

The BioDocSoc

The BioDocSoc is a committee of postdoctoral research associates (PDRAs) in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) which acts at the interface between School Executives and researchers in the School. The team of eleven PDRAs represent approximately 140 PRDAs at committee meetings across the six Institutes in SBS. It is led by a Chair and advised by the School's Graduate School and Staffing Services Manager and Director of Career Development.

College (where initiative takes place):	College of Science and Engineering
School (where initiative takes place):	School of Biological Sciences
Stakeholders involved in the planning, organisation and execution of the initiative:	Researchers, Managers of Researchers, Staff who support researchers, Research Staff Society and Postgraduate students, and internal and external collaborators.
Webpages:	<p>BioDocSoc website: https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/groups/school-of-biological-sciences-postdoctoral-research/biodocsoc Support for Researchers Leadership Stories: https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/career-development/leadership-stories</p>
Submitted by:	Christine Merrick on behalf of BioDocSoc
Concordat principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & Culture • Employment • Professional & Career Development
Area the Concordat Initiative Supported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment: Research Staff Societies • Environment & Culture: Wellbeing • Environment & Culture: Research Culture • Professional & Career Development: Researcher Visibility • Professional & Career Development: Career Support • Professional & Career Development: Leadership
Stakeholders:	Researchers, Institution, Postgraduate students, and internal and external collaborators contributing towards Concordat principles such as the Institute for Academic Development, Edinburgh Innovations, and the Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance.
Comments:	<p>Members of the BioDocSoc act as Advocates and take responsibility for championing a range of PDRA interests including wellbeing, innovation, teaching, outreach, researcher development, and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). These Advocate roles facilitate consultation and collaboration with School-wide, University-wide, and national organisations (e.g. Principal Investigator Meetings in each SBS Institute, the SBS Industry Engagement Committee, the SBS Learning and Teaching Committee, the SBS EDI Committee, the UoE Concordat Implementation Group, Edinburgh Innovations, and the Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance).</p> <p>Responsibilities of Advocates as well as helpful information related to their roles are recorded in a Runbook which serves as a resource for current and future generations of the committee. On a regular basis, the BioDocSoc consults SBS PDRAs and other key stakeholders and compiles objectives and plans activities</p>

	<p>which are also recorded in the Runbook. Advocates share information and resources with the SBS PDRA community through an online, accessible community space ('SBS Postdocs' on Microsoft Teams), and through monthly events and seminars with invited speakers which are supported by the School.</p>
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