

# SETAC United Kingdom Branch Council Candidates for Election

Following a successful application process to recruit new members for the SETAC UK Council, we are now opening the voting phase to UK Branch members.

In line with the SETAC Europe by-laws and membership model, UK Branch members with a full membership are eligible to vote for the UK Branch Council selection. Full members may cast their vote via the [online survey](#) until **25 September**.

This document contains the profiles and motivational statements of all candidates. To ensure balanced representation across sectors, we are aiming to select:

- One **student** representative
- One **recent graduate** representative
- One representative from the **Academic** sector
- Two representatives from the **Business/Industry** sector
- Three representatives from the **Government/NGO** sector

# Overview

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# Candidates for Student Representative

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## Nooshin Barzegar Marvasti

PhD student- Biosciences University of Birmingham

My name is Nooshin Barzegar Marvasti. I am a Biosciences PhD student at the University of Birmingham, UK, funded through the MIBTP (BBSRC) programme. I am writing to express my strong interest in joining the SETAC UK Council.

With more than a decade of professional and academic experience in water and wastewater treatment, combined with my expertise in life cycle assessment (LCA) and sustainability, I am committed to contributing actively to SETAC's mission of advancing environmental science.

I hold a BSc in Environmental Engineering and an MSc in Civil–Environmental Engineering from Iran. My doctoral research focuses on a novel nature-based tertiary wastewater treatment technology for removing persistent mobile chemicals (e.g., pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, and microplastics) from treated effluents before discharge into receiving water bodies. This work aims to reduce freshwater ecotoxicity and enable safe water reuse in agriculture and domestic applications, thereby addressing water scarcity. Part of my research is strongly involved in life cycle thinking and sustainability assessment.

Alongside my research, I bring over 10 years of professional experience as a water and wastewater treatment process engineer, designing and optimising treatment systems. This dual academic–industrial background allows me to bridge science and practice, a perspective I believe is essential for SETAC's multidisciplinary vision.

I have been active in scientific communication, presenting at international conferences such as the European Wastewater Management Conference (2025). My work also was awarded the best Poster at the CERJ Networking Day, University of Birmingham 2025. I also engaged in public outreach at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition (2025), where I presented my research to a wide range of audiences. Earlier in my MSc, I presented at several conferences in Iran and India, and in an Iranian journal, which gave me a strong foundation in academic research and networking.

Furthermore, I am a GreenDelta-certified Professional openLCA Trainer and the first officially recognised trainer to launch a Persian-language openLCA training initiative, promoting via LinkedIn and YouTube to extend access to a broader international audience.

As a SETAC UK Council member, I would be enthusiastic to contribute to shaping the branch's strategic activities, promoting collaboration between academia and industry, and supporting capacity building in life cycle assessment and sustainability science. I am eager to work with peers to promote SETAC's mission and extend its impact within the UK and internationally.

For more details on my activities, please check my LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/nooshin-barzegar-marvasti-9564b384](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nooshin-barzegar-marvasti-9564b384)

## Etini Etuk

University of Huddersfield

Dear SETAC council team,

I am writing to express my strong interest in contributing as a Council Member of Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) UK Branch. With a deep commitment to advancing environmental science and sustainable practices, I am inspired by the opportunity to collaborate with same-minded professionals across academia, industry, and policy.

My academic background and professional experience in environmental microbiology, with expertise in toxicity testing of pollutants hazardous to biodiversity, combined with my PhD research in chemical engineering, have equipped me with both a strong scientific foundation and the drive to translate knowledge into practical solutions. In particular, my current research on biovalorizing textile waste into value-added products has ignited my passion for recycling, pollution control, fermentation, and water and soil remediation, alongside a growing interest in the circular bioeconomy. I see SETAC Council as the ideal platform to transform these interests into impactful contributions that bridge science, innovation, and practice.

What excites me most about the SETAC UK Council membership is its unique role as a bridge between disciplines and sectors, nurturing genuine interdisciplinary collaboration among both early-career and experienced professionals. The recent SETAC UK Conference at the University of York was especially influential for me; the keynote speakers, workshops, and seminars not only deepened my knowledge but also strengthened my resolve to engage fully with this vibrant and well-organised community.

