



show us you mean business





PLATINUM SPONSOR

























£5,000 PRIZE!

Pitch your business plan to industry experts at the competition final in March 2021

2021 TEAM REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!

Register your team at www.soci.org/BrightSCIdea



20 Bright SCIdea CHALLENGE

show us you mean business

- Enter in teams of 3-4 university students
- Show us your concept for a compelling scientific product or service
- Access exclusive business training materials
- Develop a business plan to commercialise your innovation







The Spring 2021 programme is now open!

Develop and share skills, boost personal and professional development, make new connections – join SCI's Mentoring Programme today!

SCI is committed to facilitating knowledge exchange, networking and learning through a range of products and services. Members' careers are supported through training, development, and employment opportunities.

The SCI Mentoring Programme is designed to match eligible early career members with a mentor who will help them to address specific goals or challenges in their professional development. Please see the website for more information on how to register your interest: bit.ly/SCImentoring

Training Sessions

- Training is provided to all participants to ensure maximum effectiveness
- Mentors and mentees each complete training before being matched
- Spring training sessions to be announced



Benefits of the SCI Programme

- Develop skills and experience over the course of a 12 month partnership
- Increase opportunities for your personal and professional development
- Open the door to new connections and expand your network
- SCI will provide training and support for all participants

Mentor Benefits

- Share your knowledge
- Leave a lasting impact on your mentee
- Gain new perspectives

Mentee Benefits

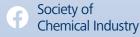
- Further your goals
- Get insight into career options
- Gain confidence

CONTACT

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@SClupdate







Bright SCIdea Competition

SCI's Bright SCIdea Challenge is an annual entrepreneurial competition which allows UK and ROI students to develop and showcase their business skills. The Bright SCIdea challenge asks students to develop a plausible scientific concept that could be commercialised for the benefit of society. University teams receive free, accredited business planning training and are asked to submit a full business plan, detailing how their idea can be taken to market. Shortlisted teams are invited to pitch their idea to a panel of experts at the final to win a significant cash prize.

The first Bright SCIdea challenge took place in March 2018 and since has seen winners go on to launch companies and take their products to market. Durham University's Plastech Innovation won the 2019 Bright SCIdea challenge with their pitch for a new method of processing waste plastic into aggregates for use in construction materials. The year before, Glucoguard from UCL won with their pitch for genetically modified bacterium for treatment of pre- and type II diabetes.

To see this year's finalists and a summary of their scientific business ideas, please go to page 8. If you have a scientific idea, product or service that you think would impress our expert panel, register your team now for the Bright SCIdea 2021 competition via the Bright SCIdea homepage: www.soci.org/careers-support/bright-scidea



Programme

14:00	Welcome and introduction to SCI and the challenge Sharon Todd, Chief Executive Officer, SCI
14:10	SCIdea Challenge - a winner's perspective Natasha Boulding, CEO and Co-Founder, Plastech Innovation
14:20	Pitches from 5 teams AATBox, UCL BioUnite, University of Sheffield CatchMaps, Cranfield University, University of Reading Metallogen, UCL QMUL, Queen Mary University of London
15:10	From bench-top to board room; my personal reflections of starting and building a tech company Paul Colbon, Chief Executive Officer, Liverpool Chirochem
15:10	Judges' deliberation
15:30	Results
15:35	Final remarks and close Sharon Todd, Chief Executive Officer, SCI



The chairperson and speakers



Sharon Todd Chief Executive Officer, SCI



Having worked in the chemical industry for over 25 years, from global corporations to start-ups, Sharon is a widely experienced senior executive. After studying chemistry at the University of Southampton, she moved into business management, and has received diplomas from both the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Institute of Directors. Sharon has been involved with a number of industry trade associations, including the Chemical Industries Association, and, as well as her role as CEO of SCI, she is currently a Non-Executive Director of Chemicals Northwest, an industry-led chemical cluster support organisation for the £10 billion NorthWest chemical sector – the largest in the UK.



Paul Colbon Chief Executive Officer, Liverpool Chirochem



Paul carried out his MChem degree at the University of Liverpool, and stayed on to receive an Industrial CASE award PhD with AstraZeneca in the Xiao group. After 2 years as a medicinal chemist at Redx Pharma, Paul reunited with the Xiao group and cofounded LCC (Liverpool ChiroChem) in 2014. LCC is now an international CRO (Contract Research Organisation) with teams in the UK and China, serving an international customer base to accelerate small-molecule drug discovery.



Natasha Boulding Chief Executive Officer, Plastech Innovation



Natasha is the co-founder and chief executive of Plastech Innovation - last year's winning team. After earning her degree from the University of Warwick in 2015, she went on to study for her PhD in Polymer Chemistry at Durham University. She entered the world of business in 2019 to follow a passion for sustainability and innovation. Plastech's mission is to simultaneously reduce plastic pollution and sand use by transforming waste plastic into a sand replacement for concrete. Its patent-pending process allows for the manufacture of lightweight, thermally insulating and sound-reducing concrete. The business has gained recognition both nationally and internationally.

Meet the panel







Robin Harrison Vice President Technology Platforms, Synthomer



Robin Harrison is VP Technology Platforms & External Innovation for Synthomer, one of the world's foremost suppliers of aqueous and speciality polymers. Synthomer helps its customers create new tailored solutions and enhance performance of existing products in key industries such as coatings, construction, textiles, paper and synthetic latex gloves. Robin role is to define and execute Synthomer's strategic platform innovation activities through internal programs and collaborative partnerships. Robin has over 25 years research and development experience in the chemical sector, specialising in polymer and resin chemistry, developing industrially relevant systems for a wide range of application areas. This background alongside his current role enables him to work at the interface of science with industry, whilst still being heavily involved in industrial innovation of chemical products.

Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne Founder, Genius Foods



After struggling to find quality alternative bread for her gluten-intolerant son, Lucinda, a professional chef who studied physiology at university, founded Genius Foods in 2009 with her gluten-free bread. First sold in Tesco, Genius bread is now the UK's leading 'free-from' bakery and is sold across Europe and in Australia. Lucinda has won numerous awards for her work at Genius Foods, including the Ernst & Young UK Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year 2012. The company has also been named as one of the Top 50 most valued Scottish brands.

Victor ChristouHead of Growth, YFM Equity Partners



Victor has spent the last 25 years building technology companies as both a founder and investor. He is a Partner at YFM Equity Partners where he is responsible for the growth companies in the portfolio. Prior to joining YFM, Victor was CEO of Cambridge Innovation Capital where he built up the team and portfolio, as well as being responsible for investments in CMR Surgical and Pragmatic Printing. Before that, Victor founded Opsys, an organic electronics business, which he and the team sold to Cambridge Display Technology in 2002. Victor has a PhD in Chemistry from Imperial College, London and was a Sloan Fellow at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. He began his career as an academic at the University of Oxford, where he was a Royal Society University Research Fellow. Victor was the Royal Society of Chemistry Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002.





All About the Box (AATBox), UCL

Why did you enter the Bright SCIdea Challenge?

Our reasons to participate are intertwined like Russian dolls. We believe at AATBox that we cannot implement a solution to pressing issues of packaging without an understanding of the entrepreneurship required. The competition allowed us to broaden our chemical horizons and apply the interdisciplinary nature of our university courses in a commercial context. Finally, with it being a tangible project, it allows us to engage other people to help us and work with us along this journey. Ultimately, we hope to improve the image of the chemical industry in the eyes of the public through this competition.

Describe your service in one line

The box that boxes the waste! - Futuristic, Ethical and Adaptable packaging Technology







BioUnite, University of Sheffield

Why did you enter the Bright SCIdea Challenge?

We have been designing a business idea throughout our PhD's after noticing a gap in the market for a University linked biological testing facility. We decided to enter the Bright SCIdea challenge, as we feel that the advice and guidance we will receive from pitching the idea to industry experts, will prove invaluable in the development of our business model into a functioning service for our target market. We were attracted to the training which aided us in building a business plan and also the opportunity to gain experience delivering a business pitch to experts in the field.

Describe your service in one line

We will provide an easily accessible antimicrobial and anticancer drug screening facility, offering services from simple activity assays through to an in vivo invertebrate model, with discounted rates for University research groups to help them identify therapeutic leads.











CatchMaps, Cranfield University, University of Reading

Why did you enter the Bright SCIdea Challenge?

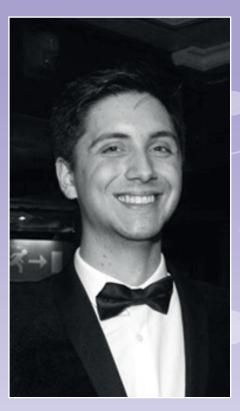
We entered this competition because we believe in our idea and want to make it happen. For an early-stage start-up, every competition is important ad so are the challenges presented. Every opportunity to make us think of the business side is an opportunity to help us build a successful start-up. This specific competition is also very interesting as it presents us with several training opportunities and feedback from experience entrepreneurs. The networking and visibility of the competition are also a big attraction and will allow us to push our idea into reality.

Describe your service in one line

Catchmaps is a decision-making support tool that will help and empower farms to make the most from their non-cropped areas of land.

LUCL





Metallogen, UCL

Why did you enter the Bright SCIdea Challenge?

As a team of aspiring scientists, we all have a deep interest in scientific innovation and its applications to modern issues. The Bright SCIdea challenge is the perfect opportunity to showcase our passion for sustainability and addressing serious global concerns. We hope not only to develop our skills in pitching scientific ideas but also to raise awareness of the strain on agriculture globally.

Describe your service in one line

Metallogen plans to restore the fertility of heavy metal ion rich farmland by the process of nanoparticle-assisted phytoremediation, and subsequently isolating these extracted rare metals to be sold on the market.





QMUL, Queen Mary University of London

Why did you enter the Bright SCIdea Challenge?

We entered the challenge to make scientific connections and to gather funding for our project.

Describe your service in one line

New solar panel which works even at night!

Sponsor and supporters

We thank our Platinum Sponsor Synthomer



www.synthomer.com

Thank you to our supporters

























2020 SCI COLLEGE OF SCHOLARS' DAY

Organised by SCI's Early Careers Committee

This SCI member event is aimed at undergraduates and PhD students who are looking to build skills for their future career. SCI membership offers a host of opportunities to develop interpersonal, professional and technical competencies. This event will allow delegates to learn from the experience of others, and to take part in practical exercises and activities to strengthen their CV.

Register by visiting: www.soci.org/events/sci-college-of-scholars-day-2020

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WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Combating Antimicrobial-resistant Bacteria using Predatory Bdellovibrio

Speaker - Professor Liz Sockett





Society of Chemical Industry

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