

Hi there,

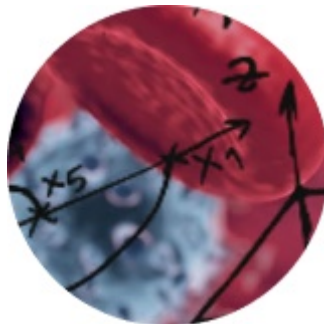
Welcome to the April 2020 edition of the LIRA newsletter. In this month's newsletter, we have news on the Robotics Challenge 2020, how machine learning could help in the fight against Covid-19 and new drone papers by LIRA members...

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### **Robotics Challenge 2020**

The UK-RAS Network has announced a new Medical Robotics Challenge for Contagious Diseases. The challenge offers a prize fund of £15,000. Applicants are asked to send a two-minute video demonstration of their entry by 30th September 2020. For more details, [see the UK-RAS website](#).



### **Using machine learning in the fight against Covid-19**

On Wednesday 22nd April, Prof. Plamen Angelov gave a short presentation as part of an [online workshop on using machine learning to tackle Covid-19](#). The workshop, run by the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) was livestreamed, and is available to watch back via YouTube.



### **Deadlines extended for robotics funding**

The EU Commission has confirmed a deadline extension for two robotics-based funding calls: [Robotics in Application Areas and Coordination & Support](#), and [Research and Innovation Boosting Promising Robotics Applications](#). The new deadline is 17th June 2020.



### **Funding for advanced materials research**

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £1 million for advanced materials R&D projects partnering with EUREKA country organisations, including South Korea. The application deadline is 24th June 2020. For more information, [see the Innovation Funding Service website](#).

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Opportunities

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## Call for modellers to support epidemic modelling

The Royal Society is coordinating a call for Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic (RAMP). This urgent call to action is addressed to the scientific modelling community, and is a scheme to allow those with modelling skills (including data science) to contribute to current UK efforts in modelling the COVID-19 pandemic. [Find out more.](#)

## New drone papers by LIRA members

Members of LIRA have recently contributed to several publications on the subject of drones, or Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). These include '[Mitigating systematic error in topographic models for geomorphic change detection](#)', '[Current practices in UAS-based environmental monitoring](#)', and '[Volcanological application of unoccupied aircraft systems \(UAS\)](#)'.

## Design and Synthesis of Chemicals and Materials

EPSRC A13SD Network Plus has announced a second funding call with the focus on Design and Synthesis of Chemicals and Materials. The deadline for applications is 19th December 2020. [For more information, see the EPSRC website.](#)

## UKRI GCRF Collective Programme

The UKRI has also announced its GCRF Collective Programme – a series of calls designed to enhance the overall impact across six strategic challenge portfolios including: cities and sustainable infrastructure; education; food systems; global health; resilience; and security. [Find out more.](#)

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