Science Careers Outside the Lab - Exhibitor Profiles

AkzoNobel (data science)

AkzoNobel is a Dutch multinational company which has created paints and performance coatings for both industry and consumers worldwide since 1792. Their portfolio of brands includes Dulux, International, Sikkens and Interpon. AkzoNobel are active in over 150 countries and employ around 34,500 staff who are passionate about delivering the high-performance products and services Akzo’s customers expect.

Richie Ramsden completed a Master’s in Chemistry at Newcastle University in 2005. He has been working for AkzoNobel in a variety of roles since 2006 working as an Associate Technologist, leading projects in Fouling Control coating technology and working as a Section Leader in AkzoNobel’s Data Insight team. Since January 2018 Richie has been working as Head of Data Science at AkzoNobel’s Innovation Incubator, which supports innovation and new ideas within the company.

Civil Service Fast Stream (government)

The Civil Service Fast Stream team runs the government’s flagship Fast Stream graduate programme. The Civil Service Fast Stream is an accelerated leadership development programme that provides talented graduates from a range of backgrounds with the experience, skills and knowledge needed to become senior leaders within the Civil Service. With 15 streams ranging from HR and diplomacy to digital and engineering, the Civil Service Fast Stream has something for everyone, including science students, and recruits students from all degree disciplines and subject areas. Graduates who join the Fast Stream gain a variety of experiences through different placements and postings in government departments and agencies. Laura Rose, a Newcastle University Environmental Science graduate and Jonathan Mayo, an EU and International Engagement Lead from the Office for Product Safety and Standards, will be joining us for the event.

CY Partners (science recruitment)

Founded in 2008, Newcastle-based CY Partners are a specialist recruitment consultancy within the scientific and technical markets. Graham Hankinson is Senior Science Recruitment Consultant at CY Partners. A Northumberland native, Graham studied Chemistry at Newcastle University from 2009-2012. Upon graduation, he joined the Gateshead-based chemical/instrument manufacturer, Palintest, as UK Business Development Associate for a year before moving to CY Partners. Graham has been with CY Partners for over five years and is now one of their most senior consultants.

Definition IP Ltd. (patents & intellectual property)

Definition IP is a firm of UK, Irish and European Patent Attorneys who provide clear, commercially focused advice and services relating to Intellectual Property, including patents, trademarks, registered designs, copyright and trade secrets.

Dr. Stephanie Carr is a Trainee Patent Attorney at Definition IP Ltd where she works closely with clients to understand their business objectives and to ensure that their Intellectual Property is appropriately protected, integrated and leveraged. She completed her undergraduate degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology at Newcastle University before doing an MRes in Neuromuscular...
Disease. She then went on to do a PhD investigating pathophysiological mechanisms of the heart in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Enviresearch (regulatory affairs)

Enviresearch aims to provide the best regulatory and risk assessment service in Europe for the global chemical industry. Dr. Scott Watson is a Regulatory Affairs Consultant at Enviresearch, where he offers technical expertise, regulatory knowledge and consultancy support to the chemical industry for the registration of plant protection products, biocides, and general chemicals under the EU regulatory frameworks.

Prior to this Scott worked as a Regulatory Scientist for the Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), where he contributed to the organisation’s work concerning the regulation of pesticides and biocides in the European Union. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from Durham University and also worked for six years as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Chemistry at Newcastle University.

Environment Agency (environmental planning)

The Environment Agency (EA) is a non-departmental public body, established in 1995 and sponsored by the United Kingdom government’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England.

Dr. Stephen Merrett has worked in a variety of technical and managerial roles for the Environment Agency, including flood risk management, flood warning, incident response, IT development, policy development, business change, programme management, engineering and asset management. His current role is managing a department of 40 people as Environment, Planning & Engagement Manager. His department consists of four teams which manage the Environment Agency’s communications and engagement with customers, developing and delivering a programme of projects with its partners to improve the environment across the North East, managing its role in UK and EU legislation and planning to secure investment in the environment, ensuring new development is sustainable.