I believe that my ability to work collaboratively, communicate complex ideas clearly, and connect scientific insights with proven applications would allow me to add meaningful value to the SETAC council. In addition, my experience in research, teaching, peer-review volunteering, presentation, publications, and collaborative projects, together with refined skills in leadership, problem-solving, and building a safe place for diverse voices to be heard are all qualities I am eager to bring to SETAC council to help drive impactful initiatives.

I am keen not only to contribute my expertise but also to learn from the diverse perspectives within the SETAC community. Joining the SETAC council will provide me with the platform to grow as both a researcher and a professional, while actively shaping discussions and strategies that address urgent environmental challenges and positively impact lives.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honoured to contribute to the mission of the SETAC council UK Branch and to support its vision of advancing environmental science for a more sustainable future.

## **Anneliese Hodge**

Plymouth Marine Laboratory and University of Plymouth

I am motivated to join the SETAC UK Council because I am deeply committed and passionate about environmental chemistry and toxicology and advancing interdisciplinary research within the environmental science community. As an early career researcher, I come equipped with forward-thinking ideas, developing perspectives, ambition and tenacity. I have experience of engaging with the media, Parliamentarians and the public, communicating scientific developments and knowledge with specialist and non-specialist audiences alike. Through my academic experiences, I have seen the importance of fostering collaborations between scientists, regulators and industry professionals. I believe that serving on the UK Council will allow me to contribute to the SETAC's efforts in fostering these collaborations and championing the role of early-career scientists in our community.

## **Darragh Melaugh**

Queen's University Belfast

I would like to join the SETAC UK Council because of my strong interest in environmental science and my enthusiasm for contributing to the wider scientific community. As a PhD student, I'm keen to engage more actively with organisations that promote collaboration, outreach, and knowledge exchange. I see this as a valuable opportunity to connect and collaborate with researchers, policy-makers, and professionals in industry, while broadening my understanding of how science informs real-world environmental decision-making. In addition, being part of the Council will allow me to develop key skills—such as communication, organisation, and leadership—that will not only enhance my academic performance but also strengthen my future career prospects. I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute to SETAC UK's activities and grow as part of this vibrant community.

## **Naomi Muindi**

Ghent University

Dear SETAC UK Council Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the SETAC UK Council. As a PhD researcher in Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University, I have been actively involved in the SETAC community and am deeply motivated to contribute more to its activities and strategic direction.

My PhD is part of the EU horizon project; Digital Health in a Circular Economy (DiCE) and my research focuses on sustainability assessment and circular economy performance assessment of electronic healthcare devices. Through my PhD so far, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of bridging science with policy and industry to address complex sustainability challenges. SETAC's multidisciplinary approach aligns perfectly with my belief that tackling sustainability problems requires collaborative efforts.

What motivates me most about joining the Council is the opportunity to contribute to a community that is committed to promoting sustainable practices and address pressing environmental challenges; topics close to my heart.

I am also eager to learn from experienced professionals on the Council and to develop my leadership and communication skills through active participation. Being part of the Council will allow me to contribute my fresh perspective while growing as a scientist and advocate for sustainable environmental solutions.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honoured to serve SETAC UK and help advance its mission.

## Arinze Onwurah

BPP University, Manchester

I am an experienced environmental scientist and researcher with a proven track record in toxicology, ecological risk assessment, and academic leadership. My work bridges environmental pollutants and public health, culminating in several peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals such as *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* and *Biomarkers*. At the University of Nigeria, I led practical sessions in parasitology and ecology while contributing to pivotal research on water toxicity, airborne pollution, and the bioeffects of chemical contaminants. These experiences have honed my scientific expertise and collaborative approach, positioning me to contribute meaningfully to SETAC UK's mission of advancing environmental science and sustainability.

Currently pursuing an MSc in Management with Data Analytics at BPP University, I bring a unique combination of scientific rigour and strategic thinking to environmental challenges. I am enthusiastic about supporting SETAC UK's initiatives in environmental science communication, interdisciplinary collaboration, and evidence-based policy engagement. I am especially passionate about fostering inclusive dialogue, strengthening research-to-policy pathways, and amplifying the societal impact of environmental science.

## Harriet Sleight

University of York

I am a motivated early-career researcher with cross-disciplinary interests spanning environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology, and the environmental impacts of pharmaceutical pollution. I am excited to apply for a position on the SETAC UK Council as SETAC has been central to my professional development throughout my PhD. I would now like to play a more active role in the scientific community that continues to inspire me.

During my PhD I was fortunate to undertake a placement in the Chemicals Assessment Units of the Environment Agency. This experience provided me with an insight into regulatory aspects of environmental risk assessment and the interface between science and policy. I also completed my master's dissertation on chemical contamination in groundwater in collaboration with the British Geological Survey. At this early stage of my career, I greatly benefited from the combined perspectives of academic and governmental scientists, which highlighted the value of integrating academic and applied approaches to tackle complex environmental challenges. In joining the SETAC UK Council, I hope to promote collaboration between academia, industry, government and non-governmental organisations.

In addition to my technical experience, I am passionate about science communication and mentorship, and I strongly believe in creating inclusive, supportive environments for early-career researchers. This year I championed these values by hosting an intern through the Generation Research programme, which aims to remove barriers for students seeking practical research experience. I encouraged my intern to attend the 2025 SETAC Young Environmental Scientists meeting, an experience which they found inspiring. I also actively contributed by chairing the terrestrial ecotoxicology session and helping to foster the supportive atmosphere of the meeting. As a SETAC UK Council member, I would work to strengthen the visibility and inclusivity of SETAC UK.

Alongside my commitment to high-quality research, I would like to contribute to SETAC UK's goals by helping to organise meetings, enhancing engagement with students and early career scientists, and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across academia, industry and policy.

By serving on the SETAC UK Council, I aim to further develop my leadership skills and make meaningful contributions to the wider SETAC UK scientific community.

# Candidates for Recent Graduate Representative

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## Rebekah Boreham

University of Essex

I have always felt deeply engaged in environmental protection, a sense of investment which only grew stronger when I learnt about the emerging issues in ecotoxicology during my undergraduate degree. As an early-career researcher currently working on my first postdoc, I am keen to take an active role in driving forward the field of environmental science within the UK.

My background is in ecotoxicology, but I recently pivoted to a new area of study for my postdoc project; from chemical-exposure assays using transgenic zebrafish to a more chemistry-driven project, developing methods for the detection of pollutants in real-world fish samples. This has afforded me the chance to gain unique perspective on a range of issues in environmental protection: from acute exposure effects to environmental assessment and finding new ways to understand pollutant risk.

My PhD was part-funded by AstraZeneca, and so I have experience communicating with industry and would be keen to engage with a wider range of stakeholders again. I am eager to build a professional network with other environmental scientists within the UK and across Europe, both to advance my own career through seeking collaborations and to offer my own expertise and insight into priorities for environmental protection and research.

I currently co-supervise a master's student and help organise a seminar series within the department of Environmental Science at my university, wherein we encourage academics and students from all stages to present their work. I also ran a similar seminar series at my previous university, and both have allowed me to develop my organisational and leadership skills as I recruit speakers, ensure room bookings, and chair sessions, and I'm looking for opportunities to further build on these skills and develop my confidence in leadership roles.

After attending the SETAC Europe conference in Vienna, I was reminded of the broad scope of the society and the incredible and important research being undertaken by my peers in the field, and I would love to take a more active role in the society.



## Candidates from Academic Sector

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### **Tolulope Ajayi**

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (Athlone Campus)

I am writing to express my interest in being a member of the SETAC UK council. As a third-year PhD candidate at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS - Athlone), Ireland, my research focuses on the impact of chemical pesticides (i.e. glyphosate) on insect reproduction and development using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model. So far, my work has established clear links between both lethal and sublethal glyphosate exposure and significant impairments in survival, fertility and developmental outcomes in *Drosophila*. This research contributes to the broader understanding of chemical-induced biodiversity loss, a subject of growing global ecological concern.

