



BioImagingUK – an update

Georgina Fletcher

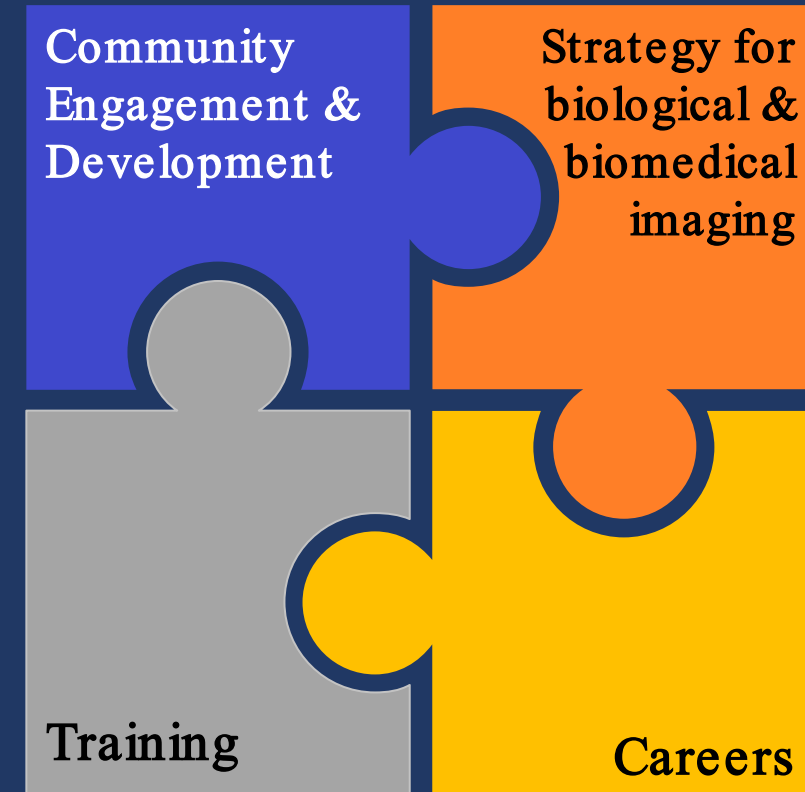
BioImagingUK Project Officer and EuBI UK Node Manager

mmc2025, Manchester Central, 30 June 2025

An Overview of BioImagingUK



- BioImagingUK is an **open network of UK-based scientists that develop, use, or administer imaging solutions for life sciences research**
- Aim to improve collaboration, communication and training through engagement with researchers, institutions, funders and industry
- Funded until April 2027 by UKRI-BBSRC, -MRC, -EPSRC, in partnership with the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS) and led by Prof. Maddy Parsons at King's



1. **UK Node of Euro-BioImaging** funded until 2030 by UKRI-BBSRC and UKRI-MRC – update from Maddy next
2. Building a **National Imaging Data Stewardship Skills Base** – UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure grant - update from Matthew and team in session 2

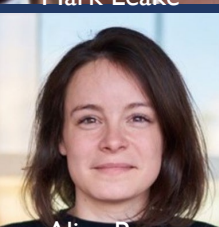
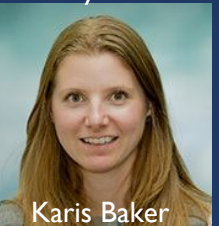
Training & Career Development:



1. BioImagingUK and Physics of Life Network co-awarded BBSRC funding for enhancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in our networks
2. Technical Specialist Job Shadowing Scheme
3. RMS Mentoring and Application Coaching Scheme
4. Relaunch of the Imaging Facility Acknowledgements Guidelines Poster – in >10 languages and many different countries!



Equity and Inclusion of Women, Low-Income Classes and Carers



Common
priority
areas:



