

## Teaching Workshop, University of Leeds, January 2011

Dave Lewis, University of Leeds & Sean Roe, Queens University Belfast

Sean Roe (Queens, Belfast) and Dave Lewis (Leeds) organised a very successful teaching workshop in Leeds in January which was attended by 39 delegates from as far afield as Belfast, Dundee and even Nigeria. The day started with a session in which delegates discussed their personal goals in teaching and scholarship and the barriers to achieving these. Goals included career progression, publishing to share your ideas with others and education, both personal and student. However, lack of time, institutional reward and recognition, self confidence (particularly in publishing educational/pedagogical research since the majority of us are trained in scientific rather than educational research) and objective measures of “excellence in teaching and scholarship were perceived as barriers to achieving these goal. Potential solutions were creating your own personal focused teaching and scholarship development plan and sticking to it, finding a teaching and scholarship mentor, building a network of like minded individuals and active participation in teaching specific meetings and workshops.

Session two explored how to develop a teaching and scholarship career with Neil Morris (Leeds) and Judy Harris (Bristol) providing an insight from their own experiences, Steve Maw (UK Centre for Bioscience & Editor, Bioscience Education) giving the journals perspective. Staying with the theme of innovations in learning and teaching, session three was a “swap shop” of 6 short presentations from delegates in which they described innovative learning and teaching practice they had either developed or utilised with Sue Whittle & Sue Bickerdike (Leeds) taking about *“Online resources to help students maximise their learning in practical classes”*, Barbara Cogdell (Glasgow) on *“Peer assessment of Level 3 lab reports”*, Chris Willmott (Leicester) describing an experimental design seminar *“Can you smell fear?”* and Abdul Al Modhefer, Aisling Keane and Etain Tansey (Queens, Belfast) discussing resources to facilitate student integration into University life *“Excellence in Teaching First Year Students: Supporting the transition in learning from school to university”*.

The final session of the day looked at open educational resources (OER), what is available for physiologists and the benefits of sharing and using OERs with Chrissy Stokes (Physiological Society) and David Miller (Glasgow) presenting the Society’s OER repository, PHILTER (<http://www.physoc.org/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=455>) and Terry McAndrew (UK Centre for Bioscience) talking about other OER repositories in the Biosciences and the Centre’s OerBITAL project ([http://heabiowiki.leeds.ac.uk/oerbital/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://heabiowiki.leeds.ac.uk/oerbital/index.php/Main_Page)). The day closed with a networking session in a local pub.