

NOVEMBER 2008

# POC News

Organic Reaction Mechanisms Group **RSC** | Advancing the Chemical Sciences

The Organic Reaction Mechanisms Group serves chemists interested in research and development in the fields of mechanism, reactivity, chemical structure and molecular interactions in organic systems, especially leading to a quantitative understanding of molecular properties and behaviour and their relationships with chemical structure. This broad definition of Physical Organic Chemistry therefore takes in diverse fields such as organic reactivity, mechanism in synthesis & catalysis, QSAR & QSPR, synthetic methodology, process chemistry, conformational analysis, supramolecular chemistry, molecular assemblies & aggregation behaviour, enzymology, materials science, calculation of transition states and other related aspects of computational chemistry. The group's mission is to foster links between researchers in these fields, to provide platforms for presenting and discussing work, to represent the interests of our members and to promote the application of Physical Organic Chemistry methodology to extending the body of academic knowledge and to better practice in industrial R&D and manufacturing.

**Changing of the guard at the ORMG:** The new ORMG leadership has now taken over the reins: Dr Nabil Asaad (Chair), Dr Craig Butts (Secretary), Dr Anna Croft (Treasurer) and Dr Niek Buurma (Webmaster) would like to pay tribute to out-going Chair Dr Nick Williams, Secretary Dr Victor Chechik, Conference Secretary Dr AnnMarie O'Donoghue and Treasurer Dr Jim Iley and to extend particular thanks to previous Chairs Professor John Atherton and Dr Nick Williams for their tireless work over many years. Professor Atherton and Dr Williams continue to play an active role in group affairs, as do Committee Members Dr Ian Ashworth, Dr Victor Chechik, Dr Andy Davis, Dr AnnMarie O'Donoghue, Dr David Fox, Dr George Hodges, Dr David Hodgson, Dr Florian Hollfelder, Dr Lynn Kamerlin and Dr Sijbren Otto, who we thank for their continued input, ideas and support.

**SymPOC going on strong:** SymPOC, the Symposium on Physical Organic Chemistry, was inaugurated in 2007 by Professor Barry Carpenter and Dr Niek Buurma of the University of Cardiff POC Centre. Following-on from the success of the first event, Dr AnnMarie O'Donoghue and Dr David Hodgson of Durham University rose to the challenge of making it happen again. SymPOC II was held at Grey College and the Department of Chemistry on April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2008. This year, we welcomed more than eighty participants, who enjoyed invited lectures from

Professor Chris Hunter FRS (Sheffield), Professor dr. Jan Engberts (Groningen, NL), Professor John Richard (SUNY, USA), Professor Jonathan Percy (Strathclyde) and Professor Colin Bain (Durham) and a further 15 contributed talks on a range of topics including synthetic organic & inorganic, process, supramolecular, mechanistic, computational, enzyme and organometallic chemistry and lively discussion about the 22 poster presentations. We are especially grateful to the EPSRC, AstraZeneca and Unilever for supporting the meeting and are pleased to

report a great deal of interest from the POC community in continuing to hold SymPOC in the future. Plans for next year's event, being organised by Professor John Murphy of the University of Strathclyde, are already well-advanced. In 2009, SymPOC will coincide

with the formal opening of the Glasgow Centre for Physical Organic Chemistry. SymPOC IV will be held in Bristol under the stewardship of Dr Craig Butts. The 2010 meeting will immediately follow the 10th anniversary Bristol Synthesis Meeting.



**The Hunter Group enjoy the hospitality of Grey College, Durham at the end of the first day of SymPOC 2008.**

**Sponsorship:** Recent ORMG events have been made possible through generous sponsorship by AstraZeneca, EPSRC, the RSC Travel Fund and Unilever. We are grateful for their continued support of our activities.

**E-mail us:** We welcome your views, comments and suggestions about the group's events and activities. Please get in touch via the link on the RSC website or at our central group e-mail address: [ormg\\_physorg@live.co.uk](mailto:ormg_physorg@live.co.uk).