Gender
disparity in
oral abstracts



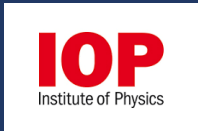
Low-income
backgrounds



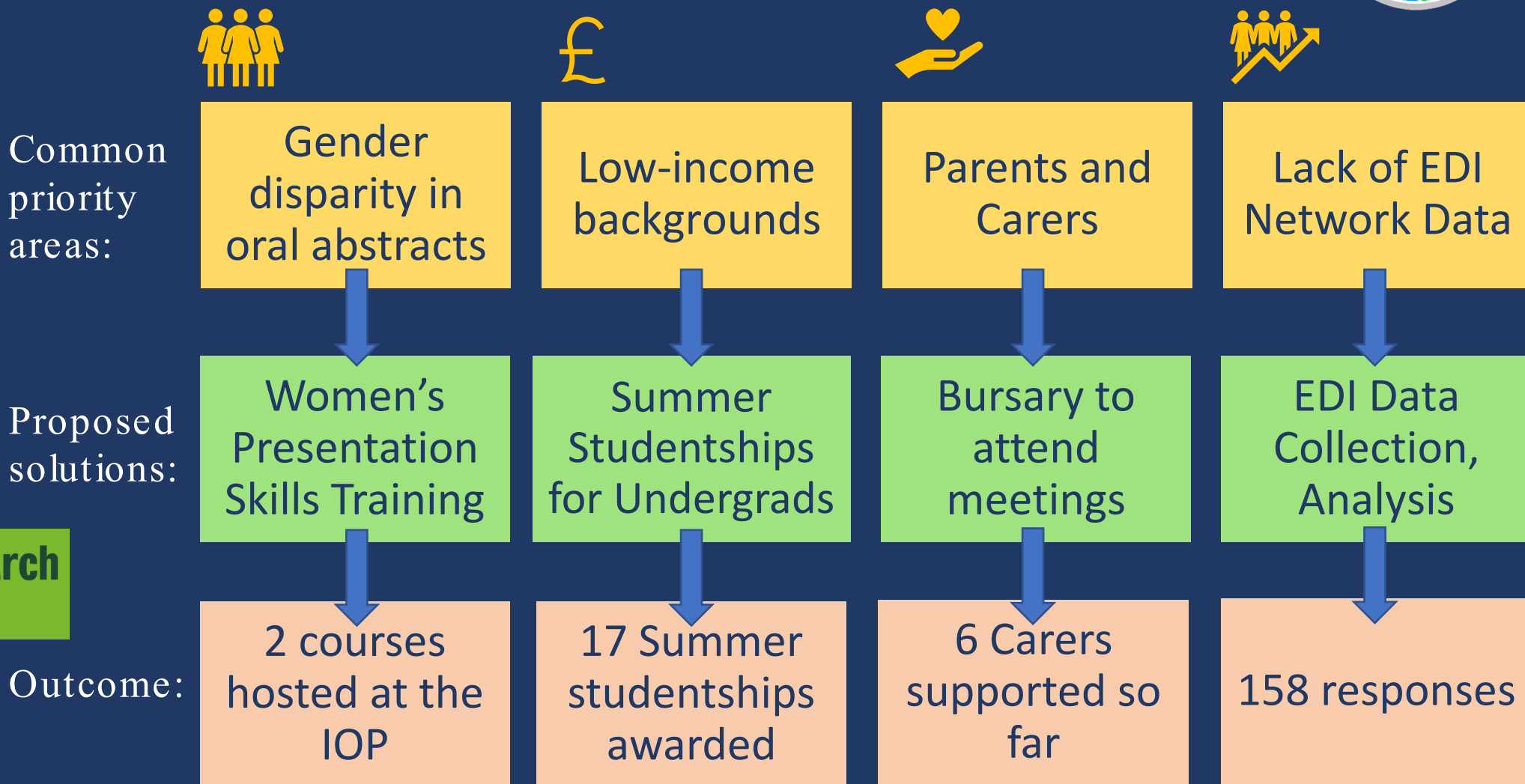
Parents and
Carers



Lack of EDI
Network Data



Equity and Inclusion of Women, Low-Income Classes and Carers



GenerationResearch



EDI Survey of BioImagingUK and Physics of Life Networks



Comprehensive survey of 158 network members across the UK
Conducted by The Equal Group | March - May 2025

158
Survey Responses

28.5 %
Response Rate

1,750 +
Total Network
Members

84.8%
work in Academia

Response rate exceeded typical network engagement (~100 individuals)

Key Demographic Findings



Gender

- 53.8% Men
- 38% Women
- 8.2% Other

Women are under represented compared with academia as a whole (48.7%)



Disability

11.4% declared a disability

Half the national working population rate (24%)



Ethnicity

20.1% minoritised ethnic backgrounds

Aligns with UK workforce data



Class

Predominantly middle/upper-middle class

Low representation from economically disadvantaged backgrounds

Culture & Community Insights

71.5%



Feel a sense
of belonging

68.9%



Feel
comfortable
discussing
EDI

74%



Think we promote fair
treatment of
all members
regardless of diversity

Concern:

Some reported instances of bullying and inappropriate behaviour based on protected characteristics

High Priority Recommendations



Data-Driven Impact Dashboard

Create standardised EDI metrics with transparent reporting to demonstrate accountability and track progress