I was recently privileged to receive financial aid to attend the 35th Annual Meeting of SETAC Europe in Vienna. Although I was unable to attend the event, the opportunity was both rewarding and personally meaningful to me. It solidified my appreciation for SETAC's commitment to fostering inclusive participation and supporting early career researchers. It is with this sense of gratitude and commitment that I now seek to give back to the Society by serving on the UK chapter council.

I believe that I can bring a valuable perspective to the council as an engaged and motivated early-career researcher. My interdisciplinary outlook, combined with strong technical expertise and well-developed communication skills, places me in a unique position to contribute meaningfully to the councils' work. I am especially drawn to the collaborative nature of the role, the opportunity to contribute to strategic planning and the chance to help shape the direction of SETAC UK's activities. I am eager to help advance the environmental sciences through impactful and inclusive stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

### **Katie Reilly**

University of Birmingham

I joined SETAC while I was a PhD student and enjoyed the supportive network that I found. As an early-career researcher, I now take a more active role, proposing sessions for the annual meetings and volunteering as a judge for the student presentation awards. The opportunity to join the SETAC UK council would enable me to channel my enthusiasm for community development and environmental science to further develop my active role within SETAC.

SETAC has always been a leader in environmental science and collaborative approaches, and I think with the developments in the water quality monitoring and reforms of Ofwat in the UK, there is a great opportunity to engage with the research in this sector, and the monitoring and legislation in due course. I have a keen interest in water quality and ecotoxicology and have enjoyed engaging with the SETAC community around these research areas already, and am interested in the development of this sector over the next couple of years, with the growing public, scientific and political interest in this space.

I have experience at my local university level of working as part of an organising committee for environmental research and law training, events and networking, and I would like to take my experience from this and work with the SETAC UK council to apply this experience and enthusiasm for developing these opportunities for environmental sciences. These training opportunities include events, away days and online sessions to suite different combinations of topics and audiences.

I'm a passionate communicator and embed science communication and public engagement into my work. To share this enthusiasm, I've been building a network of science communication and public engagement enthusiasts by developing a journal/book club at the university and creating an informal opportunity for people to share interests and experience. Part of my motivation for this is to share experiences of the publication process to support ECRs and researchers in formalising their engagement and communications work to ensure this gets the academic and community recognition it merits, and to encourage formalised sharing of best practice with the wider research community through publications. The experience of scicomm and engagement, and community building is something I'm keen to share with the wider SETAC UK community. I also have a range of experience in scicomm specific to the UK, including the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition and the British Science Festival (including the highly competitive Environmental Science award lecture in 2025) and would be happy to share this experience and lessons learned with the UK cohort of ECRs who may benefit from this.

I think this combination of my organisation and network development experience with my enthusiasm for environmental science and my collaborative nature would make me a great member of the SETAC UK team.

## **Veronika Schacht**

University of Birmingham

I am excited about the opportunity to join the UK SETAC Council, particularly to foster collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and to support and develop early career researchers.

About 1.5 years ago, I moved to the UK to join the University of Birmingham as an Associate Professor in Environmental Health Sciences, where I lead the MSc Programme in Health, Safety and Environmental Management in a teaching-focused role. Being new to the UK academic landscape, I am keen to build my network and strengthen connections across academia, government and industry. Besides teaching, I am continuing my research on the fate of microplastics and their additives in the environment, building on work from previous roles. Before moving to the UK, I held research-focused positions in SETAC-relevant areas in different countries, including environmental and analytical chemistry, chemical fate in soils, and internal and external human exposure.

Transitioning from a research to a teaching-focused position made me reflect a lot on the purpose and direction of my work. Through this, it has become even clearer to me how important it is to facilitate communication between sectors — particularly at the science–policy interface — and to promote knowledge exchange between research and industry to tackle environmental and health challenges. This has motivated me to get more involved in initiatives that bridge these gaps. This is where I think one of SETAC's real strengths is, to bring people together and share ideas across disciplines.

