



IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: August 2024

Welcome to the summer edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter. Hopefully by now you will have experienced a small bit of sunshine this year!

We want to start this newsletter off by saying a big thank you to Jo Maniscalco for all her help with the ECN for the last 18 months whilst she was at the IES/IAQM and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

In other exciting news, our very own Mark Nichols has been invited to join the main IAQM committee. We are all very excited for him and wish him the best of luck. This unfortunately means he will be scaling back his involvement in the ECN before standing down in November. So, keep your eyes peeled for the opportunity to join the ECN in the near future.

This is what Mark has had to say about his time on the ECN subcommittee:

"I have been on the ECN committee since November 2020, and have thoroughly enjoyed doing my bit to elevate the voice of early career members of the IAQM. In my role as events coordinator, we have successfully delivered a range of interesting and topical online webinars, CPD workshops and events, having most recently hosted the Met Office field trip, which was a resounding success.

I am thrilled to be recognised for my contributions and to now step up to the main committee, where I will endeavour to strengthen the links between the early career membership and main body, as well as championing opportunities for greater involvement in some of the IAQM's other main workstreams".

To further highlight the importance of the ECN, here is what the IAQM chair Chris Rush had to say:

"The ECN is an invaluable part of the IAQM!

As a profession, how we support our EC members, the opportunities they are provided with, and how they can contribute are crucial in helping our profession progress. I myself was part of the ECN when I first joined the IAQM and found it a great way to engage with other AQ professionals and grow my network and skills.

Our current ECN is moving from strength to strength – providing opportunities across the range from site visits to informal networking evenings. Alongside the work that the network runs – they are also actively involved in collaborating with other components of IAQM – like providing fantastic presentations at our annual flagship event – Routes to Clean Air. The Ian McCrae award was set up to help acknowledge our people working in this area. Moving forward, I see the ECN further enriching our work at the IAQM and what we can provide to our membership and wider air quality community.

I would like to thank all those who have and continue to provide their time and energy in delivering our ECN".

Upcoming Events



Ian McCrae Award

The question for the 2024 Ian McCrae Award has been chosen:

"Given the links between good air and good health, how can we make wider society understand the importance of air quality improvement? What can those working in the air quality discipline do to improve its messaging so people are prepared to change their own behaviours?"

Make sure you enter for a chance to win free entry to both days of Routes to Clean Air, the coveted Ian McCrae Award trophy, and a dedicated IAQM and IES news story.

To enter, submit an essay of maximum 650 words answering the above question to Amy Bond at communities@the-ies.org by 12pm BST Sunday 15th September.

The award is presented in honour of Dr Ian McCrae, a well-respected air quality practitioner who made significant contributions to the understanding of emissions from transport and links with air quality.

Last year's winner was [Yi Zhang](#) from Buro Happold whilst 2022's winner was [Julian Mann](#), from AECOM.



Routes to Clean Air conference

The annual IAQM Routes to Clean Air conference is being held in Birmingham on the 22nd and 23rd October.

After the huge success last year with having two ECN member spots, we are providing an ECN slot between 1pm and 3:30pm on Wednesday 23rd October for three of our members.

In addition to speakers, we are also interested in someone from the ECN chairing the session. If you are interested in chairing or presenting, please send an abstract/presentation to communities@the-ies.org.

[Register for the conference](#)

Competency Framework Workshop

For our next event, we are planning on holding a workshop on the new IAQM membership competency framework. This event is due to be in person and held in the Autumn so keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon.

Previous Events



Met Office field trip

On Tuesday 21st May we co-hosted our first ever field trip at the Met Office Headquarters in Exeter. The event started with a networking lunch at the Met Office café, and then our attendees heard about the work that the Met Office air quality modelling team does, including providing the UK's air quality forecast, and saw a demonstration of some of the novel tools they have developed to evaluate their model output.

There were some really interesting talks and poster presentations on topics ranging from the Air Quality Forecast to innovative pollen modelling, and a preview of a new data portal which may be of use to the sector in the near future. The highlight had to be the tour of the ops centre, however, offering delegates the unique opportunity to learn more about the full suite of Met Office forecasting capabilities, from flood risk to wildfires, volcanic eruptions to northern lights.

IAQM Early Careers Network Webinar: Navigating Odour Assessment

The most recent ECN event we held was the [Navigating Odour Assessment – Updated IAQM Guidance and ECN Case Studies webinar](#), which was held on Tuesday 25th June and was expertly chaired by our very own Davide Pascarella who stepped in last minute to cover an illness.

The webinar featured three brilliantly delivered and interesting ECN case studies:

- Qualitative Odour Assessment Techniques and the Public Inquiry Process: Arlishia Scarpa, Wardell Armstrong LLP;

- Highlighting the importance of olfactometry in odour measurement against chemical testing and chemical sensors: Patrick Harland, Ricardo; and

- Case study for the proposed Guinness Brewery in Covent Garden: George Bratchel, Air Pollution Services.

These were followed by a presentation on the update of the odour guidance by Laurence Caird of Air Quality Consultants Ltd, who is also Co-Chair of the IAQM working group.

If you wish to watch the webinar back or experience it for the first time, it is available [here on the IES YouTube Page](#).

Interesting Reads

Air pollution harms pollinators more than pests

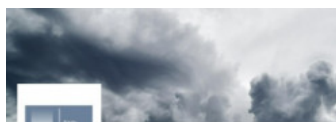
A study from the University of Reading has found that pollinators such as bees and other beneficial bugs are disproportionately harmed by air pollution compared to crop-destroying pests. They made this discovery after analysing data from 120 scientific papers to understand how 40 types of insects in 19 countries respond to pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen (NOX), ozone (O3), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and particulate matter.

[Read the study](#)

Air pollution and IVF

An Australian study found that exposure to particulate matter can decrease the chance of a live birth after IVF treatment by around 40%. This relationship was noticed even in areas where the air quality is generally considered to be good.

[Read the study](#)



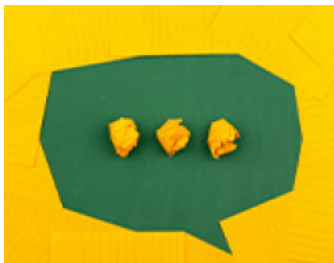
IAQM - Early Career Network

Listed group

Join us on LinkedIn

Please make sure to join our [LinkedIn group](#)! This is the place where we will be actively sharing content and promoting discussion on a wide range of topics. Hopefully, we can build our very own air quality community.

As members, feel free to also post any questions or interesting pieces of information you may come across into the group.



Have your say

There are a range of ways you can have your say and get involved. For example, we are always keen to receive feedback and suggestions on future topics.

If you wish to write a case study or blog about air quality, feel free to share it with us and we will highlight it in our next newsletter. It's a great chance to get your name out there in the air quality community!

Contact us at communities@the-ies.org.

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