



RESEARCH & INNOVATION SCOTLAND
Case Study

Natural Products in the Bioeconomy

Members involved: SULSA, ScotCHEM and IBioIC



In October 2019, 65 prominent academics and industry leaders, from across 28 unique organisations, came together to explore the field of Natural Products and their utility in Scotland's growing Bio Economy.

The field of Natural products is a vastly multidisciplinary one, covering chemistry, microbiology, metabolomics, genome mining, fermentation, and synthetic biology, all with applications in agriculture, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries (to name a few). This is a growing area for both life and chemical sciences in Scotland and is aligned with the Bioeconomy Cluster Builder initiative driven by KTN and IBioIC.

The event aimed to foster collaborations across academic and industrial institutions, unearth opportunities for funding and identify key areas for growth in Scotland. Highlights of the day included speakers from industry and academia, structured networking, flash presentations and a future directions workshop. The workshop was a great success with the majority of attendees finding new connections and calling for further workshops to develop these across industry and academia.

As a direct result of the workshops SULSA and ScotCHEM have supported a number of interdisciplinary projects addressing emerging opportunities ([view funded projects](#)). Moving forward the committee has identified areas for development in knowledge exchange and training, business development, shared resources and science policy. A priority area for growth, with the success of marine natural products in treating cancer, infections and parasites will be in antimicrobial resistance as well as the treatment of non-communicable diseases. The identification of such growth areas in our initial meeting have led to an expansion of the collaboration to include the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC).

The academic steering committee: [Dr Katherine Duncan](#) (University of Strathclyde), [Professor Cherry Wainwright](#) (Robert Gordon University), [Professor Marcel Jaspars](#) (University of Dundee), [Professor Rebecca Goss](#) (University of St Andrews), [Alison Hughes](#) and [Dr Sylvia Soldatou](#) and [Gemma Barron](#) (SULSA ECR representatives).