

# RSC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011 [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org)



## Pharma in focus

THE RSC LAUNCHES AN ACTION PLAN TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE INNOVATION



International Year of  
**CHEMISTRY**  
2011

**RSC** | Advancing the  
Chemical Sciences

**CHEMICAL  
ADVICE AT  
THE UN**

p7



**REVIEWING  
THE IMPACT  
OF REACH**

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More than 760 people, including school students, science teachers, government officials and visitors, attended Kenya's National Students Congress on Science and Technology in June. The event was supported by the Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN).

Students took part in competitions, creating exhibitions and giving talks on chemistry themes such as the manufacture of ammonia and alternative fuels.

Government officials from Kenya's Ministry of Education spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of science, technology and innovation in wealth creation and the preservation of resources.



The recent fifth conference in the International Symposia on Advancing the Chemical Sciences series (ISACS5): Challenges in Chemical Biology, featured the presentation of the Norman Heatley Award to Ben Davis (left), of the University of Oxford. Davis won the award in 2009, in recognition of his outstanding and innovative contributions to protein-carbohydrate chemical biology.

The award was presented by the Chairman of the Chemistry Biology Interface Division Committee Hagan Bayley.

ISACS5 reviewed current research developments in chemical biology. The next conference in the series, ISACS6, covers challenges in organic materials and supramolecular chemistry, and will take place from 2-5 September in Beijing, China.

[www.rsc.org/isacs](http://www.rsc.org/isacs)

RSC President David Phillips presented two Nobel Prize winners with RSC Honorary Fellowships at the ISACS5 symposium in Manchester in July.

Thomas Steitz of Yale University and Venki Ramakrishnan of the University of Cambridge shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their studies of the structure and function of the ribosome. In recognition of their contributions to the field of chemistry, they were made honorary fellows by the RSC in 2009.

Steitz gained his PhD at Harvard. He then conducted his post-doctoral research at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK before moving to Yale in 1970. Ramakrishnan's career has followed an almost mirror image, undertaking his post-doctoral research at Yale, then, after working at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, he joined the MRC Laboratory as Group Leader of the Structural Studies Division in 1999.

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# snapshot

A look at the latest news from around the world

## The RSC needs your views



### Help us improve our products and services to you by taking part in the RSC's membership survey

Every two years, the RSC conducts a membership survey to help us check whether we are meeting members' needs, see how our services and products are rated, and make sure that we understand what members expect and value. The next survey is due to be launched in September and we're urging all members to take part.

The RSC takes the results and analysis of each survey very seriously, as it helps us to manage and improve member support, benefits, communications and activities, as well as influencing longer term decisions.

Your feedback does make a difference. Recent surveys indicated that RSC members are increasingly making use of electronic and social media. In response, we introduced digital editions of *Chemistry World* and *RSC News*, and two years ago we also launched MyRSC, a networking and communications tool that has been put to excellent use by many

members and groups. In 2010, we hosted ChemCareers on MyRSC and will be repeating this successful online careers event again this year.

RSC Interest Groups have consistently proved to be a valuable member benefit, so at the start of this year, the RSC made sure that every member can join three interest groups at no extra cost to their membership fee.

With your help, we can make sure the RSC continues to move in the right direction. Members who have opted in to receive email communications will be sent an individual invitation to participate, which will contain a link to the survey. For those who choose not to receive RSC email communications, a static link will be available in the Members' section of the website from 22 September onwards.

Please do take part and if you think we might not have your current email address, send your details to [membership@rsc.org.uk](mailto:membership@rsc.org.uk)

## IN BRIEF

### THE RSC EXTENDS ITS COMMUNITY

At the American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall meeting, the RSC launched a new product allowing anyone to access an electronic version of *Chemistry World* via a MyRSC account and enjoy the benefits of electronic networking with this professional online community.

E-members will not receive the professional recognition or specific services and discounts available to RSC Members, but it allows chemical scientists from around the world, many already members of chemical societies in their own country, to benefit from additional networking opportunities offered from MyRSC. It will also help the RSC extend the number of professionals networking on MyRSC, which now stands at over 11,000 members. If you know of any friends or colleagues, anywhere in the world, who might be interested in this new service, then please direct them to sign up online.

[www.rsc.org/e-membership](http://www.rsc.org/e-membership)

## Chemists raise funding concerns

The RSC has joined many chemists in raising concerns over the changes to chemistry funding recently announced by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), which identify synthetic organic chemistry and catalysis as areas which will reduce, and increase, in funding respectively.

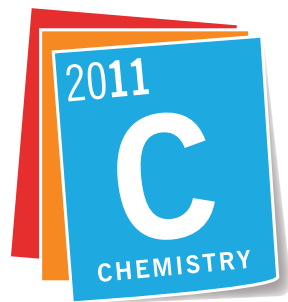
Earlier this year, the EPSRC met with members of the RSC's Science, Education and Industry Board, but specific funding details were not shared. "We are concerned that there was no extensive consultation" said RSC President David Phillips. "For the RSC, consultation means a two-way exchange, based on full information which is transparently available, with an opportunity to affect the final decision.

"There is a stark difference between being asked to comment on a partial picture of decisions already made, and being given an appropriate opportunity to understand the EPSRC's full strategic proposals, and to help shape the outcome." Other concerns have been raised by Tony Barrett, of Imperial College, London and Paul Clarke of the University of York, who wrote to the Prime Minister and Science Minister, respectively.

The EPSRC has said that synthetic organic chemistry has received a greater proportion of its support than most other areas in recent years, but they could not sustain that level of funding.

The RSC will continue to keep members updated and we have been encouraging members to share their views on MyRSC. Turn to page 15 to see some of the reaction so far, or visit the website for more details.

[www.rsc.org/EPSRC](http://www.rsc.org/EPSRC)



# International Year of CHEMISTRY 2011

International Year of CHEMISTRY 2011

[www.chemistry2011.org](http://www.chemistry2011.org)

## Discovering Robert Boyle

Duncan Thorburn-Burns, of Queen's University, Belfast, gave a fascinating lecture about the pioneering 17th Century chemist, Robert Boyle, at the Chemistry Centre in August. The event marked the 350th anniversary of the publication of one of Boyle's most famous books, *A Sceptical Chymist*. Published in 1661, this book is often regarded as the most important book ever written about chemistry.