Stephen completed a BSc in Physical Geography at Newcastle University followed by a PhD in Fluvial Geomorphology at Leeds University. He then worked for an engineering consultancy before joining the Environment Agency in 2002.

EY (financial services)

Ernst & Young (EY) is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction, and advisory services and is one of the “Big Four” accounting and financial service firms. EY has 270,000 employees around the world in over 700 offices and in 150 countries and generated revenues of $34.8 billion in 2018. EY operates through four service lines—Assurance, Advisory, Tax and Transaction Advisory Services and aims to help its clients fulfil regulatory requirements, keep investors informed and meet stakeholder needs.

Originally from Leeds, Alex Craig graduated from Newcastle University in 2016 with a Master’s in Chemistry. During his studies Alex completed a year studying abroad in El Paso, Texas. During this time he was published in the European Journal of Chemistry for a piece on Inorganic Chemistry. After graduation Alex joined EY and currently works for them as a second year Audit & Assurance graduate in Cambridge. During his time at EY Alex has had significant exposure and experience working on listed pharmaceutical, aerospace & defence, and life
science companies around Cambridge, East Anglia, & London. He has also worked with FTSE 250 listed clients, including Thomas Cook Group plc & Lotus.

**Great North Museum: Hancock (science education & outreach)**

The Great North Museum: Hancock is a museum of natural history and ancient civilisations based in Newcastle. Dr. Kate Holden coordinates learning programmes at the museum, working with people from the age of five through primary and secondary school to university and also with the general public.

Kate works with the museum curators to ensure that the museum brings exciting, up to date science to all its activities and also in collaboration with the Natural History Museum in London and various other museums around the country as part of the Real-World Science programme. At the moment, Kate is also involved in putting together the exhibition and programmes around the visit of Dippy the Diplodocus on its tour of Britain (arriving in Newcastle in May 2019).

Before coming to work at the museum five years ago, Kate worked in universities. Her undergraduate degree was in Geography and she completed a PhD on the boundaries of physical geography, geology, archaeology and physics. After this, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the same area and then as a university lecturer, continuing her research alongside teaching.

**Integrated MedHealth Communications (science communication & consultancy)**

Integrated MedHealth Communications is an independently owned consultancy and medical communications agency. It develops solutions for pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies as well as patient advocacy groups and scientific organisations, by using scientific data, external stakeholder insight, digital innovations and creativity to drive behavioural change and enhance patient health. The company specialises in creating solutions as a result of a synergistic approach between its five divisions—Medical & Scientific, Insights & Consulting, Digital & Design, Patient Engagement and Meetings & Events.

**JBA Consulting (environmental/engineering consultancy)**

JBA Consulting is a firm of engineers, environmental consultants, scientists and designers, managing weather and environmental risks and opportunities for its clients. They provide services in engineering, environmental management, flood and water management, research & development, software development, and training.

Its clients include core sectors such as Government and Regulatory, Energy, Sustainable Development, Third Sector, Transport and Infrastructure and Utilities.

JBA have been an independent and employee-owned for two decades allowing them the freedom to focus on innovation and their commitment to exceptional client service.
Newcastle University

Medical physics

Dr. Mike Drinnan is a Consultant Physicist at Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University’s Institute for Cellular Medicine. Mike studied a degree in electronic engineering and after working for 18 months in an electronics company, he landed a post as a Research Assistant in Medical Physics at the Freeman Hospital on a one-year fixed term contract. He was supported for 10 years by grants and then gained a permanent post, always in the application of physics and engineering to medicine. In the meantime he got the chance to do a PhD. 25 years and a lot of different and interesting things later, Mike is now the head of Clinical Engineering for Medical Physics at Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital.

