

Building Community

Durham HPC Days

19th June 2026

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DiRAC
High Performance
Computing Facility

Why are we here?

- How should computational researchers adapt to best exploit the rapidly-evolving National Compute Ecosystem?
- How will we access national Compute Resources (NCRs)?
- What are good strategies for responding to the anticipated call to set up Community Centres of Excellence (CCE)?
- It's good to talk!

Today's' goal is to kick-start and foster these conversations



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Examples of potential consortia frameworks

Challenge-driven enablers

Time-limited, mission focussed groupings assembled around discrete R&I-driven challenges that span traditional boundaries

Integrators

Provide specialist expertise to support users across multiple domains in integrating compute and data assets to raise their level of ambition

Custodians of research platforms

Responsible for developing and maintaining a specific capability within the platform layer on behalf of the user base.

Community facilitators

Bring together a specific community of practice to enable flexible allocations, and provide a route for upskilling and knowledge transfer



This morning's programme:

09:00	Welcome & Outline	(Simon Hands)
09:05	Luke Davis	(Joint Head of DRI, EPSRC-UKRI)
09:15	Katherine Rooke	(Head of Programmes for DRI, STFC)
09:25	Andrea Townsend-Nicholson	(UCL, CompBioMed)
09:40	Crispin Miller	(Glasgow, CancerResearch UK Scotland)
10:55	Sarah Harris	(Sheffield, CCPBioSim)
10:10	Scott Woodley	(UCL, Materials Chemistry Consortium)



This afternoon's programme:

- 13:00** Karina Rodriguez Echavarria (Brighton, Computing in Arts & Humanities)
- 13:15** Matthieu Schaller (Leiden, SWIFT astrophysics/cosmology)
- 13:30** Jonathan Hays (QMUL, Science Director STFC IRIS)
- 13:45** Eugene Lim (KCL, CCP-UK Numerical Relativity))
- 14:00** Luigi del Debbio (Edinburgh, DiRAC)
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- 14:15** Panel Discussion
compère Mark Wilkinson (DiRAC)
- 15:00** Close

