OATech November Event 23rd November 2022 Round Table Workshop

Table 1. Has the OATech been valuable? What are the key outputs? What do members believe it has achieved?

- The quality of the connections (connection time at conferences is limited).
- Relevant outcomes bringing a closer understanding of OA.
- The sense of community, events (such as modelathons and training) for ECRs.
- Grant applications, publications, ECR progression/placements, interdisciplinary connections, research grants and collaborations, recommendations for EPSRC influence.
- The identification of challenges and gaps for career and research progression.

Table 2. Do we want to sustain OATech+ and if so what aspects?

- Relationships/network built, research themes, physical meetings.
- The website (after 2023) will need a driver/controller/facilitator and a money sponsor (thought not for much). An industrial sponsorship – maintain information that complies with GDPR. Bone & Joint Research as possible sponsors, possible hosting on BORS website.
- Usage of our resources within other meeting spaces such as BORS/satellite meeting framework.
- Time to establish collaborations, grants, ideas and build on them over time.
- The visibility of people.
- Themes and expertise that can be leveraged for further funding.
- ECR placement opportunities (requires funding, list of hosts and placement disciplines).
- A searchable database for expertise and mentors to help connect ECRs.
- Webinars could be run for free, requiring input from people to organise, host and present.

Table 3. What's the value of OATech+ going forwards? What would help to sustain other initiatives?

- The network has provided opportunity for fresh perspective and exposure for new info.
- Encourage new grants applications to incorporate funds to help support the network sustainability activities.
- Presenting on work that hasn't been funded yet and those ideas shows the level of trust within the network and it's members.
- Running training courses that could generate income being "self-sustainable". More training with equipment and systems from specialist areas. Training opportunities can align with requirements for fellowship and EPSRC grants.
- Experts and mentors as a proof reading/peer review service for grant and fellowship applications tailored in the OA field, providing constructive criticism and feedback?
- Seedcorn funds from other networks that can be used.
- A roadmap of members and their fields of expertise.
- Public engagement activities such as ICORS and patient events.
- Standardisations and recommendations, guidelines (e.g. ethic) and having these things in writing somewhere that is accessible, whether on the website or another public platform.
- A slack channel to aid further connections, a business account costs £9.70 a month, utilised by other volunteer run groups such as International Society of Women in Biomechanics.
- Annual workshops where people pay their own way but is facilitated by someone.
- The training that can be leveraged across the network is substantial.
- The success and outputs from the network can't all be measured now, some of this will be seen in 3-4 years time. A 3-year follow up meeting could be organised to then garner what was achieved within the network.

Table 4. What form should sustainability take?

- Leverage the calibre of keynote speakers that can be brought in from the network with a view towards training and meeting an educational demand.
- The gaps and priorities of the research could be communicated as a joint network/community as it bears more weight with > 150 members.
- Meetings and socials at other conferences.
- European Union Cost Initiative could be a funding source, would make the network more pan-European.
- ECR and Senior academic coupling pre conferences could be beneficial, especially ECRs travelling alone.
- Sub-groups within OATech may find a natural home and could take a couple years to establish this in other networks and societies.