The audience also had the opportunity to view an impressive collection of artefacts relating to Robert Boyle, including rare and early editions of some of his publications. The collection, which belongs to Duncan Thorburn-Burns, remained on display for visitors at the Chemistry Centre throughout August.

A video of the lecture is available on The Reaction.  
[www.thereaction.net/explore/a-sceptical-chymist](http://www.thereaction.net/explore/a-sceptical-chymist)



## Stimulating the senses

An assortment of flavours greeted visitors to the Chemistry Centre on 10 August, in an event showing there's much more to flavour than what our taste buds tell us.

Not everything on the menu was to everyone's liking, but the meal had been specially selected by Jane Parker, from the University of Reading, as she helped the audience explore the chemistry behind food flavouring.

The event was one of a series of food-themed activities held at the Chemistry Centre in August, which continues in September with 'Hale and Hearty?' at 12:30 on 7 September. This talk will explore how diet plays a crucial role in the health of our heart and blood vessels. To book your place, visit The Reaction.  
[www.thereaction.net/events](http://www.thereaction.net/events)



## An afternoon of radioactivity

David Grayson, Head of the School of Chemistry at Trinity College, Dublin, welcomed Helene Langevin-Joliot, the granddaughter of Marie and Pierre Curie, at an afternoon of public lectures exploring radioactivity.

The event was supported by the RSC's Republic of Ireland Local Section to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie's Nobel Prize, as well as marking 300 years since the School of Chemistry at the college opened.

Langevin-Joliot finished the afternoon with a talk entitled 'Marie Curie: Beyond the Myth'.



## IYC 2011 EVENTS



### Hale and Hearty?

7 September at 12:30, the Chemistry Centre, London (see page 18)

### Recharging Our Future

8 September at 18:30, the Chemistry Centre, London (see page 18)

### Indian Patent Enforcement in the Chemical Arts

26 September at 09:00, London (see page 18)

### Thames Valley Section Exhibition: Chemistry and Plants

6 October - 23 December, Oxford (see page 17)

### What's In My Stuff?

13 October at 18:30, the Chemistry Centre, London (see page 18)

### Elements: The Beauty of Chemistry

Until 23 September, Ireland (see page 19)

## THE MAGIC OF CHEMISTRY

The RSC West India section organised a lecture with a difference for pupils at St Mary's School in Mumbai this summer. Anil Kumar, of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, who gave the lecture, inspired the audience through magic tricks based on scientific principles to encourage the audience to think scientifically.

# onetoone

Take advantage of a wide range of member services

The RSC's Library and Information Centre provides extensive, free, offline and online services to help you maximise your research and innovation potential

Burlington House in London isn't just a home for the Chemistry Centre. It's also home to a working library for chemists – the RSC Library and Information Centre (LIC) – providing a wealth of tools freely available, and by remote access, as part of your membership package.

Sound business, project and research decisions can be made by using the library's Chemistry Search Service, or the online tools of the Virtual Library. The Historical, Famous Chemists and Genealogical Enquiries Service is another unique and useful tool.

## ■ RSC Virtual Library

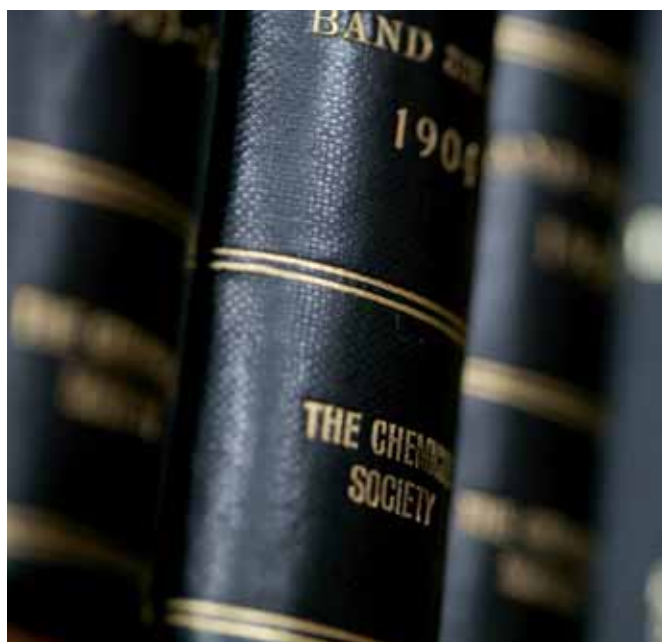
The Virtual Library gives you access to collections of full-text ebooks, journals and databases, accessible at any time from any internet-connected computer, laptop or other portable device. You just need your membership number and password (the default is your date of birth in the format YYYYMMDD).

Through Elsevier ScienceDirect, members can also access 14 current journals (including the *Journal of Catalysis* and *Tetrahedron Letters*), 304 ebooks and 108 journal back-files. ScienceDirect requires a separate log in which must be renewed annually, so please contact the library if you would like us to set this up for you.

[www.rsc.org/virtuallibrary](http://www.rsc.org/virtuallibrary)

## ■ Full-text ebooks

The full-text ebooks provide fast, convenient access to chemistry



information at your fingertips. You can access hundreds of ebooks through the following collections:

- NetLibrary – good for in-depth introductions to topics;
- Knovel – for chemical and physical property data;
- Referex Chem – professionally focused handbooks; and
- Springer – in-depth coverage of specialised topics.

## ■ e-journals

Full text e-journal resources offer the latest scientific developments, business information and competitor intelligence.

- Springer offers 127 full text e-journals;

- The Engineering Village databases, Chemical Business News Base and Chimica provide bibliographic citation data with abstracts and data mining tools to help you identify trends;
- EBSCO databases offer Business Source Corporate (for full text company profiles, country reports and industry reviews) and Environment Complete (covering energy, ecology, pollution and waste).

## ■ Chemistry Search Service

The Library offers a reliable, confidential, largely cost-free chemistry search service, handled by chemical information specialists with a quick response time. Using the best resources,

such as Chemical Abstracts, Web of Science, Scopus and RAPRA, the LIC staff can help you to obtain elusive information that may be important for your business research. Enquiries can be submitted online.

