

Royal Society of Chemistry

**ANNUAL INTEREST GROUP REPORT FOR 2008**

for use by RSC Interest Groups (i.e. Subject Groups and Sectors) including Analytical Division Regions

This report will normally appear on the appropriate RSC Interest Group web page.

<http://www.rsc.org/InterestGroups>

RSC Groups including Analytical Division Regions are asked to complete this form and return it to: Anne Bennett, Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA. Email: bennetta@rsc.org. Fax: 020 7734 1227 or, if you prefer, to your usual RSC staff contact.

<b>INTEREST GROUP NAME or AD REGION NAME</b>	Biotechnology Subject Group
<b>Chairman</b>	Paul Dalby
<b>Secretary</b>	Colin Bedford
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephen Wrigley
<b>Number of members on the committee</b>	12
<b>Editor, Newsletter (if applicable)</b>	Paul Dalby
<b>Submitted by</b>	Paul Dalby
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	8 Jan 2009

Please list below the dates of your proposed AGM and Committee Meetings for 2009 (where applicable).

**Annual General Meeting 2009 (if being held)**

Date: 2 March 2009 Venue: Burlington House

**Proposed Committee Meetings 2009**

Date: 2 March 2009 Venue: Burlington House

Date: June 2009 Venue: Burlington House

Date: Oct 2009 Venue: Burlington House

**FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008**

**Please attach a copy of the financial report you have sent to the RSC Accounts Department**

Deadline for receipt of Financial Accounts: **14<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Deadline for receipt of Annual Report by members: **31<sup>st</sup> March 2009** (Annual Report can be posted on webpage if not sent to members individually)

## ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2008

Please report below on activities undertaken by the Group or AD Region in 2008. If you have more detailed information about any particularly successful events, or advice for other Groups and AD Regions, you may use a separate sheet. For more events continue as necessary.

	Date	Venue and number of participants	List of Speakers	How was event publicised (before and after meeting)?	How does meeting fit with RSC strategy / Awards Given?	Any other comments?
Event 1 Name: <i>Current Topics in Carbohydrate Biotechnology</i>	April 2008	University of Nottingham. 31 participants	Stephen Harding Felix Franks	Before: RSC BTG email list.  After: Group website, University website	This is linked to an MSc at the University of Nottingham, and provides an essential link between postgraduate teaching and both academic and industrial research.	
Event 2 Name: <i>Glycomics II: From Biology to Therapeutics</i>	11-12 Sept 2008	Royal Society, London >100	Ann Dell (Imperial) Ola Blixt (Copenhagen) Ten Feizi (Imperial) Andy Powell (Liverpool) Nicolas Laurent (Manchester) Yan Liu (Imperial) Martin Franks (Heidelberg) Rob Field (John Innes) Laurence Barron (Glasgow) Nicolai Bovin (Moscow) Berangere Tissot (Imperial) Paul Crocker (Dundee) Marcus Aebi (ETH) Pauline Rudd (Dublin) Antony Corfield (Bristol) Cathy Merry (Manchester) Jane Hewitt (Nottingham) Iain B Wilson (Vienna) Raymond Dwek (Oxford) Helen Osborne (Reading)	Before: RSC Carbohydrate & Biotechnology Group. UK Basic Technology GlycoArray Consortium  After: Group websites and UK Basic Technology GlycoArray Consortium website.	Carbohydrate chemistry research is an essential aspect of new medicines.	

			Ben Davis (Oxford) Maurice Petitou (Endotis) Jon Rhodes (Liverpool)			
RSC General Assembly	14 and 15/11/08	Did you attend this meeting?  Yes	Any comments:			

## SCIENTIFIC MEETING SCHEDULE 2009

Please report below on proposed activities for your Group or AD Region in 2009. For more events continue as necessary on a separate sheet.

