

The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter March 2021

Dear UKAN Members

March 2021 is the last month of the UKAN Grant. Despite the turbulent 2020 UKAN has been successful in terms of continuing to build the critical mass and bringing together the acoustics research community in the UK and overseas. As per the 31 of March we have 1226 members and this number is growing weekly. The EPSRC ResearchFish submission data (as per the 11 of March 2021) suggest that since the start of this Grant in November 2017 we organised 171 engagement activities, build 21 new collaborations and partnerships, supported 26 successful research grant applications, 28 research publications and 15 artistic and creative products.

Despite the impact of the pandemic on our society, UKAN adapted well to the Covid-19 situation by setting up an extensive programme of virtual webinars and workshops. Since the start of the lockdown in March 2020 there were around 130 UKAN events with a combined attendance of roughly 7,000 people and average attendance at each event of 46. These data suggest that virtual events are a powerful means for the Network: connecting people in the UK and from overseas; and keeping research active. This mode will not completely replace the face-to-face meetings, but we will continue to use our webinars to reach out as widely as possible after the end of the lockdown in the UK this summer.

You may wish to read the full ResearchFish document [here](#). Do not hesitate to write to us if anything is missing from this document or incorrect. This information will be updated/corrected next March.

Transition to UKAN+

The transition from UKAN to UKAN+ will be reasonably straightforward. The old UKAN Grant finishes on the 31st of March 2021 and new Grant starts on the 1st of April 2021. The aims and objectives

for UKAN+ Grant can be found in this [case for support](#). We appointed the UKAN+ Network Manager, Zoë Hunter (see photo below), commencing with the project on the 1st of April 2021. Zoë can be contacted via her new email address: z.hunter@acoustics.ac.uk. Zoë's main responsibilities will be to deal with daily UKAN+ matters, support the calls for, awards of and reports on the pilot projects which UKAN+ will fund over the next 4 years. She is appointed at 80% FTE.



Charlotte Swain will continue to support outreach. She is working closely with Trevor Cox at the University of Salford who is the UKAN+ Champion for Outreach and Public Engagement. We would like to thank Charlotte for her important role in helping us to build up UKAN from scratch, supporting SIGs and for keeping the Network going during its first three years.

Call for Public Engagement Champions

We are still seeking for two Early Career Acousticians (ECA) to help develop UKAN+'s strategic vision for public engagement (PE). One based in industry and another in a university. The two ECAs could carry out

this role as a job share. The successful applicants will benefit from training in best practice in PE and be at the forefront of developing a more strategic and impactful approach to PE for Acoustics. “Early Career Person” can be defined as relating to a maximum of four years’ academic research experience following the completion of the PhD, or equivalent professional training, or involving working on a PhD. However, we encourage applications from all individuals who consider themselves to be early in their career. There are no restrictions on age. Please volunteer for a one-year term, with the possibility of an extension. For more details and to apply please click [here](#). Any questions about the form/selection process please send to Trevor Cox at engagement@acoustics.ac.uk. The deadline is the 30th of April 2021.

Events

March 2021 was a pretty busy month in terms of the number of UKAN-supported events (9 events in total!). We would like to thank all the speakers/organisers. In particular, we would like to thank our members who set up the Software Carpentry Workshop (1-5 March) which was a full-house event covering the basics of Shell, Python and Git. It was organised by our Computational Acoustics SIG in collaboration with the [Software Sustainability Institute](#) in response to the outcomes of an earlier workshop in July 2020, which identified a need in the community for training on basic skills in open source software tools. It was very well received. UKAN+ are also organising a Computational Acoustics Summer School that will run on the 5–9th of July 2021. More details on this to follow or contact Amelia Gully: amelia.gully@york.ac.uk.

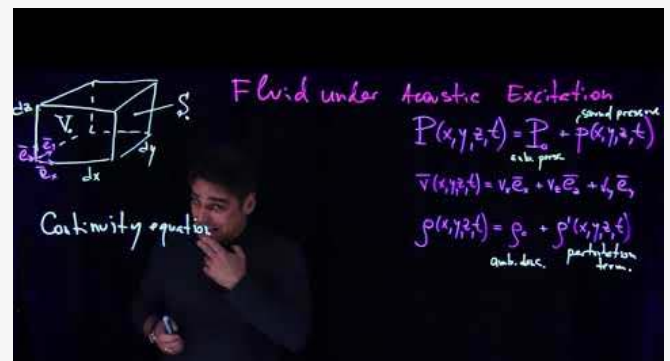
April will be another busy month for UKAN+ virtual events. Check out [here](#) what is going on. Please do not forget to sign in for the events you wish to attend. Usually we do this via Eventbrite for cybersecurity reasons. We invite volunteers to present their work. Interested? Please write to info@acoustics.ac.uk.