[www.rsc.org/Library/Services/ChemistrySearchService.asp](http://www.rsc.org/Library/Services/ChemistrySearchService.asp)

## ■ Historical Enquiries

In addition to information on the latest developments in the chemical sciences, the library staff are also custodians of the rich heritage of the history of chemistry. The Historical, Famous Chemists and Genealogical Enquiries service provides detailed information on famous chemists and past members of the society, and includes the Genealogical Enquiries database. This is a standard source of information and images for biographies and obituaries.

## ■ Your library

Many RSC Members treat the library as their own free-of-charge, dependable chemical information department. For information on library opening times, visit the website.

## ► MORE INFORMATION

For more information go to [www.rsc.org/library](http://www.rsc.org/library)

Telephone  
020 7 440  
3373

Or email  
[library@rsc.org](mailto:library@rsc.org)



# profile

A closer look at our members and their interests

60  
seconds  
with...

## Mervyn Richardson

From Thames Water to the United Nations

EUROPEAN  
CHEMISTS

Professional designations are an important part of any chemist's CV and RSC members who are chartered chemists can also apply for European Chemist status.

The EurChem award can assist chemists who are moving from one employer to another across Europe. Introduced by the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), it provides for common standards in skills, competencies and training that are recognised across member states.

EurChem can be awarded to RSC members who are Chartered Chemists (CCChem), have at least eight years' higher or further education (including a postgraduate qualification), at least three years' professional experience and references from two other Chartered Chemists.

[www.rsc.org/EurChem](http://www.rsc.org/EurChem)



**MERVYN RICHARDSON**  
EURCHEM CCHEM FRSC

*Mervyn Richardson has been a member of the RSC for 57 years.*

*His career includes time spent at Thames Water and as a consultant with the United Nations, as part of a team responding to chemical disasters.*

*Since retiring, he splits his time between his retirement home in Crawley and Lithuania, where his wife, Anolda Cetkauskaitė, is an associate professor in the department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at Vilnius University.*

*“At the UN, we looked at the environmental consequences of conflict, particularly the problems caused by the bombing of chemical facilities”*

**Q** How did your career in chemistry begin?

**A** I've been interested in chemistry since my father bought me a chemistry set when I was 10 or 11. After graduating from what was known at the time as the Advanced College of Technology in Birmingham (now Aston University), I worked in the food industry and then joined Thames Water in around 1974. I was a laboratory manager looking after two laboratories and then worked in catchment quality control, which involved checking water supplies for chemical micropollutants.

After privatisation and restructuring, I was moved to the National Rivers Authority. I wasn't very happy in that role so I decided to take early retirement.

**Q** How did you end up working for the UN and what was it like?

**A** It took a long time to get started. I'd gone to Geneva looking for consultancy work and started 'knocking on doors' at the UN. My first role was editing monographs that had been translated from Russian into English. I moved on to different departments including the World Health Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. I was able to get a contract going to Croatia around the time of the war. We looked at the environmental consequences of the conflict, and in particular, the problems caused by the bombing and shelling of chemical facilities. I've written a book about it, *The Effects of War on the Environment*, which has also been translated into Croatian.

**Q** What are you up to these days?

**A** I had to stop working after my first wife, Beryl, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She died in 2006 and I have since married Anolda, a professor at Vilnius University in Lithuania. I spend a lot of time at the university.

I'm going to be giving a lecture in Lithuania on 21 September and two weeks after that Vilnius is hosting a conference for the International Year of Chemistry. At these events, with the support of the RSC who have provided £1,000 worth of books, we're hoping to re-form the Lithuanian Chemistry Society, which is currently defunct.

I'm particularly keen to promote chartered status in Lithuania, and continuing professional development (CPD) programmes, which I feel are very important. As a chartered chemist you can also apply for European Chemist (EurChem) status which is very valuable and would create a lot of opportunities across Europe for Lithuanian chemists. More information about the conference can be found on the Vilnius University website.

[www.chf.vu.lt/2011/Chemistry.html](http://www.chf.vu.lt/2011/Chemistry.html)

**Q** How long have you been involved in the RSC?

**A** I first joined the RSC as a student in 1954. I've been a secretary in the West Midlands region for the Analytical Division, have served on the council and initiated the Toxicology Group and Water Science Forum.

I'm also planning to leave some of my estate as a legacy to the RSC. I felt it was important to give something back to the society as I wouldn't be where I am today without the RSC.

# SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE INNOVATION

With progress in chemistry crucial for future advances in healthcare, the RSC has drawn up an action plan to sustain innovation in this evolving arena

The chemical sciences have a vital role to play in the continuing development of healthcare. Yet there is perhaps a risk of complacency in some circles that medicines research can progress as effectively even if we allow related scientific disciplines to founder. In response to this, the RSC has drawn up an action plan with industry leaders and stakeholders in the sector to develop a new model of medicines research that will enable the UK to lead the way towards a sustainable future for drug discovery.

## A framework for progress

The RSC's action plan deals with four inter-related themes: scientific quality; advocacy; funding and reimbursement; and infrastructure (see box opposite for a summary). It provides a clear and coherent framework for sustaining innovation and productivity in healthcare, and aligning investment and policy in medicines research along a single, compelling vision.

The proposal builds upon the UK's outstanding track record in synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry, which has thrust the UK into a world class position in drug discovery innovation. However, we also understand that many of the pressing questions in medicine are too complex and significant to be tackled using a chemical approach in isolation. Therefore, we are seeking input from relevant parties across the breadth of academia, industry, government and charities, in chemistry and other fields. We are also developing programmes of



**The RSC consulted with scientists around the world to identify opportunities for the chemical sciences in enhancing drug discovery. See: [www.rsc.org/roadmap](http://www.rsc.org/roadmap)**

activity to drive forward our action plan, both internally and with partners.

### Engaging government

The RSC hopes that our action plan will seed a medicines research framework from the community, to inform government policy in this area. This work is being led by Simon Campbell CBE. Simon, a past president of the RSC and former Senior Vice President of World Wide Discovery at Pfizer, is chairing the RSC's Pharma Working Group. This group is comprised of members who are active within the pharmaceutical industry and involved with the RSC's Biological & Medicinal Chemistry Sector interest group, Organic Division, Industry and Technology Division, and Chemistry Biology Interface Division.