	Event 1				Event 2				Event 3				Event 4			
Proposed Meeting Date	9/10 April 2009				21 April 2009				5-8 July 2009				1 Oct 2009			
Proposed Meeting Venue	University of Nottingham				UCL				Magdalen Coll Oxford				GSK, Stevenage			
Scientific Area/Topic	"Introduction to Polysaccharide Biotechnology"				"Advances in Biocatalysis" (Enzyme chemistry, Sustainable chemistry)				"Functional Molecules from Natural Sources"				"Chemical Tools in Systems Biology"			
Is meeting for Education/ Training / Networking / Other purposes?	E	T	N	O	E	T	N	O	E	T	N	O	E	T	N	O
	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Are any other RSC Interest Groups and/or RSC Regions involved?	None				CBiF				CBiF				tbc			
List any other collaborators (incl. International).	University of Nottingham				None				None				None			
Give details of any awards to be presented.	None				None				None				None			
Will certificates of attendance be issued for CPD purposes?	Yes				No				No				No			
<b>PUBLICITY</b>																
Have details been entered onto webpage?	Yes				Yes				Yes				Yes			
Will RSC Grapevine be used to publicise meeting?	Yes				Yes				Yes				Yes			
Will any other publicity routes be used?	Yes				Yes				Yes				Yes			
Will RSC or IG promotional material be distributed?	No				Yes				tbc				tbc			

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Royal Society of Chemistry Biotechnology Group Committee

#### Chairman's Report 2008

The Biotechnology Group has had yet another successful year in promoting conferences/courses of interest to both the industrial and academic communities in chemistry and biotechnology.

The annual two-day course/workshop at the University of Nottingham on carbohydrate biotechnology, organised in partnership with the Bioupdate Foundation and this year entitled *Current Topics in Carbohydrate Biotechnology*, was held in April 2008 and was again a success. Two industrial participants joined a cohort of 31 *MSc Applied Biomolecular Technology* students from Nottingham University. The course, organised by Stephen Harding, was cost neutral and was able to support one young-scientist bursary.

A second international meeting entitled *Glycomics II: From Biology to Therapeutics* was successfully run in September, this time at the Royal Society, London. This two-day conference was jointly organised by the Biotechnology Group (Irene Francois, Stephen Harding, Tony Cass), the UK Basic Technology GlycoArray Consortium, and the RSC Carbohydrate Group.

What promises to be a healthy and stimulating set of courses/meetings have been planned and organised for 2009. As successor to a previous meeting on this topic in 2004, a one-day symposium entitled *Advances in Biocatalysis* is to be held in April at University College London (organisers Paul Dalby, Colin Bedford, Brendan Fish, Martin Hayes). A three-day conference will be held in July on *Functional Molecules from Natural Sources* at Magdalen College, Oxford. This event, organised by Bob Thomas, Neville Nicholson, Stephen Wrigley, Martin Hayes, Martine Verhoeyen, and Colin Bedford is generating strong early interest. Also planned for 2009 is *Chemical Tools in Systems Biology* to be held in September at GSK, Stevenage (organisers Klaus Rumpel, Claus Schneider (co-opted), Neville Nicholson). Finally, the annual two-day course on carbohydrate biotechnology, this time entitled *Understanding Polysaccharide Biotechnology* will again be held in April 2009 at the University of Nottingham in partnership with the BioUpdate Foundation.

In contrast to the great success of these conferences and courses there is growing concern at the steady decline of nearly 40% of the Biotechnology Group's membership over a period of three years, from 510 in 2005 to 364 in 2008. The Group's Committee has discussed this issue thoroughly and to begin to remedy this situation have endeavoured to forge better links and communication with the Group's members and, more generally – with an eye to recruitment – with the wider chemistry community working in biotechnology sectors. As the first initiative, in November an eye-catching one-page E-Newsletter (largely compiled by Brendan Fish) was circulated to all current members to highlight the conferences and courses we organise, as well as to invite feedback and suggestions for future meetings.

Finally I would like to give special thanks to the Group's Hon Treasurer, Stephen Wrigley for his careful scrutiny of the finances, to the Group's Hon Secretary, Colin Bedford for tirelessly ensuring the group operates with unquestionable smoothness, and also to all the other members of the 2008 Biotechnology Group Committee (named below) for their hard work during the year.

Paul Dalby

#### **Biotechnology Group Committee**

Dr. Colin Bedford (Secretary)  
Dr. Stephen Wrigley (Treasurer)  
Professor Tony Cass  
Prof Stephen Harding  
Dr. Brendan Fish  
Dr. Irene Francois  
Dr. Martin Hayes  
Mr. Neville Nicholson  
Dr. Klaus Rumpel  
Professor Robert Thomas  
Dr. Martine Verhoeyen