

BioProNET member profile

Charlie Campion University of Manchester



Charlie is a PhD student at the University of Manchester, working on Industrial Case studentship investigating the effect of oxidation on the immunogenicity of protein therapeutics. She is also passionate about public engagement and is a STEM ambassador.

Why did you decide to join BioProNET?

I was recommended BioProNET by colleagues as a good way to keep up-to-date with the current research in my field.

What BioProNET events have you been to?

I've been to several BioProNET annual meetings over the past 4 years, as well as the early career researcher (ECR) event in Brighton in Sept 2016 and the BioProNET-supported Bioprocessing Skills School in September 2017.

What have BioProNET events helped you to achieve?

I've had the opportunity to meet people that I wouldn't have met otherwise, both students and professionals, which is great in itself, but has also helped to improve my confidence when it comes to networking at future events.

What's helped me the most is having my eyes opened to the variety of careers out there for PhDs – we don't have to limit ourselves to research, whether in academia or industry. Sitting down with people currently in those professions, grilling them about how they got there, what skills they'd be looking for in potential employees, how they manage work life balance etc. has been vital!

I've found BioProNET career events really encouraging, as they've often highlighted that we have the skills needed for our future career already, we just need to recognise them and highlight them in job applications.

I've also had opportunities that I wouldn't have got anywhere else; for example practice interviews and CV clinics and being interviewed on camera. I've been able to present data in a more comfortable, relaxed environment.

What one piece of advice would give to other early career researchers?

It would be to get yourself out there-go to as many training sessions/talks/conferences as you can, make the most of these BioProNET conferences which are a great opportunity to network and learn new things!

Anything else that you'd like to add?

I feel really supported by BioProNET as an early career researcher, and it's encouraging to know that the issue of the PhD>PostDoc>PI dropout is being taken seriously, and the network is working hard to encourage ECRs to stay in science, without necessarily staying in academic research.