In July this year, Simon presented our

vision to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee meeting, chaired by Andrew Miller MP. Simon's presentation on the current state of the industry was hard-hitting, and he followed this with an outline of the RSC's vision for the future of the sector and the specific recommendations were well received. Indeed, two members of the committee commented that the presentations were the most clearly presented talks they had heard in a long time. A summary of the presentations are being prepared for publication in the Autumn edition of *Science in Parliament*, the journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

In addition, the RSC has presented its views to government through a joint Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department of Health stakeholder workshop. This workshop was on

'the Changing Dynamic in the Life Sciences' and it featured delegates from major pharma and IT companies as well as from the NHS, funders and charities.

However, it is clear that there is an urgent need for increased advocacy of the role of chemistry in healthcare-based wealth creation. To this end, the RSC has continued correspondence with the organisers of this workshop at BIS, and we have been invited to continue engaging with the Office for Life Sciences to develop a body of evidence on the UK's long-term position in the life sciences industry.

With every part of the Government focused on driving economic growth, it seems certain that chemists must increase communication on the achievements and potential of our science. To read the full action plan, visit the website. [www.rsc.org/health](http://www.rsc.org/health)

## HEALTHCARE INNOVATION IN THE UK – AN ACTION PLAN

This action plan for the life sciences sector begins with building advocacy. Some of the actions will be driven by the RSC, and some will be partner-led with RSC support. Stakeholders include: the Department of Health, the NHS, clinicians and medical practitioners, chemical scientists (academic and industrial), small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large pharmaceutical companies.

### 1. Advocacy

Articulate the socio-economic case for drug discovery and the critical role played by chemistry.

- Build a consensus of expert stakeholders with the common objective of supporting world class healthcare innovation in the UK.
- Stress the importance of innovative pharmaceutical R&D as a key component of the government's growth strategy and for competitive use of the UK science base.
- Highlight for government, funding bodies and charities that it is innovative chemists who invent the range of new structures required to modulate biological processes at every level.

### 4. Infrastructure

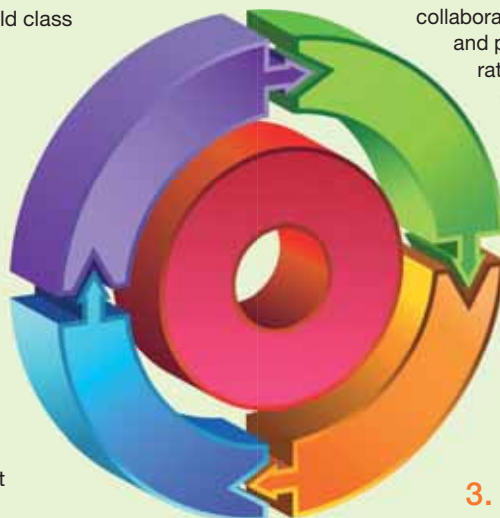
Build capacity to support new drug discovery models and deliver the next generation of medicines.

- Stimulate a new model of medicines research through a network of Academies of Drug Discovery. Here, expert medicinal chemists can facilitate and exploit innovative biology emerging from UK laboratories and they can train and educate future generations of research scientists.
- Invest in a nationwide compound bank and screening capability that enables a systematic approach to tool/lead identification to validate and advance new biological targets.
- Evaluate opportunities to reposition experienced pharmaceutical scientists and state of the art facilities into a combination of Innovative Drug Discovery Centres, Spin Outs and Contract Research Organisations.

### 2. Scientific quality

Capitalise on world class scientists and training to deliver innovative medicines.

- Continue building industry/academic pre-competitive collaborations, focusing on target selection/validation and predictive toxicology, to increase the success rate of drug candidates.
- Embed experienced industrial scientists in biomedical centres of excellence by creating new chairs in medicinal chemistry, enabling them to engage in initiatives that transform innovative biology into new medicines.
  - Invest in fundamental chemistry research for biological targets currently beyond traditional drug templates and to explore new chemical structures.
  - Build industry/academic/clinical pre-competitive collaborations to identify patient sub-groups that respond to agents with novel mechanisms.



### 3. Funding and reimbursement

Highlight where investment will deliver benefit to patients in key areas of medical need.

- Government and other funders need to establish a sustainable model to fund world class drug discovery capabilities at the public/private interface and also to revitalise the biotechnology sector.
- Prioritise therapeutic areas of significant medical need where innovative new medicines will improve quality of life and economic benefits.
- Define efficacy, safety, health and economic criteria for new agents that would command fair reimbursement for drug development and a sustainable return on investment.

# THE IMPACT OF REACH



The REACH Regulation placed new responsibilities on businesses across the EU. The RSC asks how members have been affected to build a clear picture for an upcoming European Commission Review.

**T**he REACH Regulation – the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals – came into force on 1 June 2007. It applies to virtually every use of every chemical, both natural and synthetic, manufactured or imported and

used in quantities of one tonne per year or more within the European Union.

Almost every business in the UK has responsibilities under REACH, and the RSC is calling on members to provide feedback about how the regulations have affected them. In particular, we are interested in any

unforeseen impacts, on innovation for example, as well as difficulties members may have experienced with the implementation of REACH. For instance, we would like to know if manufacturers have experienced any difficulties with registration or had to withdraw any substances from the market. For ‘downstream users’ (see

box below for definitions of different user groups), we want to know if you have had to find substitutes or had to redesign products and processes as a direct result of substances being withdrawn from the market due to the REACH Regulation.

### The three stages

REACH aims to provide a high level of protection for human health and the environment, whilst maintaining the competitiveness and innovation of the EU chemicals industry. The Regulation also made it illegal to manufacture or supply substances within the EU that have not been registered with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

In order to deal with the large number of chemical substances requiring registration, the European Commission established three deadlines, based on tonnage. The first deadline, 1 December 2010, required manufacturers and importers to register chemical substances placed on the EU market in quantities greater than 1,000 tonnes per annum. This deadline also required businesses to register substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction or very toxic to aquatic organisms, and which may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment (labelled R50/53).

The next deadline for registration, 1 June 2013, applies to quantities greater than 100 tonnes per annum, followed by a third deadline in

2018, covering the manufacture or importation of substances in excess of one tonne per annum. According to the ECHA, the first registrations have gone better than expected because most of the registrants met the deadline. There are, however, concerns about individual registrants meeting their 2013 and 2018 obligations. This is particularly the case for smaller businesses, mainly due to a shortage of expertise.