Joining the UK SETAC Council would give me the chance to make these collaborations happen — linking researchers, industry partners, and policymakers to address complex environmental and human health challenges. Using the Council's potential and the expertise within its network, I want to contribute to decisions that set clear priorities and lead to practical outcomes. I'm also committed to lifelong learning and developing early career researchers shown through my recent involvement with the SETAC Education Committee, which develops and evaluates training courses for the wider membership. Being a part of the UK Branch Council could be a great opportunity to extend this work, particularly by providing opportunities for early-career researchers in the UK to connect, exchange ideas, and build confidence.

## Stuart Walker

Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Sheffield

I'm an early-career researcher at the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures at the University of Sheffield (based in Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, though I am a Mechanical Engineer by training). I focus on LCA and Sustainability Assessment more broadly, and lead a small team in this area. Personally, I am increasingly interested in how we bring together sustainability assessment and toxicity, and how we adapt traditional LCA methods (i.e. carbon footprint) to more sensibly include true environmental impact, persistence, and health implications. I have a good standing in the UK LCA community and strong links in this area. I am a full SETAC member and have attended conferences and meetings, and would like to contribute to the organisation. I am energetic and enthusiastic, and though busy as we all are, I would relish the opportunity to contribute to the Society. I have experience in organising events, project and team management, and am a good team player. I would be happy to discuss this opportunity further or to provide more information if this motivation statement is insufficient. Thank you!

## Pu Xia

University of Birmingham

As an early-career Assistant Professor in environmental toxicology at the University of Birmingham, I am passionate about advancing interdisciplinary research and fostering meaningful collaborations across sectors. My motivation to serve on the Council stems from several key goals: (1) To strengthen connections between academia, industry, and government through inclusive and practical initiatives; (2) To amplify the voice and visibility of early-career scientists within SETAC; (3) To contribute fresh ideas and energy to Council activities, including events, outreach, and educational programming. Joining the Council would allow me to give back to the environmental science community while continuing to grow professionally through collaborative leadership. I would be honoured to contribute to SETAC UK's ongoing success.

## Polina Yaseneva

University of Cambridge

As a lecturer and a researcher in LCA, I am passionate about advancing collaborative approaches to address pressing environmental challenges. Joining the SETAC UK Council represents an opportunity to share my expertise, contribute to the development of impactful initiatives, and actively support the mission of fostering sustainable practices across research, industry, and policy. I am particularly interested in working alongside professionals from diverse sectors, where I can both exchange knowledge and help bridge academic insights with practical applications. I am eager to contribute to strategic planning and decision-making processes, ensuring that the UK Branch continues to deliver meaningful activities that enhance knowledge exchange and professional development in the environmental sciences. By serving on the council, I hope to drive collaborative initiatives that highlight the value of environmental science research, foster interdisciplinary dialogue, and inspire solutions that address environmental challenges at multiple scales. I see this role as not only an opportunity to broaden my own network and leadership experience but also to make a tangible contribution to shaping the future direction of SETAC UK.

## Peng Zhang

University of Birmingham

As an Associate Professor in Environmental Chemistry and Sustainability, I am eager to join the SETAC UK Council to contribute actively to shaping the future of environmental science and toxicology in the UK. With a strong background in interdisciplinary research spanning nanotechnology, environmental pollution, and alternative toxicity testing, I am passionate about fostering collaboration across academia, industry, and policy. SETAC's mission to promote scientific excellence and evidence-based decision-making aligns closely with my values, and I see this role as an opportunity to support and enhance engagement on emerging environmental challenges and help drive innovation in sustainable solutions. I am open to collaborations on research and funding applications.

## Candidates from Business/Industry Sector

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### Rosalinda Gioia

Yordas Group, Lancaster Environment Centre

I am passionate about bridging the gap between scientific research and policy-making, particularly in the area of chemical management. From the beginning of my academic journey in Italy, I recognised that addressing global environmental challenges requires an international outlook and an ability to navigate different regulatory systems.