01



Diversify Speaker Representation

Implement structured diversity framework with clear targets for conference speakers and trainers

04



Address Behaviours and Create Safe Spaces

Implement EDI training and zero-tolerance policies for bias, bullying, and exclusionary behaviours

02



Improve Accessibility

Mandate hybrid formats, provide closed captions, and ensure inclusive language across all events

05



Proactive Community Engagement

Reach out to less engaged members, especially underrepresented groups

03



Remove Structural Barriers

Expand financial support, including grants for caregivers and students from low-income backgrounds

06

Training & Career Development:



1. BBSRC funding for enhancing EDI

2. **Technical Specialist Job Shadowing Scheme**

- Applications are open now until
31 August 2025!



3. RMS Mentoring and Application Coaching Scheme

4. Relaunch of the Imaging Facility Acknowledgements Guidelines Poster



Training & Career Development:



1. BBSRC funding for enhancing EDI
2. Technical Specialist Job Shadowing Scheme
3. RMS Mentoring and Application Coaching Scheme
www.rms.org.uk/mentoring

Inviting mentors and mentees for the next round
(closes on 31 Jan and 31 July each year)



4. Relaunch of the Imaging Facility Acknowledgements Guidelines Poster

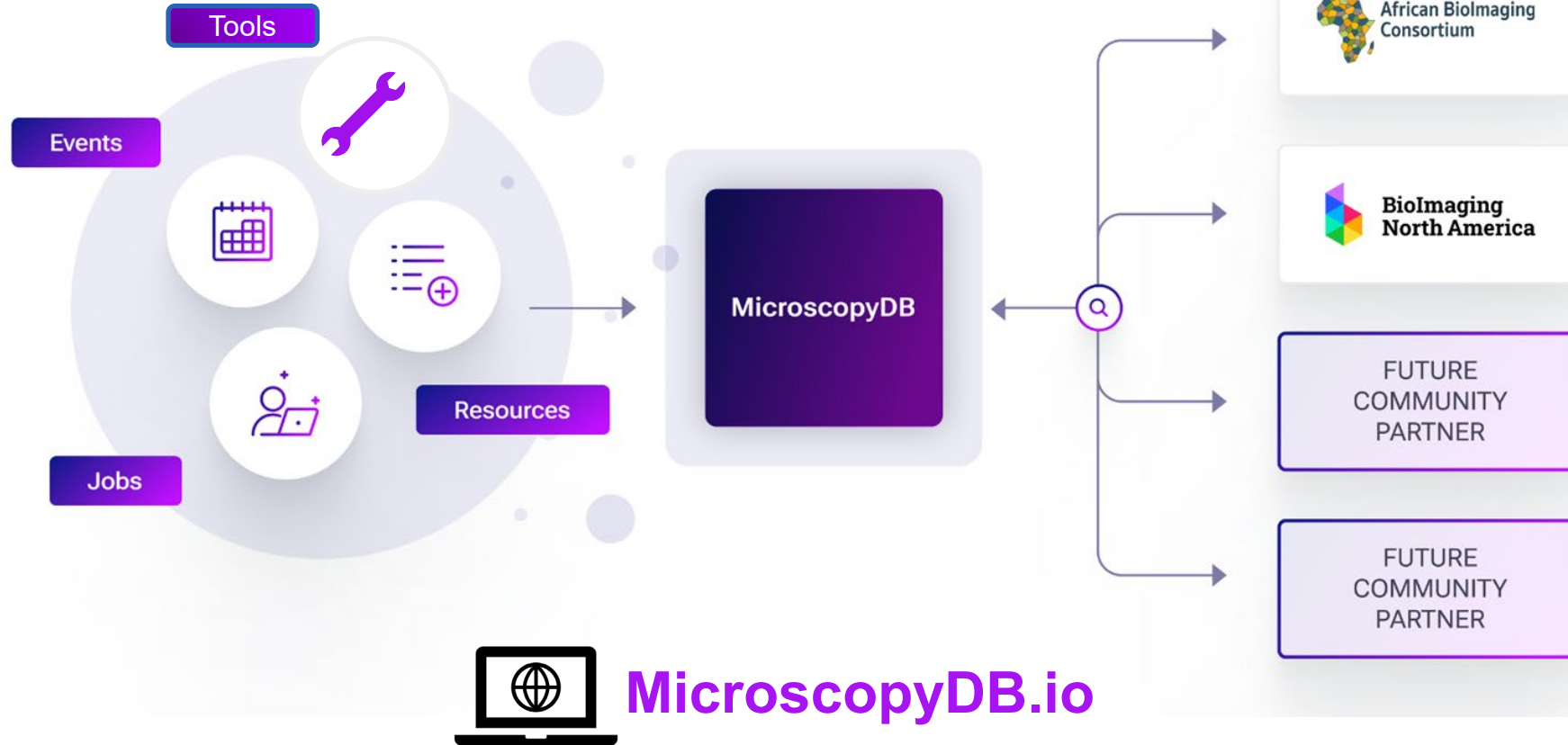
Community Engagement & Development:



