

Hello everybody,

Welcome to OUBT's first newsletter! We hope you are all safe and well in these times of great uncertainty. We will be bringing you biweekly biotech news and opportunities from the Oxford ecosystem as well as from around the world.

Another big piece of news is that **applications for our new committee will be closing at the end of this week**. If you would like to get involved, please email stefan.leape@new.ox.ac.uk with a brief paragraph on your background and why you would like to join the society. See the end of the email for more detail on the roles available.

Best wishes and take care,
Natasha Cooke
OUBT Communications manager

1. News

- Oxford group app Crowdless

An app call Crowdless has been produced by a group including an Oxford post-graduate helps people shop for essential provisions whilst minimising their interactions with others, reducing the risk of contracting coronavirus. <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-04-27-oxford-app-helps-avoid-lockdown-crowds> This venture has been supported by the Oxford Foundry's COVID-19 action plan. To see what other ventures the Foundry has been supporting and how you can get involved, have a look at their plan: <https://www.oxfordfoundry.ox.ac.uk/oxfo-ventures-responding-covid-19>

-Vaccine trials

Human trials have begun in Oxford for the vaccine being produced by the Jenner Institute. Volunteers have begun the testing process right here in Oxford. They have partnered with AstraZeneca to allow for large scale up of production and distribution in the future: <https://www.astrazeneca.com/media-centre/press-releases/2020/astrazeneca-and-oxford-university-announce-landmark-agreement-for-covid-19-vaccine.html> The scientific community and the world will be watching their progress in hope.

-Non-coronavirus news

If your brain is already full of coronavirus news, take a look at this article about the possibilities or potential dangers of using computer microchips in the brain: <https://synbiobeta.com/the-data-organ-paradromics-ceo-matt-angle-on-the-future-of-the-brain-computer-interface/>.

2. Jobs and internships

-Micro internships

Oxford's micro-internship programme is going virtual this term with a huge variety of industries and roles which you can add to your CV if your internships or other summer plans have been cancelled. It might even be an unexpected opportunity to try out a new industry. See what opportunities are out there here: <https://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/micro-internships/>

-COVID-19 opportunities

80,000 hours has a long list of jobs and volunteer opportunities to get involved in the fight against coronavirus whether you're a molecular biology or a policy analyst. Take a look here: <https://80000hours.org/covid-19/#work-on-covid-19>

-Finally, a reminder to apply to our committee!

We are looking for new committee members for 2020 - 2021! Join to help us start important conversations on the role of biotech in the post-COVID-19 future. We are looking for a variety of different roles, but please get in touch even if you aren't quite sure which one is right for you!

Roles

- Joint secretary and treasurer role
 - Run the society's operations
 - Be the official university liaison
 - Set agenda for committee meetings
 - Manage the society's finances
 - Create the annual budget
 - Manage transfers and keep accounts up to date
- Sponsorship officer
 - Secure the funding needed to run the society. This involves
 - Maintaining relationships with existing sponsors, including with key partners such as the Oxford Foundry
 - Forge new relationships with organisations that may want to support us
 - Apply for society grant funding
- General committee
 - Focus on organising and running events
- Society Rep
 - Low-commitment role focused on helping us advertise our events to different parts of the Oxford community
 - Involves e.g. putting a message in your year/subject group chat, posting on your Facebook/LinkedIn, putting a poster up on the department noticeboard

Please send in a short paragraph giving some background on yourself and why you want to get involved to stefan.leape@new.ox.ac.uk. Again, I'm more than happy just to chat if you know you'd like to get involved, but are not quite sure how!