Before beginning my Ph.D., I took the initiative to seek international training, understanding that only through global exposure could I contribute meaningfully to science-informed policy. Since then, I have built a career that spans multiple countries—including Italy, the USA, the UK, Canada, Norway and Spain—working across academia, regulatory agencies, and consultancy. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of how environmental science informs regulation in different political and cultural contexts and have helped me to build a network of collaborators across the globe.

My career so far has shaped my belief that science must be proactive, relevant to policy, and accessible. I have worked with multidisciplinary teams to develop strategies that respond to emerging regulatory trends, such as PFAS management and the global shift toward non-animal testing, topics highly relevant to policymakers and to those who make important chemical management decisions today.

Equally important to me is advancing inclusivity and representation in science. I am committed to helping SETAC members, particularly early-career scientists, engage more effectively with policy processes and regulatory stakeholders.

I believe I can contribute to the UK SETAC Council by:

1. Facilitating engagement with policy processes
2. Responding to emerging regulatory trends
3. Supporting diverse and inclusive participation in science-policy dialogues

### Geoff Hodges

Safety, Environmental and Regulatory Science (SERS), Unilever

With over 25 years of experience in environmental risk assessment approaches, I currently serve as Science Leader at Unilever, overseeing our environmental research programme aimed at addressing challenges of the environmental safety of chemicals by enhancing our understanding of potential chemical impacts on ecosystems without using vertebrates. As such, my research interest spans a broad spectrum—from investigating mechanisms of action within pathways-based toxicity frameworks to developing spatially explicit exposure models. These efforts are driven through strategic collaborations with academic institutions and regulatory bodies, ensuring that the work remains both scientifically rigorous and practically relevant.

Beyond my role in Unilever, currently I chair the SETAC Europe Science Committee and represent Unilever on cross-industry task forces and regulatory guidance and annex updates etc. Currently, I am active as chair of the ERASM (Environmental Risk Assessment and Management), Environmental Technical Committee. ERASM is a joint research platform (environment and human health) of the International Association for Soaps and Detergents (A.I.S.E.) and the European Committee of Surfactants (CESIO).

Through these roles, I have witnessed a concerning decline in opportunities in the UK for early career researchers to build networks and share their science, at a time when environmental challenges and regulatory changes are escalating, which demand robust and active cross-community collaboration. I believe that fostering transparent communication among academia, industry, and regulators is essential to accelerate innovation, harmonize methodologies, and foster consensus to address these challenges. Moreover, bridging gaps between SETAC-UK and other scientific communities, such as the British Toxicology Society (BTS) and SOT etc. can significantly enhance knowledge sharing, dissemination and impact.

Through greater involvement in SETAC UK council, I am keen to leverage existing networks to stimulate dialogue and consensus on approaches to address environmental challenges and science-based regulation. I am particularly passionate about supporting a stronger UK-based student/ early careers network, equipped to tackle emerging environmental challenges as part of a globally connected scientific community.

I hope to be able to contribute my experience and insights to the council and help shape the future of environmental science through collaborative, inclusive, and forward-thinking initiatives.

## **David Patterson**

Syngenta

I am keen to contribute my experience in regulatory science and environmental fate modelling towards advancing SETAC's mission of promoting sound environmental decision-making. Throughout my career at Syngenta, TSG Consulting, and Battelle, I have worked extensively on fate and exposure assessment, model development, and risk assessment frameworks, with a focus on improving the scientific robustness and regulatory applicability of modelling approaches. My current role within the Science Strategy platform at Syngenta involves directing and prioritising Syngenta's science activities across Europe with regards to environmental fate, ecotoxicology and human health. Recently, I worked with the UK regulator to initiate the GB Fate Modelling Forum to enable CRD to leverage industrial and academic expertise to ensure the GB regulatory framework is fit for an exciting future.

Having regularly presented and published through SETAC, I value its role as a platform for collaboration between academia, industry, and regulators. Joining the council would allow me to give back to this community, support knowledge exchange, and help shape future discussions on environmental sustainability and chemical risk assessment.

## **Kai Paul**

Blue Frog Scientific Limited

First and foremost, thank you for your considerations.