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**Castleton POC Residential Meeting:** The POC Residential Meeting at Losehill Hall in the Peak District was established five years ago by Dr Nick Williams of Sheffield University. It aims to give young researchers the opportunity to present their work at a highly interactive poster session and for Research Group Leaders to discuss works in progress in a relaxed informal atmosphere. It is also a networking opportunity for academics and industrialists interested in any aspect of Physical Organic Chemistry. The event has been run annually ever since, with this year's meeting taking place in September.



## Participants at the Castleton POC Residential Meeting.

New for this year we ran a "Pitch your Poster" session, asking student presenters to introduce their work and say in less than one minute what was the best thing about it. A bottle of wine for the best "sales pitch" was awarded to Mazin Othman of the University of Cardiff. Generous sponsorship by AstraZeneca enabled us to offer two poster prizes which were awarded to Joe Renny of Bristol University for his studies on the kinetics of catalytic reactions at heavy metal centres and Milena Trmcić of Durham University for her widely applicable synthetic approach to substituted thiophosphoramidites.

## Name-change consultation:

For many years, the Organic Reaction Mechanisms Group has organised events for the Physical Organic Chemistry community covering a wide variety of research areas. In the interests of clarity, we feel that it would be appropriate for the group's

name better to reflect our remit. We therefore propose becoming the RSC Physical Organic Chemistry Group. We will of course continue to deal with Organic Reaction Mechanisms and hope to strengthen membership and participation by students and the industrial community.



## RSC Young Physical Organic Chemists

Organizations - Academic Organizations

Size: 27 members

## Phys Org goes Facebook!

Dr Lynn Kamerlin of the University of Southern California (who also holds the record for covering the most miles to get to ORMG events) has established a Facebook group for Younger Physical Organic Chemists. The aim of the Facebook group is to publicise events, provide a forum for feedback and discussion and to help people stay in touch outside our meetings. The ORMG is seeking further to develop internet-based resources for Physical Organic Chemists to benefit our members and the

wider academic & industrial communities. Information and registration forms for ORMG events are currently made available on-line. We intend to extend this in the future to make conference abstracts and meeting reports available on our website. We are also hoping to provide a user-friendly platform for information-sharing and links to useful web-based data. **Join our e-mailing list:** to be included on our e-mailing list for POC news, events and situations vacant please send an e-mail request to us at: [ormg\\_physorg@live.co.uk](mailto:ormg_physorg@live.co.uk).

## Forthcoming Events:

further details at [www.PhysOrg.info](http://www.PhysOrg.info). The annual **ORMG Postgraduate Symposium** will take place at AstraZeneca's Charnwood Facility on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2008, giving Ph.D. students the opportunity to present talks and posters on any facet of Physical Organic Chemistry.

[www.cf.ac.uk/chemistry/staffinfo/poc/ormg/flyers/charnwood\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cf.ac.uk/chemistry/staffinfo/poc/ormg/flyers/charnwood_2008.pdf)

**SymPOC III** will be hosted by the Glasgow Centre for Physical Organic Chemistry on April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2009.

[www.chem.strath.ac.uk/conferences/sympoc\\_2009](http://www.chem.strath.ac.uk/conferences/sympoc_2009)

The next **Castleton POC Residential Meeting** is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Losehill Hall, Derbyshire.

[www.cf.ac.uk/chemistry/staffinfo/poc/ormg/castleton\\_info.html](http://www.cf.ac.uk/chemistry/staffinfo/poc/ormg/castleton_info.html)

We are partnering the Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms Group in organising the **Mechanisms in Chemistry** Symposium of the 42<sup>nd</sup> IUPAC Congress in Glasgow on August 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

[www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/IUPAC2009/ScientificProgramme/Themes/Synthesis/mechanisms.asp](http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/IUPAC2009/ScientificProgramme/Themes/Synthesis/mechanisms.asp)

We are planning, in partnership with the RSC Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector, a one day network event entitled **Problem Solving in Organic Synthesis and Process**. There will be invited talks on Process Understanding, Kinetics & Mechanism and Synthetic Methodology, as well as poster presentations on research capabilities and the opportunity for academics and industrialists to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest.