Supporting the Development of Early Career Scientists

Introduction

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTN) adds value and enhances business impact for the UK through access to our network of 60,000+ members and a focused programme of industry relevant training for BBSRC Industrial CASE PhD students.

CASE (formerly known as Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering) studentships involve post-graduate students studying for a PhD through research with both an academic institution and an industry partner. The student is predominantly based with the academic institution, but the research project is relevant to the needs of the industry partner. The industry partner is expected to provide joint supervision of the student, a financial contribution to the project and relevant industrial placement(s) during the four years of the research project.

The involvement of industry at every stage of the project can result in:

- Access to industry data, biological materials, experimental conditions or analytical resources
- Formulation of better hypotheses and the design of experiments that are relevant to industry
- Interpretation of experimental results in an industry context as part of the research-training experience

Case study: Emma Monaghan

KTN Associate Emma Monaghan is now close to finishing her University of Warwick and Quality Milk Management Services CASE studentship on “The bacterial ecology of the ruminant udder with particular references to ewes.”

Her research focuses on the composition and development of bacterial communities in sheep mammary glands and investigating how this community composition is related to changes in somatic cell count (SCC).

The KTN has been able to provide support to enable her to conduct additional analysis of milk samples. This was the first longitudinal microbiome data set of intramammary infections in a farm animal and has led to the submission of a scientific publication in a high impact journal.

Emma went on to receive a prize for the presentation of her research at the Early Career Researcher Networking Event that was organised by the KTN in May 2014.

Case study: Laura Corbin

KTN Associate Laura Corbin undertook her CASE studentship on “The application of genomic technologies to the horse” through a collaboration between The Roslin Institute and the Animal Health Trust, with the British Equestrian Federation as the industrial partner.

On completion of her PhD, Laura was subsequently invited by the industrial partner to lead a scoping project (funded by the British Equestrian Federation) to investigate the need for the UK equine industry to establish an equine bio-bank.

The Genetics Society awarded Laura the highly prestigious Sir Kenneth Mather Memorial Prize for 2012/13. This annual award recognises a BSc, MSc or PhD student of any UK University or Research Institution who has shown outstanding performance in the area of quantitative or population genetics.

Laura is now continuing her research career as Postdoctoral Research Associate in Applied Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Bristol.

Contact Us

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