I have been a long standing member of SETAC, ca. 10-15 years. In this time I have volunteered at SETAC Europe, been a student mentor and currently Chair the SETAC Nanotechnology Interest Group. Have chaired sessions, presented. I have attended, SETAC annual meetings in the UK, US and EU (all but one since 2015), as well as the Carolina branch meeting.

I have met many great people in SETAC that have become lifelong friends and partners in research. As I moved from academia to consultancy, I gained a huge passion for bridging the gap between industry and research, getting people to talk and not isolating interested parties. Also, between sciences e.g. toxicologists to ecotox and cross-talk between interested parties. Furthermore,

allowing people to make those connections and getting people to work together, and educating others (e.g. I give lectures at universities, I am invited to talk at varying EU project meetings, and always have an open door for a chat). SETAC has been a huge part of my professional development over the years and contributed heavily to my network and growth. I am now progressing further and feel I can keep helping in this area, and with the society's direction, with a fresh perspective. I also have a good network of regulators, academics and industry whom we could encourage participation. To that end, I think sitting on the SETAC UK council would be a fantastic step further toward this, where I truly feel I can contribute.

I have deep regulatory knowledge across many substances (nano, PFAS, tire wear etc), and the use of NAMs, read-across, risk/hazard assessment, intelligent testing strategies etc. I have worked and work with industry, and regulators having been involved and led projects for ECHA and the EA. I have over 10 years experience in consultancy. I am happy to provide a CV.

## **Renan Toscano**

Labcorp

I am writing to express my keen interest in joining the SETAC UK Council. With over 18 years of experience in environmental sciences and a strong foundation in marine biology, aquatic ecotoxicology, and regulatory science, I am eager to contribute to SETAC's mission of advancing environmental protection through sound science.

My academic background includes a degree in marine biology, as well as a master's and PhD in aquatic ecotoxicology and coastal management. Throughout my career, I have held key roles in both academic and regulatory sectors, including my current position as Senior Ecotoxicology Study Director at Labcorp UK, where I lead GLP-compliant aquatic, terrestrial, and analytical studies aligned with OECD and SANTE guidelines.

My career has spanned academic research and regulatory roles across Brazil, Portugal, and the UK, giving me a broad and practical perspective on global environmental challenges. My expertise includes analytical chemistry, biodegradation, environmental fate, and the development of novel methodologies in marine ecotoxicology. I am also experienced in bioinformatics and metagenomics, and I actively publish and present my work internationally.

A multilingual communicator (English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian), I am passionate about mentoring early-career scientists and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. I have been engaged with SETAC since 2008, attending ECOTOX Brazil and SETAC Europe meetings since 2016. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for SETAC's role in building a vibrant, inclusive scientific community.

Joining the UK Council would be an opportunity to give back to this community—supporting member engagement, promoting diversity, and helping shape the future of ecotoxicology in the UK and beyond.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honoured to contribute my experience and energy to the SETAC UK Council.

## **Kirit Wadhia**

NOV

I have been involved with SETAC from its very beginning with Prof Peter Callow. An active member of the SETACUK Council for numerous years have played a key role in its progressive establishment and development.

Having served as SETAC UK President for several years am entirely aware and familiar with the progressive developments (or lack of it), the modus operandi and significant considerations and factors. I was at the vanguard in organising and implementing successful events and collaborations, including the liaison with Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). Also championing the involvement of students and forging closer collaborations, links and involvement with SETAC SAC.

I have also previously been elected to SETAC European Council and served as Chair of Membership and PR Committee and continue to serve on the SETAC Branches committee.

A regular attendee of the SETAC Europe Annual conferences am in tune with ongoing interactions,

I want to serve on the SETAC UK Council to see its 'resurrection' as I am conscious of its demise and have been at the vanguard to draw attention to the lack of progress and more importantly need for prerequisite appropriate management and leadership.