### Under Review

The REACH Regulation places a statutory requirement on Member States of the EU to report back to the European Commission every five years on the operation of REACH in their respective territories. The first review is due in 2012, but will be very limited in scope, focusing mainly on structural issues.

The Commission has therefore launched a more comprehensive review, looking at specific issues in greater depth, such as the impact of REACH on innovation. The review won't change the fundamentals of the Regulation, but will focus on its implementation, looking at 'what's working', 'what's not' and some of the unintended consequences that REACH might have had on business. The RSC will use members' feedback to contribute to this review, and also to a planned UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs survey, looking for ways to streamline procedures and reduce costs that can be implemented by



2013. The European Commission report will be presented to the European Parliament in June 2012.

### Get involved

To share your views on the impact of REACH, visit the website to access a short survey about your experiences.

[www.rsc.org/REACHsurvey](http://www.rsc.org/REACHsurvey)

**Organisations that handle chemicals – from manufacturers to downstream users – were given new responsibility under the REACH Regulation**



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The passage of information up and down the supply chain is a key feature of REACH and each link in that chain has different roles and responsibilities. These are categorised into three groups: manufacturers and importers; downstream users; and distributors and consumers.

**Manufacturers and Importers** of chemical substances are registrants. Businesses that manufacture or import (from outside the EU) one tonne or more of any given substance each year are responsible for registering a dossier of information about that substance with the ECHA. Manufacturers and importers have to provide information on appropriate risk

management measures for any particular use of the substance to downstream users. The main instrument for this communication down the supply chain is the extended Safety Data Sheet, which contains exposure scenarios specifying the conditions under which the substance or preparation can be used safely, for identified uses.

**Downstream Users** include any businesses that use chemicals supplied by manufacturers or importers, either on their own or in a preparation, in the course of their professional activities. Downstream users have a duty to use chemicals safely according to the risk management

information provided by manufacturers and importers for each registered use of a chemical substance. Downstream users also have an obligation to inform manufacturers and importers how they use chemical substances so that they can develop appropriate risk management procedures.

**Distributors and Consumers** are not considered to be downstream users in terms of REACH. Businesses that sell chemicals (distributors) have specific duties to pass information down to their customers, and also to pass information back to their own suppliers when customers ask them to do so.

# opinion

Letters and comments on RSC activities and issues



What does the future hold for UK chemistry? Some of you have been commenting on MyRSC about some of the major issues affecting chemistry at the

moment, such as the recent announcement on funding from the EPSRC.

Financial pressures and budget cuts make this a difficult time for UK chemistry, which is why projects like the RSC's UK Chemistry Landscape are so important. These proposals will be used to lobby decision makers across government, academia, industry and funding agencies. Of course, there isn't an infinite pot of money, but with your help we can use the UK Chemistry Landscape to secure the best possible outcome for the chemical sciences as a whole.

We've printed some of the comments the RSC has received on both of these issues opposite. There's still time to respond to the Chemistry Landscape consultation, which closes on 9 September, so please log on to MyRSC and share your views.

Nick White

Nick White

RSCNews@rsc.org

## The case for maths

In response to John Crompton's article on maths (*RSC News*, August 2011), as a private tutor and a teacher-mentor with Salters' Chemistry Camps, I stress to all my students the importance of maths. For any student wanting a career in science, engineering, technology or business, A-level maths is an absolute must. Without it, at a later point in their careers, most students will find themselves 'blighted' in their lack of facility in the applied sciences.

Many students will take the easiest option to gain university entrance, which of course leaves universities with the task of remedial maths. It is better for the student to learn GCSE and A-level maths at school, where they will be fully guided rather than relying on remedial teaching.

Finally, your picture above the article is a joy! Castle's tables, slide rule and scientific calculator – I still own them. Yes, students must learn their maths, and the sooner the better.

**Len Pollock MRSC, Merseyside**

## Maths isn't for everyone

As a chemistry student with the OU, a maths graduate, a schoolteacher and Higher Education Advisor, last month's article on maths is an area I have great interest in.

Dr Crompton argues that if we could get the teaching and curriculum right, everyone would do well at mathematics. Sorry – this is simply not the case and never has been. Not all children are mathematically gifted. There's plenty I'd like to change in our curriculum, but I think there's a need to look elsewhere to find the cause of the problem.

One issue is that prospective chemistry students don't always realise that it's a numerate discipline. In the distant past when I was at school, those who had problems with maths realised sciences were not for them, but now there's a tendency to de-couple the two. One part of the problem is that GCSE chemistry is so toothless that kids aren't really aware that rigorous, analytical thought and some confidence with maths is needed for 'proper' chemical studies. A-level is also less mathematically based than it used to be. The net result is people who are not comfortable with maths filtering through on to science degrees.

A bigger problem is the paucity of good A-level students wanting to read for chemistry degrees. The vast majority of our high-calibre science A-level students (who are almost all doing maths A-level) are wanting to go into medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. Very few are wanting to study chemistry or the other pure sciences. If we could raise the profile and status of a chemistry degree so that admissions can be as selective as they are in medicine, then I suspect the problem would be solved.

**Catherine Brown, Birmingham**

*RSC News* welcomes letters, which should be concise (normally less than 300 words) and timely. Those selected for publication are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters should be marked 'for publication'; letters are not routinely acknowledged. [rscnews@rsc.org](mailto:rscnews@rsc.org)

The comments below have been adapted from feedback the RSC has received on the recent EPSRC funding announcement and the UK Chemistry Landscape. Some of these have been edited for length and clarity. To see more comments, and to contribute your views, log on to MyRSC. The Chemistry Landscape consultation closes on 9 September. <http://my.rsc.org/chemistrylandscape>

## EPSRC Funding

### Chemistry is under assault

I'm very disappointed to see that there has been yet another assault on the core of our subject. It seems that chemists are only seen to have a 'good return on investment' when they are trying to be biologists, physicists, materials scientists or engineers. Chemistry for chemists is of no (or little) value apparently.

I was disappointed that the RSC has not chosen to support members by condemning the short-sightedness of these proposals. After all, we are only just rebuilding areas such as electrochemistry after it 'went out of fashion' as we have now realised it is actually rather important.

Sometimes taking the pragmatic approach isn't the message needed. Sometimes we need a clear statement from senior figures that this is wrong and chemistry will be damaged by it, to the detriment of this country in the long run. I think the RSC's original statement makes the society look incredibly weak.

