

# The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter

## February 2021

### Dear UKAN Members

We have now over 1200 members: A large Network! We should be grateful if you could regularly visit your membership page, complete and/or update your profile to ensure that we all get the most from the Network. The UKAN [directory](#) is searchable so it is important keep the fields *Professional/research interests*, *What would you like UKAN to do for you?* and *How would you like to contribute to UKAN?* up-to-date. This information is a great mechanism for connecting and engaging better with our members.

#### Events

The [Software Carpentry Workshop for the UK Acoustics Network](#) is now full.

The other events for March open to register for are:

2<sup>nd</sup> of March - [Acoustic wave propagation in water pipes](#), Yicheng Yu.

10<sup>th</sup> of March - [Low cost, low power acoustic communication and sensing: Enabling the Internet of Underwater Things](#) by Jeff Neasham

24<sup>th</sup> of March - [Acoustic sensing from multi-rotor drones](#) by Lin Wang

25<sup>th</sup> of March - [Sonar Signal Processing Workshop](#)

29<sup>th</sup> of March – 2<sup>nd</sup> of April - [Symposium on Acoustics of Poroelectric Materials \(SAPEM 2021\)](#).

Members need to register in advance for these and other UKAN events for IT security purposes.

In April Francesco Aletta and Jian Kang (UCL) are organising the Urban Sound Symposium 2021 (<https://urban-sound-symposium.org/>). The event will be carried out simultaneously online in Ghent, Montreal, Nantes, Zurich, London and Berlin. They have just opened the registration.

The Bioacoustics SIG is running a series of webinars from the end of March, organised by Helen

Whitehead (University of Salford), one of the Group Coordinators in the Bioacoustics SIG. Interested speakers are still being welcomed to express an interest in presenting and are advised to contact the SIG ([bioacoustics@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:bioacoustics@acoustics.ac.uk)). Information about registering for the series will be communicated shortly and we look forward to seeing you there.

We would also like to remind the organisers to record their webinars and to get in touch with us on [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk) to arrange uploading these webinar videos and slides on UKAN Google Drive folder [here](#). This folder contains past webinar recordings available to all UKAN members.

#### Call for UKAN+ Early Career representatives

We seek applicants for fourteen volunteer Early Career SIG Coordinator positions and four Early Career Grand Challenge Champion posts for UKAN+ (April 2021 onwards). The successful applicants will benefit from training and funding opportunities, exciting social events, and networking with potential employers and people at the highest levels of acoustics in industry and academia. Nominees should be early in their careers and have an interest in shaping the future of Acoustics research in the UK. Application forms are available [here](#) for SIG positions and [here](#) for challenge champion positions. More information about these posts is available [here](#). Deadline is 11:59pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

#### Public Engagement (PE) on UKAN+

The new Network Plus (UKAN+) grant, funded by the EPSRC and industry, which starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April gives us an opportunity to do more great PE work. We are developing a more strategic approach. Doing this will create more impactful activities following PE best practice and a greater legacy from our PE work. We hope to work with the National Co-ordinating Centre

for Public Engagement ([NCCPE](#)), using processes they have to build capacity and connections with audiences, leading to UKAN+ developing high impact PE work. The first phase of this, training acousticians in how to do great PE, will begin in spring 2021. Trevor Cox of University of Salford will be leading this activity. We are seeking two Early Career Acousticians to help develop this strategic vision for public engagement, one based in industry and another in a university. For more details and to apply please visit <https://forms.gle/x1S5Rt9bvqJHFkyB6>.

### Acoustic/Noise Control of Refuse Recycling Vehicles

Terberg Matec UK are part of the Terberg Ros Roca group of companies who manufacture a range of refuse, recycling vehicles and bin lifting equipment.



Due to changing legislation with a greater emphasis on manufacturers to limit the noise exposure to the vehicle operators; they are looking at methods to reduce the noise emitted when glass is loaded into their vehicles (see photo above). They have tried to make improved efforts in reducing the noise exposure but feel that those may not be the optimum solutions. They are seeking a research partner who may have a far better understanding of acoustics to assist them with this project. If any of our members are interested in this work please get in touch with David Walker (Engineering Manager) [DWalker@terberg.com](mailto:DWalker@terberg.com).

### Sounds from Mars

The NASA Perseverance Rover landed on Mars on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2021. It has two microphones onboard to capture sounds from the Red Planet. Ever

wonder how Mars sounds? Listen [here](#).

### Neurosciences and mental health: MRC grant call

We would be interested to receive an expression of interest from parties who wish to work closely with an industry partner to develop and lead new acoustics research in the following areas: (i) mental health; (ii) behavioural and learning disorders including autism; (iii) cognitive and behavioural neuroscience and cognitive systems sensory neuroscience including vision and hearing. More information about this call is [here](#). Email to [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk) if interested.

### New acoustics apprenticeship gears up for launch

A pioneering apprenticeship in acoustics is planning to take its first intake of trainees later this year. The Acoustics Technician Level 4 Apprenticeship has been developed as an employer-led, industry initiative, with support from the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and the Institute of Acoustics (IOA). It is hoped that the first students can start their apprenticeship in September, with work-based training, coupled with study. Richard Grove, Acoustics Director at BDP, is Chairman of the working group that has developed the apprenticeship. The trailblazer group behind this new qualification has produced a FAQ guide, providing a reference point for those looking at taking on an apprentice, as well as anyone considering it as a career option. More guidance on is [here](#).

### New grants related to acoustics

UKAN would like to congratulate Jicheng Gong from Oxford University on winning EPSRC Fellowship to develop state-of-the-art extremely small and fast fatigue testing techniques based on ultrasonic testing. More information about this Fellowship is [here](#).

Congratulations to Art Gower from the University of Sheffield for his new £300k EPSRC grant on acoustic sensing of particulate materials. The project will focus on multiple scattering of sound waves by powders and random particulate materials with the aim to develop new sensors.

Stay well

Kirill Horoshenkov and Richard Craster