Gemma Roberts is a nuclear medicine physicist - a type of healthcare scientist specialising in medical imaging using radioactive tracers, which produce signals that can be detected by special scanners. This method used to see how particular areas of the body are working and detect if there is something unusual, indicating a disease. In 2016, Gemma was awarded an Alzheimer’s Society healthcare professional training fellowship and is currently working on a PhD which aims to improve and develop the ways that quantitative nuclear medicine imaging (medical scanning) can be used to assist in the early diagnosis of dementia with Lewy Bodies, abnormal protein clumps that build up in the brain and other parts of the nervous system in Lewy body disease. Gemma previously worked in the NHS for 9 years doing a mixture of clinical work and research in lots of different areas including testing a new type of radioactive implant for treating prostate cancer, treating liver tumours with tiny radioactive spheres and installing a PET-CT scanner that can track lung tumour motion.

Science education & outreach

As one of the STEM Outreach Officers at Newcastle University, Clare Fearon travels around the country (and occasionally even further afield) to visit schools, events and festivals to inspire and enthuse children about STEM subjects. She works with children of all ages - from breaking the “mad scientists” stereotype with primary school children to discussing university courses with sixth form students.

Clare manages the University’s team of student Street Scientists who visit schools and events to wow children with their science demonstrations. She loves her job as it allows her to combine her passion for science with her creative talents in designing workshops and organising events. She is also currently studying towards an MSc in Science Communication and Public Engagement at the University of Edinburgh.

Research impact

Dr. Pauline Addis and Dr. Callum Kirk work as Research Impact Officers in Newcastle University’s Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS). This job involves helping academics to show how their research reaches out into everyday life, from finding new drugs to influencing policy. It’s a very varied role that takes them from speaking to world-class academic researchers about their work to contacting patient groups to find out how a Newcastle-developed drug has benefitted them, and from organising training events for early-career academics to writing up case studies.

Pauline’s PhD was in equine biomechanics. She began her impact career in the then School of Mechanical and Systems Engineering, and in 2012 moved to FMS, where her main role is to prepare impact case studies for the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, which determines the funding universities receive for research. Pauline loves her job, as it combines learning about
cutting-edge, fascinating research with finding hard evidence of its benefit. Plus she get paid to drink tea and talk to people...

Callum completed his PhD in Medical Genetics, where his research focused on understanding how genes identified as causative for limb girdle muscular dystrophy cause the wide spectrum of pathology seen in the patient population. He is especially passionate about science engagement and the promotion of science to non-scientists. Callum attended Science Careers Outside the Lab in 2018 and consequently landed his current role after staying in contact with Pauline after the event!

Clinical trials

Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit
Professor Helen Hancock is co-Director of Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU) and Director of NIHR Research Design Service North East and North Cumbria (RDS NENC). Helen has research expertise in the design, development and delivery of nationally-funded clinical trials with a track record in cardiac surgery and cardiology clinical trials, as well as in randomised controlled trial methodology. As co-Director of Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU), she is responsible for the academic, financial, administrative and business management of the unit. NCTU is focused on excellence in the design, development and delivery of clinical trials to improve patient outcomes. The Unit provides the infrastructure to support clinical trials and studies to be conducted to the standards required by regulators and in accordance with best practice and guidance.

The Research Design Service provides advice to investigators who are preparing applications for national peer-reviewed funding (to NIHR, AMRC, MRC and other national funding bodies) for applied health and social care research. RDS NENC is one of ten regionally based RDS, which together form a national Research Design Service: www.rds.nihr.ac.uk

Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre
Dr. Helen Blair works as Clinical Trials Coordinator within the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre at the Freeman Hospital, where she is responsible for overseeing the smooth running of a large portfolio of early phase oncology trials. This involves a wide range of activities including: working alongside sponsors, medical and nursing staff to set up new studies, preparing costings for new studies, ensuring all approvals are in place for both before a study begins and amendments when they are submitted. She regularly attends teleconferences relating to safety of the drug under investigation where she gives short updates on patients who are taking part in the trial. Helen is also responsible for keeping the trial data up to date, and works alongside monitors from the clinical research organisations who are responsible for running the trials for the sponsor. Following her Bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Sciences from Newcastle University, Helen went on to study a PhD researching Type 2 diabetes, also at Newcastle. Helen’s work focused on the effect of fat on pancreatic beta-cells, and she continued this work after finishing her PhD with two years of funding as a Research Associate.

