteins and ligands.

Edinburgh Plant Growth Facility (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/edinburgh-plant-growth-facility
Greenhouses and controlled environment plant growth facilities including a containment facility for work with pathogens and bespoke soil mixing capabilities.

Flow Cytometry Core Facility (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/flow-cytometry-core-facility
High-performance analysis and sorting capabilities. Multiplexing capability with aseptic cell sorting technologies. High-throughput plate acquisition with experimental design and analysis support.

CSE Facilities

LEAP: Laser Enabled Analysis Platform (SBS)
https://biology.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities/leap-laser-enabled-analysis-and-processing
One of the few places in the UK with versatile LEAP technology, which provides high-throughput microplate imaging of live cells in-situ with laser-mediated cell processing capabilities.

School of Chemistry
https://chem.ed.ac.uk/research/facilities
Research facilities including mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, atomic force microscopy, single-molecule microscopy, and X-ray diffraction.

School of Engineering
https://eng.ed.ac.uk/about/facilities
Research facilities include atomic force microscopy, bioimaging, membrane technology, and microelectronics.

School of Geosciences
https://geosciences.ed.ac.uk/about/facilities
State-of-the-art research facilities include high-tech facilities for the analysis of rocks, minerals, and fluids. Also, ground-based, water, and airborne field equipment for field measurement techniques.

Scottish Microelectronics Centre
https://www.smc.eng.ed.ac.uk/
The SMC is a research facility based in the School of Engineering at the University of Edinburgh. We offer commercial and academic clients access to state-of-the art facilities and in-house expertise in areas such as micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS), semiconductor, and nano-fabrication and characterisation.

Additional Resources

We have collated several additional resources for you which we hope you will find helpful:

- https://chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk/mindfulness Weekly classes and workshops on **mindfulness** held at the Chaplaincy Centre in Bristo Square.
- https://sustainability.ed.ac.uk/ Training courses, events, paid internships, funding, and advice for staff and students to improve your **sustainability skillset and make a difference**.
- https://local.ed.ac.uk/staff-and-students/volunteer The **University's A Day to Make a Difference** initiative gives every staff member an additional day of paid leave to volunteer for a charity, organisation, or other good cause.
- https://human-resources.ed.ac.uk/pay-reward/staff-benefits/discounts **Discounts and benefits** for staff members at high-street retailers and hospitality businesses.
- https://institute-academic-development.ed.ac.uk/research-roles/research-only-staff **Tailored workshops, advice, and other opportunities** for post-docs, research fellows, research assistants and associates, and technicians.
- https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/ The **Research Staff Hub** brings together information from across the University to support research staff to undertake their role, develop themselves, and progress in their career.
- https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/concordat Information, progress, and support around the **Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers** at the University of Edinburgh.
- https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/career-development/10-days-professional-development As a signatory to the Concordat, the university has a commitment to support research staff careers, recognising the importance of **professional development** and supporting this as a continuous process, allowing staff to consider all possible career paths and options.

Meet the Organisers



Lisa Guenther
Research Support Officer



Andrew Schurer
Chancellor's Fellow & Senior Lecturer



Max Hill
Postdoctoral Researcher



Alec Diallo
Postdoctoral Researcher



Ginevra Camboni
Postdoctoral Researcher



Erin Goldstraw
Daphne Jackson Fellow



Ben Rowlinson
Postdoctoral Fellow



Matias Mattamala Aravena
Research Associate



Tianxin Wang
Research Associate

Thank you for attending! We hope to run this event again in future and would be very grateful if you could give us some honest **feedback on how we can improve** the symposium going forward.

CSE Postdoctoral & Research Staff Symposium on 26 May 2026

Notes from the day