

## **SUMMARY OF THE BBSRC BIOSCIENCE SKILLS AND CAREERS PANEL (BSC) MEETING ON 22 MARCH 2012**

### **Monitoring of Training Partnerships**

BBSRC is increasingly taking a partnership approach to its training provision, whereby research organisations are encouraged to collaborate with others in multi-disciplinary strategic partnerships. This smaller number of partnerships will enable BBSRC to engage in a more efficient and strategic way with its key training providers. In common with other large investments, BBSRC has a responsibility to monitor the work of the training partnerships to ensure that they are working effectively and towards agreed objectives. The Panel noted the rationale for BBSRC's monitoring of its training partnerships and discussed the key information requirements needed for effective monitoring.

### **Evaluation of BBSRC's Industrial CASE Scheme**

BBSRC has recently undertaken an evaluation of its Industrial CASE schemes, namely:

- Industrial CASE (iCASE) – the standard scheme with an annual funding call;
- Industrial CASE Partnership (ICP) – a block award allocation made to 'Partner' companies.
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A Review Panel, chaired by Dr Candace Hassall (Head of Basic Careers, Wellcome Trust), met on 13 February 2012 to provide an independent evaluation of the schemes based on evidence gathered by BBSRC in consultation with students, academic and industrial supervisors, and research managers. The Panel discussed the findings of the evaluation and advised BBSRC on the response to the recommendations.

### **Bioscience Skills and Careers Workplan 2012**

The Panel was asked to prioritise the major strategic development work and strategic implementation that BBSRC should undertake in the broad bioscience skills, careers and training landscape over the coming 12-18 months. Some key areas that were highlighted as high priority were:

- Informatics for Food Security
- Skills for Industrial Biotechnology
- Development and implementation of the new people movement scheme "Flexible Interchange Programme" (FLIP)
- Investment Monitoring Programme (for various programmes including Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Advanced Training Partnerships (ATPs) (see item 1 above)
- Implementation of the recommendations arising from the Industrial CASE evaluation (see item 2 above)
- Issues relating to Post-doctoral research careers