

Agenda

16/07/2026

Understanding the Space Biology Landscape and Identifying Gaps

9:30-9:45	Welcome and Workshop Objectives	<i>Dr. Sofia Ferreira</i> <i>Dr. Katherine Baxter</i>
9:45-11:00	Priorities in Space: Agency Perspectives	
9:45-10:00	ESA	<i>Dr. Rodrigo Coutinho de Almeida</i>
10:00-10:15	NASA	<i>Dr. Christine Johnson</i>
10:15-10:30	UKSA	<i>Elliot Jeffery</i>
10:30-10:45	Space Scotland	<i>Dr. Natasha Nicholson</i>
10:45-11:00	Scottish Government	<i>Suresh Kumar</i>
11:00-11:15	<i>Comfort Break</i>	
11:15-11:45	Understanding the UK Space Sector Ecosystem	
11:15-11:30	UK Space Labs	<i>Dr. Simon Evetts</i>
11:30-11:45	UK Space Trade Association	<i>Charlie Young</i>
11:45-12:45	Academic block 1. Ecology, Plant Biology and Microbiology	
11:45-12:00	Space Biotechnology	<i>Dr. Matt Davey</i>
12:00-12:15	Plant-Microbiome interaction	<i>Dr. Nicholas Brereton</i>
12:15-12:30	Biofilms	<i>Dr. Katherine Baxter</i>
12:30-12:45	Plant Space Biology	<i>Dr. Raul Herranz Barranco</i>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch and Coffee</i>	
14:00-14:45	Panel Discussion: UK Research Funding	<i>UKRI/STFC</i> <i>Dr. Philip Carvil</i> <i>UKRI/BBSRC</i> <i>Dr. Wendy Carr</i>
14:45-15:30	Activity 1: Gap Analysis Discussion to identify scientific, technological, infrastructural and translational gaps across the UK space biology ecosystem: key challenges and bottlenecks.	
15:30-16:15	Activity 2: Mission Roadmapping: from Vision to Mission Scenario-based backcasting activity to define a 2040 vision for UK space biology and identify the capabilities and milestones required to achieve it.	
16:15-16:45	Identifying tensions and voting on key priorities	
16:45-17:00	Summary and reflections	
17:00-18:00	City-centre talking tour (optional)	
18:00	Networking dinner	



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Defining Opportunities and Building the Roadmap

9:30-9:45	<i>Coffee and Recap</i>	<i>Dr. Sofia Ferreira Dr. Katherine Baxter</i>
9:45-11:00	Academic block 2. Ageing, Regeneration and Astropharmacy	
9:45-10:00	Space Musculoskeletal Biology	<i>Dr. Ghada Alsaleh</i>
10:00-10:15	Mechanisms of Ageing and Senescence	<i>Dr. Daniel Muñoz-Espin</i>
10:15-10:30	Regenerative Biology	<i>Dr. Sofia Ferreira</i>
10:30-10:45	Gut Microbiome	<i>Michaela Walsh</i>
10:45-11:00	Women's health	<i>Dr. Varsha Jain</i>
11:00-11:15	<i>Comfort Break</i>	
11:15-12:15	Academics block 3: Synthetic Systems for Space Biology	
11:15-11:30	Multi-OMIC Technologies. SEREN	<i>Dr. Willian Da Silveira</i>
11:30-11:45	Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering	<i>Dr Cinzia Klemm</i>
11:45-12:00	Biomimetic Robots	<i>Dr. Karen Donaldson</i>
12:00-12:15	Astrobiology	<i>Dr. Charles Cockell</i>
12:15-12:30	Microgravity Research	<i>Dr. Sam Healy-Jones</i>
12:30-12:45	The UK Space Industry Landscape	
12:30-12:40	Spinning Around	<i>Alastair Broom</i>
12:40-12:50	Kaiser Space	<i>Ramon Nartallo</i>
12:50-13:00	Star Helix	<i>Mason Robbins</i>
13:30-14:00	<i>Lunch and Coffee</i>	
14:00-14:45	Activity 3: UK Space Biology- Asset Mapping Capturing current research expertise, facilities, industry capabilities and strategic partnerships. <i>WHAT DO WE HAVE?</i>	
14:45-15:45	Activity 4: UK Space Biology- Opportunities Identifying opportunities to leverage UK strengths to address key challenges and create international leadership. <i>WHAT COULD WE DO WITH IT?</i>	
15:45-16:45	Activity 5: UK Space Biology- Roadmap Defining the actions, partnerships and investments needed to build a coordinated UK Space Biology strategy. <i>HOW DO WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?</i>	
16:45-17:00	Summary and reflections	
17:00	Departure	