RSC President Professor Phillips appears to have hardened his stance on this issue from his comments in the original RSC press release, but given that the RSC weren't consulted, I think that they should have taken a much tougher line from the outset.

**Adapted from comments made by  
Chris Satterley MRSC, Nottingham**

### A different approach

I suspect I shall be in a minority over this, but having been on a major funding panel for approximately eight years, I have fairly strong opinions. The problem is simple, too little money for the number of proposals of reasonable quality, and while the best and worst are easily dealt with, there is always a bunch in the middle that is a problem. In my opinion, the worst approach is to allocate to preferred areas. First, it is unfair, and second, over time the preference changes and you are left with scientists

who have no confidence in the system, and no really good experience.

I am a strong believer in value for money, but such value from research is subjective. My preferred approach is to have two parcels: one is solely for scientists starting out on their own projects, and the other should be allocated based on track record. You back the best people you have. I know there is a problem of recognising them, but I like to think that anyone who is really good can make a case that they have achieved something significant.

**Ian Miller MRSC, New Zealand**

## Chemistry Landscape

### Scientific literacy

There is a huge amount that the RSC can do to raise the standing of chemistry technicians in schools. A really well-thought-out, full-blooded campaign for better pay and conditions for technicians is well overdue. One way to do this would be to focus on head teachers and senior managers in schools, and tell them what everyone else seems to know, namely that technicians are worth their weight in gold.

**Anthony Hardwick, St Albans**

### Schools and further education

I have taught Salters' chemistry courses, AQA examination board syllabi and International Baccalaureate chemistry in recent years and the content of 'traditional' schemes, such as AQA, seem uninspiring to say the least. With the split of A-level into AS and A2 there is little time to cover a scheme and truly inspire learners. One suggestion would be to re-introduce the two year course, thereby giving us an extra term's teaching. Another would be adopting the Salter's more thematic approach more widely.

**Michael McCormick CChem MRSC,  
Devon**

### Industry and university collaboration

The regional aspect of collaboration is very important and this is one of the key ways that Universities can help SME's (Small and Medium Enterprises). It is vital that government has an effective university-industry regional policy in which universities can take strategic decisions to provide support and concentrate innovation activities that are aligned with regional hubs and strengths. We can look to areas such as Galway, Singapore and Silicon Valley to see just how important supporting regionalism is for university and industry interactions.

**Stephen Rimmer CChem FRSC, Sheffield**

### Higher education and research capability

One Chemistry Landscape proposal is for postdoctoral fellowships to comprise of research and teaching in a university environment, improving prospects to obtain a permanent lecturing post.

I think it should be pointed out that post doctoral fellowships comprise alternative training or duties other than teaching and research to obtain a permanent lecturing position. It is clear that there are more postdoctoral persons than permanent lecturing positions. It is not possible to create enough permanent lecturing positions for all the postdocs. It would be better if post doctoral fellowships comprise a more general overview of possible alternatives than academia and give the postdoc the opportunity of training in things such as project management, enterprising skills, supervising and managing people and others areas. This training would give the opportunity to the postdoc to carry on his or her career in other sectors, such as industry, government and media, and we will not lose his or her scientific knowledge.

**Adapted from comments made by  
Jesus Cirre Torres MRSC, Wrexham**

The RSC originally responded to the EPSRC funding announcement on 25 July. Since then, we have continued to develop our response alongside other voices in the scientific community. At the time of going to print, the RSC is writing to the EPSRC, and a copy of this letter has been published online [www.rsc.org/EPSRCletter](http://www.rsc.org/EPSRCletter)

We welcome further comments on this issue and we will continue to respond to, and reflect, the concerns of our members through our lobbying efforts. Your feedback is important. The EPSRC have already asked the RSC to provide them with our early findings from the Chemistry Landscape consultation, so please continue to share your views on MyRSC.

# diary

YOUR GUIDE TO  
ALL IMPORTANT EVENTS

## Announcing

### CrystEngComm Symposium

4 November 2011  
The Chemistry Centre,  
London, UK

► Registration – now open

[www.rsc.org/  
crystengcommsymposium](http://www.rsc.org/crystengcommsymposium)

### ICPOC21: 21st IUPAC International Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry

9-13 September 2012  
Durham University, UK

► Call for abstracts – submit  
now

[www.rsc.org/ICPOC21](http://www.rsc.org/ICPOC21)

## in the diary

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## Major conferences

### Inorganic Photophysics and Photochemistry – Fundamentals and Applications: Dalton Discussion 13

10-12 September 2012  
University of Sheffield, UK

#### Call for oral abstracts now open – submit by 9 October 2011

The fields of photophysics and photochemistry of metal complexes – and their associated spectroscopic methodology – have never been more topical. The efficient use of light as a renewable energy source on a large scale, including artificial photosynthesis, is becoming paramount, as is use of light scale for photocatalysis.

On a smaller scale, use of light in emission-based sensors for analytical and diagnostic applications, and as a means for information processing, transfer and data storage, and in OLED-type display devices, are all areas where real world applications either already exist or are close to development.

Themes: solar energy, energy and electron transfer, applications of strongly emissive complexes, bond breaking and isomerisation.

This Discussion will bring together people from a wide range of disciplines – from theory and ultrafast spectroscopy to medicinal chemistry and biology – but all with a shared interest in the use of light.

[www.rsc.org/DD13](http://www.rsc.org/DD13)

### Ion Specific Hofmeister Effects Faraday Discussion 160

3-5 September 2012  
Queens College Oxford, UK

#### Call for oral abstracts now open – submit by 11 November 2011

The hydration of ions and the interactions of ions with (bio)molecules play a key role in many natural and technological processes. These effects are usually framed in terms of the lyotropic or Hofmeister series which traditionally orders cations and anions according to their ability to salt-out proteins.

Although it is now clear that the Hofmeister series is intimately connected with ion hydration in homogeneous and heterogeneous environments and with ion pairing, the molecular origin of these effects has been poorly understood.

This meeting aims to respond to the emerging situation in which science has matured enough to be able to provide answers about the molecular nature of ion specific effects. It will explore the most important issues in understanding the chemistry and biological effects of ions, with state of the art work being presented using advanced experimental and computational methods.