MicroscopyDB -
www.microscopydb.io

A place to upload resources, jobs, events and tools for automatic wider dissemination

MicroscopyDB



MicroscopyDB.io



contact@microscopydb.io



[@MicroscopyDB](https://twitter.com/MicroscopyDB)

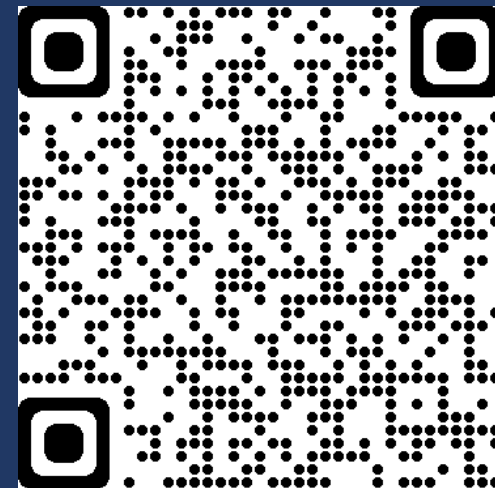


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Ways to get involved in the Network:

1. Contact me directly: georgina@rms.org.uk
2. JISC Mailing List (UK-EUROBIOIMAGING-PROJECT):
3. Webpage: www.rms.org.uk/bioimaginguk
4. X/ BlueSky @BioImagingUK
5.  BioImagingUK
6.  Slack (email me for invite)



Thanks to



Maddy Parsons, Kurt Anderson, Nick Anthony, Karis Baker, Alex Ball, Mike Ball, Dave Barry, Nick Barry, Alison Beckett, Lee Beniston, Nikki Bialy, Johanna Bischof, Pete Bankhead, Carles Bosch, Claire Brown, Anwen Bullen, Jemima Burden, Heather Burgess, Jean-Marie Burel, Leo Carlin, Camille Charoy, Cheng Cheng, Alessandro Cicarelli, Dave Clarke, Lucy Collinson, Carlos Constantino Reyes, Susan Cox, Siân Culley, Michelle Darrow, Nandita deSousa, Scott Dillon, Maria Diaz de la Loza, Liz Duke, Rocco D'Antuono, Alessandro Esposito, Todd Fallesen, Roland Fleck, Paul French, David Gaboriau, Vlad Ghukasyan, Patricia Goggin, Joëlle Goulding, Michael Grange, Gleb Grebnev, Nadia Halidi, Matthew Hartley, Pippa Hawes, Tim Hawkins, Daniela Hensen, Dylan Herzog, Simon Hettrick, Ken Ho, Louise Howitt, Phil Hubbard, Louise Hughes, Oliver Huxley, Martin Jones, Fatwa Joud, Emma Karoune, Antje Keppler, Gerard Kleywegt, Nicola Lawrence, Robert Lees, Leandro Lemgruber, Pedro Machado, Kevin Mackenzie, Marco Marcello, Stefania Marcotti, Marisa Martin-Fernandez, Emma McDermott, Rowan McKibbin, Carina Monico, Alex Morrell, Dale Moulding, Kedar Narayan, Chas Nelson, Alison North, Vanessa Orr, Mario Ortega, Peter O'Toole, Federica Paina, Maddy Parsons, Chris Peddie, Michelle Peckham, Marianna Poli, Harish Poptani, Kirti Prakash, Fabrice Prin, Alice Pyne, Nadine Randal, Stefanie Reichelt, Yara Reis, Liam Rooney, Matt Russell, Beccy Saleeb, Tim Self, Violaine See, Tim Shuttleworth, Katie Smith, Daniel Soong, Alex Sossick, Natasha Stephen, Adam Staines, Jason Swedlow, Jonathan Taylor, Rebecca Thompson, Chris Toseland, Jessica Valli, Sue Vaughan, Kelly de Vere, Paul Verkade, Dominic Waithe, Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters, Ann Wheeler, Sophie Winter, Charlie Wood, Helen Zenner, and all the RMS team ☺

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