

PERCAT Careers Seminar: Careers outside Academia

4th April 2019

Details of Speakers

Ben de Laune

Ben has a varied history of working in many different fields; primarily as a materials chemist seeking to discover new materials for technological advancement. After making some interesting discoveries on a mineral called schafarzikite during his PhD, he worked in several other organisations whilst he awaited the outcome of a research grant. This included as a waiter, cover teacher and two eight-week placements at the Royal Society of Chemistry before ending up at BAE systems working as a Failure Analyst (his favourite!). Upon being awarded a 500k multi-institution research grant, he worked for the next three years as a Post-Doc at the School of Chemistry, UoB, to try and see if his materials could make a technological impact. He discovered that this wasn't the case in the areas he was investigating. After struggling to figure out what to do next, Ben now works in the nuclear industry for an organisation tasked with delivering disposal solutions for the UK's nuclear waste as the Waste Package Specifications and Guidance Manager.

Diarmuid Lloyd

After his Physics undergraduate degree at The University of Edinburgh, Diarmuid completed a PhD in Biological Physics, where his research focused on how bacteria competed for space on surfaces. Diarmuid remained in the School of Physics and Astronomy as a post-doc, researching bacterial colony growth in three dimensions. After his contract finished in 2017, Diarmuid joined the Scottish Government as an Assistant Statistician. Here, he works as part of a team of analysts responsible for the Scottish House Condition Survey, the largest housing survey in Scotland, providing briefing and analysis on energy efficiency, housing quality and fuel poverty.

Noriko Read

Noriko Read is a Principal Research Engineer at IHI Europe Ltd, a subsidiary company of IHI Corporation, which is a major Japanese heavy industrial company. IHI Corporation creates values in various areas such as aeroengines, space and general purpose machinery. After gaining her PhD from Tokyo Institute of Technology in the field of material science, Noriko moved to the UK. She worked as a Research Fellow in AMP lab (Prof. M.M. Attallah) within the Metallurgical and Material Department from 2011 to 2016, focusing on the Additive Manufacturing (AM) projects with various industry partners. She is currently in charge of R&D collaboration projects for AM and coordinator of other R&D activities within the IHI group.

Laura Sellars

Laura studied biochemistry at the University of York before moving to the University of Birmingham. There she completed a PhD investigating the role of chromosome structure in gene regulation in *E. coli*. Laura then undertook several short post-doctoral placements specialising in microscopy and genetic manipulation. Laura joined Perfectus Biomed in 2016 as a Senior Microbiologist.

Glenn Watts

Dr Glenn Watts is Deputy Director for Research at the Environment Agency. He leads a team of over 40 applied scientists who conduct and translate research to inform the Environment Agency's wide range of duties. Glenn has a BSc in Geography from the University of Birmingham. For his PhD at the University of Bristol he studied soil erosion and hydrology in semi-arid environments. After a post-doc looking at gully head erosion, Glenn joined the National Rivers Authority, which soon became part of the Environment Agency. Glenn worked as a hydrologist and water resources planner before joining the science group to lead on climate change science. Glenn's work in applied science spans the science-policy interface, and he is passionate about using and communicating science to support decision-making.