Newcastle Marrow—science charity

Newcastle Marrow is a student run branch of Anthony Nolan, a UK charity that works in the areas of leukaemia and stem cell transplantation. Newcastle Marrow work to support patient appeals and work on campaigns to raise money for the charity and encourage students to join the stem cell register. Marrow was started by a group of medical students at the University of Nottingham in 1998 following the death of a friend from leukaemia. There are now over 50 groups across universities in the UK and are beginning to be set up in countries throughout Europe.
Marrow will be attending the event to provide information about stem cell donation, promote their volunteer opportunities and provide an overview of routes into charity work in science.

**Business development**

Dr Marie Labus holds a BSc (hons) in Biochemistry (Immunology) and a PhD in Molecular Biology, both from Aberdeen University. She has over 16 years’ business experience including developing research strategy, change management and various business development activities. She currently splits her time between AMLo Biosciences where she is Chief Executive Officer and Newcastle University where she works as a Business Development Manager in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS).

In her Business Development Manager role in FMS, Marie’s remit is to facilitate develop and support a large and diverse portfolio of enterprise related activities including protecting intellectual assets, project management, knowledge transfer, consultancy, CPD, patents, licensing, commercial services and Research and Development with the aim of enhancing the Faculty’s profile in business engagement, while maximising income and minimising risk.

As CEO of AMLo Biosciences Ltd, Marie is responsible for the day to day running of the company, managing its R&D programme, IP portfolio, developing product development plans and raising funding with the aim of bringing a series of novel and innovative prognostic and diagnostic products to market for skin cancers in humans and animals.

**Northumbrian Water (waste management)**

Northumbrian Water is a water company providing mains water and sewerage services in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham and Parts of North Yorkshire. Karen Farr is a Technical Advisor at Northumbrian Water. She graduated from her degree in Chemistry at Newcastle University in 1990 and worked in pollution prevention and environmental protection roles to protect water, land and air quality with the National Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency and Environmental Health at Wansbeck District Council and Northumberland County Council. Karen now works in Scientific Services at Northumbrian Water to improve the quality of wastewater effluent and assess how well the sewage treatment process deals with chemicals in the environment for the national Chemical Investigation Programme.

Laura Wilkinson works for Northumbrian Water as a Technical Advisor. She graduated from Newcastle University in 2007 after completing a degree in Applied Biology. During her third year at university Laura completed a year in industry with Northumbrian Water. This allowed her to gain an insight into the company whilst completing research projects in the Asset Strategy department. After graduating Laura joined Northumbrian Water where she has had a number of roles mainly based around Sewage Treatment Works issues and optimisation.

**Oxford University Press (science publishing)**

Oxford University Press (OUP) is the largest university press in the world. Lucy Wells works as a Commissioning Editor for Science at OUP. In this role she commissions and develops resources to support teaching and learning in the biosciences and chemistry. Her areas of responsibility include biomedical science, biology, chemistry, and study and professional skills in the sciences.

A graduate of Durham University, Lucy joined OUP in 2012 after starting her publishing career as an editorial assistant at Wiley-Blackwell in the health sciences team. Her first role at OUP was as an assistant editor on the life sciences research and graduate textbook list before
moving to the Higher Education team in 2016. Lucy has experience of working on a range of projects: from conservation handbooks and large reference encyclopaedias to cutting-edge genetics techniques textbooks. She is happy to speak to anyone with an interest in books or scientific journal publishing.

**QuantuMDx Group (project management– biotechnology)**

QuantuMDx Group is a multinational life sciences tools and diagnostics developer headquartered in the United Kingdom, with subsidiary operations in the United States and Singapore. QuantuMDx is dedicated to improving and democratising global health by providing transformative diagnostic tools to overburdened healthcare systems.

Dr. Sam Bhatt works as a Project Manager for QuantuMDx, where he has gained experience in business and events management, utilising skills in public engagement, teaching and leadership to organise large scale public lectures, academic workshops and charity events. Sam joined the company in 2015 and has also worked for QuantuMDx in Research Scientist and Senior Scientist roles.

