

Annual Meeting of RSC Main Group Chemistry Discussion Group

19th September 2008

This year's RSC Main Group Chemistry Discussion Group meeting was held on September 19th, 2008, and for the second successive year took place at Bristol University. As with previous years, it was an extremely successful event and highlighted the continuing growth in strength of main group chemistry in the UK. Despite the occurrence earlier in the summer of the UC Berkeley based Dalton Discussion 11 meeting ('The Renaissance of Main Group Chemistry') attended by a significant number of UK researchers, the number of participants at the Bristol meeting was similar (ca. 75) to that in previous years. The plenary speakers were Prof. Philip P Power (UC Davis), Prof. Todd Marder (Durham) and Dr Simon Aldridge (Oxford). In addition, there were a number of high quality talks from postgraduates, postdoctoral researchers and recently appointed faculty/fellows. Considerable sponsorship was attracted for the meeting from a number of industrial sources and the RSC's Travel grant scheme.

At the Annual General Meeting, after the conference, the Discussion Group's secretary (Dr. Claire Carmalt) and treasurer (Dr. Mike Hill) were re-elected unopposed. After several years as chairman of the group and following his move to Monash University, Prof. Cameron Jones decided to stand down from this post. Dr Simon Aldridge (Oxford) was elected unopposed as his successor. The finances of the group were presented and shown to be in a very healthy state. There was considerable date about the feasibility of (and location/timing for) the 2009 meeting, given the occurrence of the IUPAC congress in August. After a vote it was decided to explore the possibilities for holding the meeting in either Manchester or Oxford. Professors Guy Bertrand and Doug Stephan were suggested as possible international plenary speakers with Professors Holger Braunschweig, Matthias Driess and Sjoerd Harder suggested as possible European invitees. For the national plenary speaker Dr Mike Hill was suggested along with Prof Mike George and Dr Keith Izod.

The award of the RSC Travel grant ensured that the registration and travel costs for RSC student members were covered. Two prizes were also awarded for the best student posters and the award for the best oral presentation was won by Caroline Knapp of UCL.