[www.rsc.org/FD160](http://www.rsc.org/FD160)

## DATES AND DEADLINES

### 1st PACN Congress on Agricultural Productivity: How the chemical sciences can help to feed the world

21-23 November 2011

Accra International Convention  
Centre, Accra, Ghana

► Oral and poster abstract  
submission – deadline 19  
September 2011

Bursary application – deadline  
19 September 2011

[www.rsc.org/pacn2011](http://www.rsc.org/pacn2011)

### Soft Matter Approaches to Structured Foods: Faraday Discussion 158

2-4 July 2012

Hof van Wageningen, The  
Netherlands

► Oral abstract submission –  
deadline 16 September 2011  
[www.rsc.org/FD158](http://www.rsc.org/FD158)

### Crystallisation – a Biological Perspective: Faraday Discussion 159

23-25 June 2012

Leeds Metropolitan University,  
UK

► Oral abstract submission –  
deadline 30 September 2011  
[www.rsc.org/FD159](http://www.rsc.org/FD159)

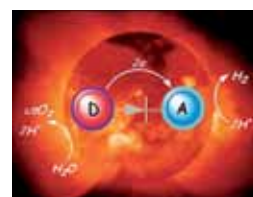
#### ► MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about any  
event on this page, see  
[www.rsc.org/events](http://www.rsc.org/events)

Call +44 (0) 1223 43 2254/2380  
Or email [events@rsc.org](mailto:events@rsc.org)

Faraday Discussion 155:  
Artificial Photosynthesis

See listings below



## Events

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The RSC News Diary this month lists RSC events from September to 19 October 2011 that are held on the RSC conference database. Further details on any of these meetings can be obtained from the named contact or from the conference website at

[www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/conference](http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/conference)

Type in the specific ID number for each event in the search box.

You can also browse events by type, organiser or region.

## SCOTLAND

Mid-Scotland  
SectionBetween the Devil and  
the Deep Blue Sea

30 September at 19:00  
ID=108968

Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan, Stirling  
Prof John Hepworth

• Prof Hepworth continues his series of wine tasting nights. We have been to New Zealand, Chile and Italy, now it's the turn of... well, can you work it out? Early booking is advised.

Contact Sylvia Broomfield  
t 01786 833827  
e [sylvia@broomfieldres.plus.com](mailto:sylvia@broomfieldres.plus.com)

Other  
EventsFaraday Division  
Faraday Discussion 155:  
Artificial Photosynthesis

5-7 September  
ID=105646

University of Edinburgh  
This conference aims to bring together researchers from diverse backgrounds

to discuss identifying novel solutions for converting sunlight into chemical and/or electrochemical potential.

Contact RSC Events  
t 01223 432254  
e [events@rsc.org](mailto:events@rsc.org)

Particle Characterisation  
Group  
PSA2011

5-7 September  
ID=107260

Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh  
This 11th PSA conference follows on from the successful conference and exhibition held in Stratford upon Avon in September 2008.

Contact Ron Buxton  
t 01283 810091  
e [particle@rsc.org](mailto:particle@rsc.org)

Fluorine Chemistry  
Group

The 11th Annual RSC  
Fluorine Subject Group  
Postgraduate Meeting  
8-9 September  
ID=108763

University of Aberdeen, King's College  
Featuring a postgraduate speakers programme

and keynote speeches, including the RSC Fluorine Prize 2011 Lecture.

Contact Sergio Dall'Angelo  
t 01224 437572  
e [s.dallangelo@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.dallangelo@abdn.ac.uk)

Organic Division  
Inorganic Biochemistry  
Discussion Group and  
Bioorganic Discussion  
Group

Joint IBDG and  
Bioorganic Discussion  
Group Meeting

9-11 September  
ID=107219

Firbush Field Centre,  
University of Edinburgh  
Contact Emma Raven  
t 0116 2297047  
e [emma.raven@le.ac.uk](mailto:emma.raven@le.ac.uk)

## WALES

North Wales  
SectionAnalytical Division -  
North West  
Polymer Physics Group  
RSC Lecture at Bangor  
University with Professor  
Steven Howdle

11 October at 16:15  
ID=108935

School of Chemistry,  
Bangor University  
Prof Howdle's interests lie in the use of supercritical carbon dioxide as a new solvent for polymer synthesis and materials processing. This is an exciting area that has led to collaboration with many other disciplines

Contact Hongyun Tai  
t 01248 382375  
e [chemadmin@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:chemadmin@bangor.ac.uk)

South East Wales  
SectionA Photochemical  
Phenomenon:  
Semiconductor  
Photocatalysis

10 October at 16:00  
ID=108722

School of Chemistry,  
Cardiff University  
• Prof Andrew Mills,  
Queen's University Belfast  
Contact James Redman  
t 02920 876273  
e [redmanje@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:redmanje@cardiff.ac.uk)

Structure and Reactivity  
of Electronically  
and Coordinatively  
Unsaturated Complexes

17 October at 16:00  
ID=108723

School of Chemistry,  
Cardiff University  
• Dr Deborah Kays,  
University of Nottingham  
Contact James Redman  
t 02920 876273  
e [redmanje@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:redmanje@cardiff.ac.uk)

South Wales  
West SectionScience & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

7 September at 10:00  
ID=108937  
University of Swansea  
A series of chemical energy related scientific experiments demonstrated for the benefit of school children.

Contact Neville Jones  
t 01269 850815  
e [dnj.derwydd@mac.com](mailto:dnj.derwydd@mac.com)

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

7 September at 13:00  
ID=108938  
University of Swansea  
See listing above

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

21 September at 10:00  
ID=108940  
Theatr Brycheiniog, Powys  
See listing above

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

21 September at 13:00  
ID=108939  
Theatr Brycheiniog, Powys  
See listing above

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

22 September at 11:00  
ID=108941  
Theatr Brycheiniog, Powys  
See listing above

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

18 October at 10:00  
ID=108942  
University of Wales, Trinity St. David  
See listing above

Science & Energy  
Demonstrations for  
Schoolchildren

18 October at 13:00  
ID=108945  
University of Wales, Trinity St. David  
See listing above

**Science & Energy Demonstrations for Schoolchildren**

19 October at 10:00  
ID=108943  
University of Wales, Trinity St. David  
See listing above

**Science & Energy Demonstrations for Schoolchildren**

19 October at 13:00  
ID=108944  
University of Wales, Trinity St. David  
See listing above

**MIDLANDS**

**Birmingham and West Midlands Section**

**Senior Members' Luncheon**

9 September at 12:00  
ID=108821  
The Granary Hotel, Kidderminster  
Get together occasion for retired members. No speaker involved.  
Contact Leslie Whitfield  
t 01562 634440  
e elwhitfield28@yahoo.co.uk

