

Bulletin – August 2022

Committee Contact Details

Chairman

Bill Edwards

Secretary

Dermot Hanna

Treasurer

Michael Roberts

Other Committee Members

Katie Anderson

Keith Earnshaw

Bruce Green

Hooshang Zavareh

Linked-in page:

Royal Society of Chemistry Consultancy Group

RSC: <https://my.rsc.org/groups/home/157>

The Consultancy Group

The Group is one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's many Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are member-driven groups which exist to benefit RSC members, and the wider chemical science community, in line with the RSC's strategy and charter.

The Group provides a forum for RSC members who are consultants. Members may be self-employed, in partnerships or employed by commercial organisations or academia. Many of the members of the Consultancy Group also act as Expert Witnesses in criminal and/or civil litigation.

The Group arranges meetings and workshops to provide networking opportunities and training in aspects of setting up and running a consultancy business.

We also give members access to some of the material that has been presented at meetings of the Group.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is rescheduled for 27th September 2022 in Burlington House, London.

Theme: Sustainability in Industry

11.00 Arrival & Registration

11.30 State of Battery Recycling – Dr Athan Fox (Ever Resource Ltd)

The success story of lead-acid battery recycling; the reasons this industry is polluting despite its impressive recycling rates; and what it would take for lithium-ion battery recycling to emulate its success.

12.30 Consultancy Group AGM

1.00 Lunch & Networking

2.00 An overview of the Paper and Pulp Industry - Tony Eley (Pulp Tech) and Florence Miremedi-Nafici (NAFIC/ Environmental Research)

An overview of the paper and pulp industry including recent developments in using new materials to produce products in a more sustainable way.

3.00 Finish

Royal Society of Chemistry,

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Chocolate Tasting Meeting

Thursday 15 December 2022 11am – 4 pm

Burlington House, London

Considering a career as an independent consultant?

What do you do if you need to change your formal career perhaps following redundancy, a break from work or returning to work after retirement? Working as an independent consultant might seem an obvious choice especially if you have previously worked for some time and have accumulated a lot of experience in your field.

The possibility of earning an income whilst working flexibly and being your own boss allures people to get started without much planning. After all, you have the scientific, technical or management skills, and in your previous work, you have been tackling bigger challenges than becoming a consultant.

At this juncture, what is often missed is an understanding of one's objectives, what is being offered, a plan to market the offerings and a realistic expectation of reward. Here are some tips:

When people work for an organisation as an employee at any level, their standing is linked to that organisation. To work independently, one needs to build their own reputation as a consultant hence, new consultants should not expect a flurry of enquiries and projects on day one and instead, be prepared to work on marketing their consultancy services.

Sometimes people go to consultancy as a stopgap measure while they are in between jobs or are semi-retired and wish to supplement their income. This enables them to offer their expertise in a specific subject to a niche market. Although job satisfaction from doing this type of work can be high its financial return is also limited. However, consultancy can be approached as a business enterprise in which the consultant works for the business entity, as its proprietor or its director. This requires a change in the mindset as it widens the scope of the services that the business (rather than the consultant) can provide

and thereby leads to more handsome and sustained workflow and rewards.

A mindset change also requires the consultant to accept the fact that they need to shoulder key business administration responsibilities in order to run the business smoothly and that includes routine tasks that might seem mundane. But, being a freelancer or sole trader doesn't mean the consultant should work all alone and can recruit support services including office personnel, marketing, legal, IT and accountants.

In the same way that small businesses can develop and grow consultants can also expand their reach by collaborating with other consultants who provide complementary skillsets or services. Whilst this notion is counterintuitive if practised appropriately it results in a win-win outcome for the consultants and the clients.

If you are planning to embark on a consultancy career you can join the RSC's Consultancy Interest Group, request a copy of Guide to Consultancy or apply to be included in the Directory of Consultants where you can outline your background and services.



Figure 1 – Dr Zavareh of ChemPharmaServe Ltd

In addition, Dr Hooshang Zavareh also offers a one-day training course for prospective consultants. As an approved programme, this comprehensive and structured course provides a step-by-step guide to a range of concepts to help trainees to venture into consultancy work with eyes fully open, avoid common mistakes and help them start and run their consultancy successfully.

Directory of Consultants

The Royal Society of Chemistry has a list of consultants that are registered with them. It can be found at:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/directory-of-consultants/>

The Directory is a service provided by the Royal Society of Chemistry to members, professionals and the public. The information supplied in this directory, and the services offered and delivered, are entirely the responsibility of the consultants themselves, and not the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The consulting experts listed in this directory are all full members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and are bound by the RSC [code of conduct](#).

The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for the content of external websites.

The consultants' profiles are organised into separate pages by area of expertise;

[Manufacturing; Marketing & business development; People development; Regulation; Health & safety; Science; Engineering & technology; Strategy & policy; Legal & expert witness services.](#)

If you wish to be added to the Directory, please complete the application forms found on the RSC webpage above.