

BTS Congress 2025 Report

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It was a great honour to attend The British Toxicology Society Annual Congress 2025, held at the Spine in Liverpool with the financial support from the BTS Student Bursary. This was a valuable opportunity to disseminate my research on ecotoxicology and to be part of a prestigious event in the field, allowing me to connect with researchers and industry partners.

At the first symposium, "Progress In Regulatory Protection Of The Marine/Aquatic Environment", it was a privilege to hear from leading experts in the field. Dr. Natalie Burden from NC3Rs shared insights into the challenges and developments surrounding vitellogenin measurement and its assessment in OECD Test Guidelines, and Dr. Russell Davenport from Newcastle University also delivered an engaging talk on the longer-term degradation of chemicals. Their presentations reinforced the relevance in advancing alternative testing strategies. The talk from Emmanuel Awulu from the UK Health Security Agency, and the flash presentations also strongly emphasised the critical regulatory needs and challenges in toxicology, and its role in safeguarding our aquatic environment from the impacts of pollution.

At the same symposium, I delivered a poster presentation on New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in pharmaceutical pollution, and the role of daphnids in their assessment. My talk was met with a warm reception, and I was pleased by the level of engagement it generated. Following the symposium, I was approached by several attendees with thoughtful questions and expressions of interest in the project. Facilitated by the congress – the shared discussions and enthusiasm for the application of NAMs provided valuable insights and potential directions for future collaboration.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Frank Sullivan Award lecture delivered by Dr. Tarek Abdelghany from University of Aberdeen, one of our group's collaborators. His informative presentation offered valuable perspectives that

have sparked inspiration for the development of my own research. In addition, the exposure gained through the conference enabled me to meet Dr. Andrew Chetwynd from the Department of Biosciences at the University of Liverpool. He is an expert specialising in analytical science with a focus on mass spectrometry proteomics, who generously offered a tour of the cutting-edge facilities at the Institute of Systems, Molecular and Integrative Biology, and advice on how to incorporate the technology into my own molecular ecotoxicology research.