

# 2023 SoCoBio DTP Annual Conference 18-19 April University of Sussex Programme



## 2023 SoCoBio DTP Annual Conference

The SoCoBio DTP Annual Conference is a two-day event that provides the entire cohort of the South Coast Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership (SoCoBio DTP) with opportunities to communicate their science, exchange research ideas, and share their training experience. In addition, there are networking opportunities with industry, guest lectures, discussion panels and wellbeing workshops led by DTP student wellbeing champions. Our annual conferences are held at a different DTP partner each year so students also get an opportunity to visit partner institutions and tour their facilities. This year, the SoCoBio DTP Annual Conference is taking place at the University of Sussex, on 18 and 19 April.

# Programme

Tuesday, 18 April		
Time	Session	Location
11.00-11.30	Arrival and refreshments	Fulton, Room G15
11.30-11.45	Welcome and Introductions by Socobio DTP Director Matthew Terry Chair: Amy Lovegrove	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
11.45-12.45	'It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are; Reflections from a new group leader' Dr Katherine Bridge, York Biomedical Research Institute, University of York Chair: Abigail Talbot	
12.45-14.00	Lunch and posters by 3rd-year students	Conference Centre, Bramber House
14.00-15.15	First session 2nd-year student talks Chair: Brandon Coke	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
15.15-16.45	Coffee and networking; posters by 3rd-year students	Conference Centre, Bramber House
16.45-18.00	Second session 2nd-year student talks Chair: Laura Freeman	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
20.00	Dinner – Donatello's Pizzeria, Brighton	1-3 Brighton Place, Brighton, BN1 1HJ
Wednesday, 19 April		
Time	Session	Location
9.00-10.30	Wellbeing session with Jenny Tullet, SoCoBio DTP Wellbeing Lead - Reflexivity Chair: Letitia McMullan	Conference Centre, Bramber House
10.30-11.00	Refreshments	
11.00-12.45	Flash talks from 3rd-year students Chair: Jack Stubbs	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
12.45-13.45	Lunch	Conference Centre, Bramber House
13.45-14.45	Dr Trevor Askwith, Head of Biology - Domainex Ltd Chair: Johanna Fish	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
14.45-15.15	Prize giving, summary and finish by Socobio DTP Director Matthew Terry	
15.15-16.00	Industry Engagement Registration; Tea and coffee break	Conference Centre, Bramber House
16.00-17.30	Industry Engagement Presentations Chair: Matthew Terry	Fulton B, Lecture Theatre
17.30-19.00	Industry networking Event (Wine and Cheese)	Conference Centre, Bramber House
19.00	Students social evening with meal vouchers	Falmer Student Bar

## Keynote Speakers



### **Dr Trevor Askwith**

Head of Biology, Domainex Ltd.

Trevor completed his bachelors in biochemistry from the University of Surrey and PhD from the University of Birmingham studying mechanisms of Taurine Depletion in Diabetic Neuropathy. He spent 3 years as a cell biologist at Novartis Respiratory division in the pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary fibrosis group working with Gabor Jarai. Trevor left Novartis to join the Sussex Drug Discovery centre and spent 4 years working on both CNS and DNA-damage repair targets including the AMPA positive-allosteric modulator MDI-478 which has entered phase 1 clinical trial for cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia. Trevor left Sussex to run the screening arm of the UCL drug discovery group working closely UCL academics and the AZ open innovation group to translate small molecule projects from the university. Trevor joined Domainex in 2020 where he now heads the biology group comprising 40 scientists supporting early-stage projects ranging from structural biology, through biophysics and cell biology.

## Keynote Speakers



### **Dr Katherine Bridge**

York Biomedical Research Institute,  
University of York

Katherine is a cell biologist and group leader at the York Biomedical Research Institute, University of York. She started her group in 2021 studying hypoxia-inducible factors (HIFs) in malignant transformation, using haematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) and the myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) as model systems to study these mechanisms. Katherine studied Biochemistry as an undergraduate and conducted a BBSRC-DTP in molecular cell biology at the University of Nottingham. She then pursued postdoctoral studies at the CRUK Barts Centre in London, before starting her lab in York. She has active collaborations with a number of industrial partners and intends to establish her research group at the interface of academia and industry. Katherine has three young children, who were born during her post-docs and around starting her group; she is passionate about enhancing research culture through advocating equity and inclusion, promoting provision and support for young researchers with children, and promoting mental health awareness in research culture.

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## Award sponsored by GSK:

- 2nd year student best presentation



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## Awards sponsored by Qiagen:

- 3rd year student best poster
- 3rd year student best flash talk



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If you have any further questions, students can post on the Socobio Teams site in the 'Annual Conference 2022' channel, and guests can email [h.heathcote@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:h.heathcote@sussex.ac.uk).