Sam completed a Master’s in Chemistry, followed by a PhD in the Synthesis of Radiopharmaceuticals at Newcastle University. Following the completion of his PhD he also briefly worked as a Research Associate for the university’s School of Chemistry.

**Reed Scientific Recruitment (science recruitment)**

Reed Scientific Recruitment is an agency specialising in recruiting talent for technical and scientific roles. As a Recruitment Resourcerer, Dani Bonnellyke helps Reed engage with professionals across the UK looking to work in science. She helps organisations source roles mainly in chemistry, biotechnology, clinical and pharmaceutical industries, but also works regularly with food manufacturing companies.

Dani also acts as the key point of contact between university careers services and Reed Scientific and delivers workshops to students across the UK on making applications for science roles.

**SIRIUS Market Access (market access services/ medical writing)**

SIRIUS Market Access provide support to the pharmaceutical industry to help bring new treatments to market. Established in 2013, with new offices opening on Newcastle Quayside in March 2018, SIRIUS are a team of highly experienced scientists, health economists, and industry specialists who work with a growing network of international clients to develop and communicate information about the benefits and costs of new and existing pharmaceutical products. SIRIUS are dedicated to delivering innovative strategies and compelling evidence that is clearly communicated to all stakeholders: payers, policy makers, and prescribers. SIRIUS take pride in creating a productive and collaborative environment that delivers high quality services to meet client needs, whilst providing the perfect opportunity for its team to streamline their career path and continually learn.

Dr. Lorna Dawson is a Medical Writer at SIRIUS where she is developing analytical, data extraction and written/verbal communication skills working with clients across the pharmaceutical industry. She holds a PhD and MSci in Biomedical Sciences from Newcastle University. Dr. Audrey Brown is a Medical Writer/Life Science Research Analyst at SIRIUS, and
previously worked as a Research Associate at Newcastle University. She holds a BSc in Medical Biochemistry and PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Glasgow.

TeachFirst (science education)

Teach First is a charity that works towards a day where every child has the education they are entitled to, regardless of their socio-economic background. On its Leadership Development Programme, Teach First trains graduates with leadership potential to be inspirational teachers in schools in low income communities across the country, who then go on to work in schools and other sectors of society.

Joel Greenwell is a University Recruiter for TeachFirst and his current role involves managing all of Teach First’s activity at multiple universities and recruiting, supporting and preparing prospective teachers to go into the classroom. Joel graduated from Newcastle with a degree in Biomedical Sciences in 2015. He was always convinced that a lab-based job was for him, until he discovered his passion for education and charity work. His time after university began with a role working for Newcastle University as a Graduate Ambassador. In this role, Joel travelled around the UK visiting schools & colleges, delivering lessons, presentations and workshops on Medical Sciences and how to get into University. During this, he found that he loved working in education, and chose to join the Recruitment team at Teach First.

Womble Bond Dickinson LLP (legal)

Womble Bond Dickinson LLP is a full-service transatlantic law firm, with eight locations across the UK. Kate Ashworth studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, specialising in physiology in her final year, before doing a law conversion course at the University of Law. She started her training contract with the company in 2012 and qualified into the planning and infrastructure team in 2014. She is now an Associate in the team and regularly advises clients on a wide range of matters, both contentious and non-contentious. These include judicial review; planning appeals; section 106 agreements; due diligence; highways agreements; definitive map modification orders; stopping up orders; electricity wayleaves; advertising regulations; the protection afforded to trees and hedgerows; and commons consents. Most recently she has been involved in the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station project and the Tees Combined Cycle Power Plant project.

Chris Gilbert works as a Trainee Solicitor at Womble Bond Dickinson. He completed his undergraduate studies in Medicine then Pharmacology and Physiology, focusing on Anaesthetics and Neurology. The legal aspects of protecting novel therapies against development of generic drugs attracted him to a career in law, with a view to specialising in Intellectual Property. Chris has completed training in Corporate Finance and Commercial Litigation, and is involved in Womble Bond Dickinson’s offering in the Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences sector.