

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

A new year brings a new start and although it is a somewhat arbitrary date it is always a good time to reflect and bring in new habits.

Last year I took a photo of the cover of each book that I read to keep track of my reading and enjoyed looking back at the end of the year to remind myself of where I had read each book. This year I plan to attend at least one concert each month as a social resolution and my work resolution is to celebrate successes with conviction!

I very much hope that some of the successes relate to the APS and will include learning about new topics from the series of webinars and other events from our focus group community, delivering the APS PharmSci 2023 conference in September and promoting pharmaceutical science to our members with a particular focus on our accredited universities.

The APS chair is a 2 year term of office and I am currently at the mid-point! I am actively seeking a successor for January 2024 and if you think that this could be you then please get in touch! The job requires you to be a member of the APS and have an enthusiasm for pharmaceutical science!



Professor Hannah Batchelor
APS Chair

BACK CATALOGUE OF EVENTS

Did you know that the APS has an extensive back-catalogue of webinars that are free to view for our members?

We strongly urge you to take a look at some of the fantastic presentations that are on our website (<https://www.apsgb.co.uk/all-events/list/?eventDisplay=past>). Within the Members Hub you have the opportunity to revisit past events, for example the "Developing Clinically Relevant Dissolution Specifications for Oral Drug products". You can view a range of recorded webinars many of which are presented by the Emerging Technologies Focus Group and cover topics from "3D Bioprinting in Drug Discovery", "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" and the "Manufacturing of Nanomedicines by Microfluidics".

Why not take a look and make some time to view these as part of your new years' resolutions.

NEWSLETTER

FOCUS GROUP LEADERS AN INTERVIEW WITH DIMITRIOS LAMPROU

Which Focus Group do you lead?

I am the founder and first lead of the Emerging Technologies Focus Group.



When did you become the Focus Group leader?

From the beginning of my career, I always had a strong interest in Drug Delivery and Emerging Technologies, and in early 2021 I suggested to the APS Board that they create a new Focus Group covering this topic. Now with this new Focus Group we have a "home" to bring all these Emerging Technologies (e.g. 3D Printing and Bioprinting, Microfluidics, and BioMEMS) into one Focus Group and work towards the development of drug delivery systems and medical devices that were not possible to produce a few years ago.

What do you see as the main mission for your Focus Group?

The Focus Group, established in March 2021, aims to bring together scientists interested in the field of Emerging Technologies for the manufacturing of drug delivery systems, biosensors, medical devices and implants. Techniques such as 3D printing have experienced a significant price reduction making possible its use in pharmacies or hospitals for multiple applications, with publications having increased in the last couple of years in the area of pharmaceuticals. Other techniques such as microfluidics and BioMEMS have the potential to be used for the preparation of medical devices or drug delivery systems that adapted to the requirements of each patient. These technologies are also environmentally friendly, which is one of the topics covered in the Focus Group. Therefore, in this Focus Group, we are bringing together all these researchers that are working in emerging technologies or are interested in learning more of how they can incorporate them in their research for the first time.

The Focus Group collaborates and coordinates with other relevant organisations who are active in the field, with a view to reviewing current "hot topics" in the field and establishing meetings, dialogue and scientific consensus. Moreover, this group provides support to Early Career Scientists and acts as a platform for bridging the gap between industry and academia.

NEWSLETTER

FOCUS GROUP LEADERS (CONTINUED)

What activities have been the most exciting for your Focus Group?

The Focus Group holds monthly meetings, covering different topics in emerging technologies, which have attracted speakers and audiences from across the UK and the EU. We are also organising dedicated sessions at the APS PharmSci International Conference. The most exciting activity are the virtual seminars, as we are providing the opportunity to PhD students, for many of whom this will be their first presentation outside their school, to showcase their work to a national and international audience.

Describe a typical Focus Group meeting for those who may be interested in getting involved?

The Focus Group is jointly run by twelve committee members who represent academia (e.g. academics, postdocs, PhD students) and industry. We have an agenda which is prepared by the Focus Group Lead and shared with all members before the meeting. Everyone involved in the Focus Group has the opportunity to suggest additional items for discussion at our meetings. Our meetings usually take place at the beginning of each month.

Tell us how you organise your Focus Group and how people can get involved

The Focus Group is open for suggestions from all APS Members who wish to organise events under the APS Focus Group logo in our hot topic areas in Emerging Technologies.



Dimitrios Lamprou
Queen's University Belfast

Find out more about our APS Focus Groups here (<https://www.apsgb.co.uk/focus-groups/>)

NEWSLETTER

LEAVERS AND JOINERS TO THE APS BOARD

The APS Board are responsible to ensure that the APS fulfils its missions and aims. This collective are volunteers who are passionate about pharmaceutical science and particularly the pharmaceutical science community here in the UK.

The term of office on the APS Board is 3 years with an option to serve two consecutive terms and involves attendance at fortnightly meetings as well as many varied actions to ensure that APS goals are met. We try to ensure that our board is diverse to reflect the members of the APS with representatives at all career stages and from a range of organisations. Our current board members are listed on our website (<https://www.apsgb.co.uk/about-us/>).

We recently said goodbye to Julie Cahill and welcomed Arul Balasundaram and Mohammad Najlah to the board and I would like to use this newsletter to firstly thank Julie for her service to the Board throughout her term of office and to welcome our new members.



Arul Balasundaram

Arul Balasundaram is a pharmaceutical scientist with 16+ years' experience working in both large pharma and contract development manufacturing organisations (CDMO). He is currently Head of Development at Recipharm where he works with global business development teams to attract new clients. Arul was previously a board observer and has contributed greatly to the vision of the APS, particularly in terms of identifying how we highlight the value of the APS to our current and prospective sponsors and he is keen to develop a series of metrics to help enhance the value proposition of the APS.



Mohammad Najlah

Mohammad Najlah has broad experience in the higher education sector in the UK and overseas. He is an active research with many collaborative projects that link pharmaceutical industry with academia. He is currently Professor of Pharmaceutics & Nanomedicine, Anglia Ruskin University and co-founder and shareholder of GMPriority Pharma Ltd. Mohammad was previously a board observer and has already attended events at our accredited Universities to promote the APS to staff and students. He is keen to work with the APS accreditation team to bring his expertise to help support our accredited University base.

NEWSLETTER

FUTURE EVENTS 2023



February 15th 2023 - WEBINAR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning
Hold the date - more information coming soon



March 16th 2023 - WEBINAR

Microfluidics for Drug Discovery and Development
Hold the date - more information coming soon



April 17th 2023 - FACE TO FACE EVENT

Industrial Insights, AstraZeneca, Charter Way, Macclesfield
Hold the date - more information coming soon



April 20th 2023 - WEBINAR

3D Bioprinting Applications in Drug Discovery and Development
Hold the date - more information coming soon



May 18th 2023 - WEBINAR

Environmental, Social, Economic, and Legal Concerns on the use of
Emerging Technologies
Hold the date - more information coming soon



June 13th 2023 - FACE TO FACE EVENT - **TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Goodbye to old Paradigms – Transfer & Scale Up Approaches for the
21st Century, Novotel Brussels City Centre, Rue de la Vierge Noire 32



June 15th 2023 - WEBINAR

3D Used in Clinical Settings
Hold the date - more information coming soon



September 5th-7th 2023 - FACE TO FACE CONFERENCE

PharmSci 2023, University of Reading
Hold the date - more information coming soon



Academy of
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WINTER 2023

NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

Next issue will be Spring 2023 - Issue date March 2023