## **Oliver Warwick**

Vitis Regulatory Limited

I have been a SETAC member since I joined as a PhD student in the mid 1990s. The scientific rigour of SETAC and the opportunities it has provided for scientific debate and progress has been a backdrop to my career for some 30 years now. I started off as a researcher in an industrial lab (Shell Research UK), moving into the regulatory area (EA Chemicals Assessment Unit and National Centre for Ecotoxicology and Hazardous Substances), then moving into consulting on chemicals risk assessment and risk management. Having witnessed, and benefitted from, the support and activities of SETAC at national, European and global levels and having had a career spanning academia, industry, regulation and consulting in environmental science with a focus on chemicals risk assessment, I feel I have a lot to give SETAC and am able to do that and want to 'give something back' at this stage in my career. I feel it is particularly important that SETAC UK is strong and active given the current political situation in Europe and indeed the world.



## Candidates from Government/NGOs Sector

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### Amy Marriott

NC3Rs

I am keen to join the SETAC UK Council to contribute to its mission of advancing environmental science and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. As Programme Manager for Chemical Safety Assessment at the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), I bring expertise in promoting the development and uptake of new approach methodologies (NAMs) and refining animal experimentation in chemical safety assessment across multiple sectors. My work spans chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, food, cosmetics, and consumer products - with a primary focus on ecotoxicology and environmental safety.

I lead and contribute to projects with global stakeholders across academia, industry, regulatory authorities, and government bodies. These initiatives aim to drive innovation and change in the environmental safety space by developing best practice guidelines for animal studies, publishing opinion pieces and case studies to promote reduced animal use and supporting updates to international test guidelines.

I have actively engaged with SETAC Europe activities, including membership of the Animal Alternatives Interest Group and submitting a session proposal for the 2026 conference. I am now keen to extend this involvement by contributing to SETAC UK's activities, helping to foster cross-sector dialogue and collaboration that drives scientific progress and informs policy. I am particularly motivated to support SETAC UK's efforts to engage with national stakeholders and contribute to UK-based initiatives that promote sustainable chemical safety practices aligned with the 3Rs. My established networks and experience working with UK regulatory bodies such as Defra, the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, as well as other UK-based organisations and Contract Research Organisations, position me well to help bridge science and policy within the UK context.

### Jason Weeks

JNCC

With 35 years' experience as an environmental toxicologist, director, researcher, policy maker and consultant with extensive knowledge on the links between pollution and the ever-growing number of externalities that impact it, I have specific experience in the impacts of contaminants on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity and lead on the UK's response to driving reductions in pharmaceuticals into the environment. I have an in-depth knowledge of the EU strategy towards chemicals in the environment, including applicable legislation. Familiarity with the UK national system for the monitoring and surveillance of chemicals, pharmacovigilance and the application of the "one health approach". As an experienced and passionate scientist with extensive experience in human/ environment health projects, and as a global leader in ecological risk assessment and an environmental toxicologist with high-impact publications across a broad range of environmental issues linked by a consistent theme centred on environmental risk assessment and understanding of complex systems. I am keen to bring my experience in committee memberships and provision of secretariat to SETAC. I have worked on behalf of organisations such as the ESF, WHO, EFSA, UNEP, NATO, UN, FAO, WOA, IPCC, UNIDO, DFID, the EC and World Bank. I am a registered expert consultant to UNIDO, EU, SCHEER, EMA, EFSA and the World Bank and have successful experience of operating within a board and/or senior executive level in the private sector. I am keen to provide high-level governance to help SETAC navigate the complexities of organisational management and

policy-making. As a former SETAC UK president and member of the SETAC UK Council, I was instrumental in leading our Plymouth SETAC UK meeting and in developing the Brighton World Congress. I am an experienced accredited facilitator of scientific workshops and meetings on behalf of a range of organisations, including governments, commercial companies, agencies and other stakeholders, including EU agencies, frequent experience in the delivery of high-impact training to a wide range of audiences. I have represented the UK as co-opted member to the European Medicines Agency (EU EMA) for veterinary medicines (the CVMP), Chair of the European environmental risk assessment working party (ERA-WP) (EMA). UK government representative European Union's Standing Committee for regulatory implementation. As a development Aid researcher, my current activities are normalising and harmonising disparities between the global north with the global south with a particular focus on GEDSI.