We would like to remind the organisers to record their webinars and to get in touch with us on info@acoustics.ac.uk to arrange uploading webinar

videos and slides on UKAN Google Drive folder [here](#). This folder contains a rich collection of past webinar recordings available to all UKAN members.

Improve your audience experience Learning Glass

COVID-19 has had a profound effect on how we engage with each other, online learning is no exception. In a bid to simulate talking face-to-face, Learning Glass is a powerful technology, which enables your viewers to learn from you as if you were in the same room. A fabulous resource available to all UKAN Members. We have 2 kits available at Sheffield. See an example of them in action below.



This technology enables you to write on a 60” glass between you and the camera as you would on a whiteboard. The camera flips the image so anyone watching you speak sees the same thing you do and you maintain eye contact with your audience, maintaining great audio etc. The University of Sheffield can provide you with support to set up, record and to edit your talk.

Information webinars are now available to people to develop new skills and awareness of all the “how to” and applications for incorporating Learning Glass in films. Book [here](#) for the free, weekly tutorial webinars that are run from California every Wednesday at 12:00 PM in Pacific Time (8 hours behind the UK).

You can also join the [Youtube channel](#) to learn more about communicating on-line and via films using the game changing Learning Glass/eGlass, to ask your questions and learn more about sharing/promoting your work with different audiences.

FfYM Call for Science Mentor Volunteers

Your help is needed to showcase acoustics and to support children to grow as scientists!

UKAN has won permission to publish 25 articles in the Special Frontiers for Young Minds (FfYM) [World of Sound Collection](#) to commemorate the International Year of Sound 2020-2021. All articles submitted to FfYM are peer-reviewed by Young Reviewers (aged 8 – 15) who, in turn, are assisted by Science Mentors.

This is where you come in: "*Science Mentors typically introduce their Young Reviewers to the concept of peer review, assist them in navigating through a cutting-edge science manuscript, and empower them as young experts to provide feedback to authors about communicating science to their peers.*" Review is likely to begin in May 2021. Articles are currently being written for publication from 1st of May and will continue as they are submitted. We need 10 more Mentor Volunteers. Please volunteer and contact charlotte.swain@acoustics.ac.uk by the 1st of May.

WOMAD Festival 2021

The World of Music, Art and Dance ([WOMAD](#)) Festival 2021) plans to celebrate the International Year of Sound 2020/21 by offering Public Engagement/Outreach opportunities to deliver workshops, talks or both in their [Physics Pavilion](#).

The workshops are usually for small groups (max 40), the talks are approximately 40 minutes in a tent that holds about 200. There is also a walk-by 'discovery zone' for shorter interactions. Please be in touch with Charlotte Swain via engagement@acoustics.ac.uk if you wish your company or research group to present to this diverse audience. The Physics Pavilion is led by Roger Jones, Lancaster University/CERN/IOP. Winchester Science Centre can loan kit for the walk-by 'discovery zone'.

Hearing Conservation Association Membership Invitation (UKHCA)

We would like to invite any UKAN members who are interested in hearing and hearing conservation to join a group of like-minded, passionate individuals and

organisations. Hearing Conservation Association Membership Invitation (UKHCA) is on a mission to conserve hearing and impact the prevalence of preventable hearing health conditions. This membership is free for students and there is a small annual fee for other individual and organisations. More details on how to join is [here](#).

New grants related to acoustics

Last month there have been good news on many successful grant bids related to acoustics. We would like to congratulate Joerg Thaddaeus Albert from the UCL and his team on the new BBSRC grant entitled [Acoustic mating in malaria mosquitoes: From signalling logic to vector control](#) (£507k).

We would also like to congratulate Hansung Kim from the University of Southampton on winning his EPSRC [Grant to study Immersive Audio-Visual 3D Scene Reproduction Using a Single 360 Camera](#) (£257k).

It also come to our attention that a new [Feedback Musicianship Network](#) was funded by the AHRC. The new Network aims to advance our understanding of how to shape the behaviour of complex feedback loops in feedback instruments, and how to design and build instruments which are essentially hybrids, mixing complex signal processing with traditional acoustic luthiery, and electromechanical transducers that link these two domains. We would like to use this opportunity to reach out to the new Network which is led by Chris Kiefer from the University of Sussex.

We would like to congratulate Steven Freear from the University of Leeds and his team who won an impressive £1,553k EPSRC grant to develop new imaging methods for [Transthoracic Ultrasound Coronary Angiography](#).

Finally we would like to congratulate Phil Joseph of the ISVR and his colleagues from Queen Mary University in London and University of Manchester on securing a £1,249k EPSRC grant to work on [Surface Treatment for Next Generation Quiet Aerofoils](#).

Well done for the future of acoustics in the UK!

Stay well

Kirill Horoshenkov and Richard Craster