

Faraday Division Annual Report to RSC Council 2009-2010

Purpose of paper: This paper sets out the Annual Report of the Faraday Division Council (FDC) for the year ending July 2010.

Faraday Division Strategy:

The Faraday Division aims to promote physical chemistry as the key area where quantitative aspects of chemical, physical and biological sciences overlap and interact and to this end supports overall RSC strategy. Faraday Division currently has 5,117 members.

2009-2010 activity highlights:

Faraday Discussions: From July 2009 to July 2010 successful meetings were held on *Multiscale Modelling of Soft Matter* (FD 144, Groningen) *Physical Organic Chemistry* (FD 145, Cardiff), *Wetting Dynamics of Hydrophobic and Structured Surfaces* (FD 146, Virginia) and *Chemistry of the Planets* (FD 147, Saint Jacut de la Mer). Three of these meetings were held outside of the UK, furthering FDC strategy to strengthen the Discussion brand internationally. The organisers of FD 146 also pioneered a (highly successful) graduate school over the weekend preceding the formal Discussion. For the subsequent *Faraday Discussion* journal, the latest impact factor (2008) of 4.60 is the best for any primary journal in physical chemistry.

RSC Groups: The number of groups affiliated to FDC grew from fourteen to seventeen. The new groups are the ESR Spectroscopy group, the Fast Reactions in Solutions group and the Photochemistry group.

RSC Publishing: The Faraday Division has two representatives on the Ownership Board of the *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP)* journal and this year appointed Professor Laurie Peter (Bath). FDC is delighted with the current (2008) impact factor of 4.06.

RSC Awards: Two Faraday award symposia were held to present the 2009 Prize and Award winners with their medals. One was in Cardiff in November 2009, the second in Nottingham in May 2010.

Communication: The annual news entry appeared in the April 2010 issue of *RSC News* and focused on the Faraday Discussion meetings.

Future plans:

Faraday Discussions: in 2011 the meetings will move from four to six per year. Topics and venues have been chosen with the aims of (i) continuing to raise the international profile of Faraday Discussions and (ii), as the boundaries between physical chemistry and other disciplines continue to blur, to broaden the range of science covered. Thus, for example, FD 149 (Edinburgh) will be devoted to *Analysis for Healthcare Diagnostics and Theranostics* and a Discussion on a chemical engineering related topic will be initiated.

Recently appointed academics: A third meeting for recently appointed academics in physical chemistry will be held in September 2010 in Warwick, following on from previous successful meetings in Nottingham and Edinburgh. FDC plans to support these biennial meetings going forward.

International: FDC will seek to forge new and stronger links with the relevant EuCheMS divisions. FDC will investigate initiating and supporting a meeting in Africa on heterogeneous catalysis.

Training: FDC intends to develop/support a training course on computational techniques for postgraduate students whose research is predominately experimental.

Fundamental Chemistry: FDC will initiate activities to raise awareness of the importance and value of fundamental chemistry, building on existing/previous RSC activities such as work outlined in the roadmap document *Chemistry for Tomorrow's World*.

Financial details:

Name	2010 Budget/£	Provisional 2011 Budget/£
Communication	1,000	1,000
Conferences (6 Faraday Discussion Meetings per year)	0	38,500
Awards	0	19,500*
Grants and donations	10,000	5,000
Meetings	0	10,000
Member and other travel expenses	3,500	4,500
BH catering and room hire	2,000	2,000
Sundry	500	500
Total	17,000	81,000
FTE staff	0.35	0.3

*Income may come from Bequests.

Budgets/forecasts include all direct costs but exclude staff costs and internal recharges covering IT, Finance, HR and accommodation.

The format of this report is draft, we are moving to a common format for all Divisions and Fora over the next 12 months.

Professor Mike Ashfold CChem FRSC
President, Faraday Division

Dr Susan Weatherby MRSC
Programme Manager, Physical Sciences

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