

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>
9:45-11:15	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 / DSIT	<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	MHRA	<i>Ian Rees</i>
11:15-11:30	<i>Comfort Break</i>	
11:30-12:00	Understanding the UK Space Sector Ecosystem	
11:30-11:45	UK Space Labs	<i>Dr. Simon Evetts</i>
11:45-12:00	Industry and microgravity research	<i>Charlie Young</i>
12:00-13:00	Academic block 1. Ecology, Plant Biology and Microbiology	
12:00-12:15	Space Biotechnology	<i>Dr. Matt Davey</i>
12:15-12:30	Plant-Microbiome interaction	<i>Dr. Nicholas Brereton</i>
12:30-12:45	Biofilms	<i>Dr. Katherine Baxter</i>
12:45-13:00	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 Dr. Philip Carvil</i> <i>UKRI/BBSRC 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	Coffee and Recap	Dr. Sofia Ferreira Dr. Katherine Baxter
9:45-11:15	Academic block 2. Ageing, Regeneration and Astropharmacy	
9:45-10:00	Space Musculoskeletal Biology	Dr. Ghada Alsaleh
10:00-10:15	Mechanisms of Ageing and Senescence	Dr. Daniel Muñoz-Espin
10:15-10:30	Regenerative Biology	Dr. Sofia Ferreira
10:30-10:45	Gut Microbiome	Michaela Walsh
10:45-11:00	Women's health	Dr. Varsha Jain
11:00-11:15	Space Pharmacology	Karen Barchetti
11:15-11:30	Comfort Break	
11:30-12:45	Academics block 3: Synthetic Systems for Space Biology	
11:30-11:45	Multi-OMIC Technologies. SEREN	Dr. Willian Da Silveira
11:45-12:00	Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering	Dr Cinzia Klemm
12:00-12:15	Biomimetic Robots	Dr. Karen Donaldson
12:15-12:30	Astrobiology	Dr. Charles Cockell
12:30-12:45	Microgravity Research	Dr. Sam Healy-Jones
12:45-13:15	The UK Space Industry Landscape	
12:45-12:55	Spinning Around	Alastair Broom
12:55-13:05	Kayser Space	Ramon Nartallo
13:05-13:15	Star Helix	Mason Robbins
13:15-14:00	Lunch and Coffee	
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	