**Excursion to London**

15 September at 08:00  
ID=108653  
The local section is organising a day trip to London which will include a visit to Burlington House, a bus tour of the city, lunch in Hyde Park (weather permitting) and an afternoon at the Natural History Museum.  
Contact Daniel Payne  
t 07775 334332  
e DXP854@bham.ac.uk

**Other Events**

**Dalton Transactions Younger Researchers Symposium**

20-21 September  
ID=108347  
University of Warwick  
The meeting is primarily for early-stage inorganic

and organometallic chemistry researchers (industrial scientists, PhD students and early-career postdoctoral fellows), to present their latest results in the context of the wider UK inorganic community.  
Contact Ruth Doherty, RSC

t 01223 432259  
e doherty@rsc.org

**Radiochemistry Group Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste: Underpinning Science and Technology for Radioactive Waste**

18-20 October  
ID=108406  
Loughborough University  
In association with the Geological Society, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Nuclear Institute, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Mineralogical Society.  
Contact Nick Evans  
t 01509 222564  
e n.d.m.evans@lboro.ac.uk

**EASTERN**

**East Anglia Section**

**Tours of Adnams Brewery**  
10 September at 10:00  
ID=108717  
Adnams Brewery, Southwold  
Tours include a tasting and visit to the Adnams shop.  
Contact John Beckett  
t 01502 675705  
e jv-beckett@tiscali.co.uk

**Mid Anglia Section**

**Retired Members' Lunch**  
7 September at 13:00  
ID=108412  
University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield  
An annual get-together for the retired members of the Mid-Anglia Section to reminisce and meet old

friends over a nice lunch and a free bar.  
Contact John O'Toole  
t 01223 894174  
e john.otoole9@btopenworld.com

**Vineyard Tour and Wine Tasting**

24 September at 15:00  
ID=108549  
Chilford Hall Vineyard, Cambridge  
The tour includes an explanation of the wine-making process and the management of the vine, followed by a chance to taste some of Chilford's award-winning wines.  
In association with SCI CaGE Section  
Contact John O'Toole  
t 01223 894174  
e john.otoole9@btopenworld.com

**Science in the House of Commons**

13 October at 19:00  
ID=108475  
University of Cambridge  
• Dr Julian Huppert MP  
An excellent opportunity to come and meet the MP for Cambridge, ask questions, and hear his views on the current state of science in the UK.  
In association with SCI CaGE Section  
Contact John O'Toole  
t 01223 894174  
e john.otoole9@btopenworld.com

**Other Events**

**Nucleic Acids Group 6th Cambridge Symposium: Nucleic Acids Chemistry and Biology**

4-7 September  
ID=108110  
Queens College, Cambridge  
This is the sixth in a popular conference series that brings together nucleic acids scientists across a broad area but with particular emphasis on chemistry and

biochemistry.  
Contact Maggi Churchouse  
t 01359 221004  
e maggi@na-cb.co.uk

**Industry and Technology Division**

**Industry Hour**  
4 October at 18:30  
ID=108924  
Thomas Graham House, RSC Cambridge  
Part of a series of free sixty minute lectures designed to help you get ahead in the corporate chemical science community.  
Thomas Graham House, RSC Cambridge  
Contact Aurora Antemir, RSC  
e industry@rsc.org

**NORTH EAST**

**Huddersfield Section**

**Research Symposium**  
21-22 September  
ID=108740  
University of Huddersfield Postgrads at the University of Huddersfield present updates on their research.  
In association with the University of Huddersfield  
Contact Steve Turner  
t 01484 422383  
e steve@turners7.freeseve.co.uk

**Hull and East Yorkshire Section**

**Beverley Café Scientifique: Mirror Neurons – What Are They and How Do They Help Us Function In A Social World?**  
28 September at 19:30  
ID=108595  
Costa Coffee, Beverley  
• Dr Nick Barraclough  
Café Scientifique is a place where, for the price of a cup of coffee, anyone can come to explore the latest ideas in science and technology.  
In association with University of Hull

Contact Mark Lorch  
e science.cafe.beverley@gmail.com

**Newcastle upon Tyne and North East Section**

**Buckyball Competition**  
20 September at 18:00  
ID=108840  
Newcastle University Sports Centre  
Five-a-side football challenge for RSC members, their friends and families.  
Contact Graeme Turnbull  
t 07545 959092  
e g.turnbull@unn.ac.uk

**Teesside Section**

**Ancient Environmentalists: The Identification of Recycling in Roman Glass**  
12 September at 18:30  
ID=108755  
University of Teesside  
• Dr Rebecca Scott, University of Leuven  
This talk will look at the evidence of Roman glass recycling, as well as give an overview of the history of Roman glass and the scientific methods used to analyse ancient glass.  
Contact Melanie Geer  
e geerm@hotmail.co.uk

**Other Events**

**Process Technology Group Chemistry for Engineers and Scientists**  
12-14 September  
ID=108657  
University of Leeds  
This three day course provides an excellent introduction to chemistry for anyone working at the Chemistry/Science/Engineering interfaces.  
Contact Christopher Rayner  
t 0113 3436579  
e c.m.rayner@leeds.ac.uk

## NORTH WEST

Cumbria  
SectionYounger Member  
NetworkTour of Innovia Films  
12 October at 19:00  
ID=108879

Innovia Films Ltd, Wigton  
A tour of the Cellulose  
film production facility at  
Innovia Films, followed by  
a talk on the 'Chemistry of  
Curry' by Dr Bob Paterson.  
**Contact Mark Gibson**  
**t 07917 652278**  
**e mag7@sellfieldsites.com**

Younger Member  
NetworkChemistry of Scarce  
Earth Metals13 October at 19:00  
ID=108880

Samuel Lindlow Building,  
Westlakes Science and  
Technology Park, Cumbria  
• Dr Ian Fairlamb,  
University of York  
Dr Fairlamb will explain the  
applications, associated  
benefits and issues of  
using such metals in  
modern day areas such  
as renewable energy,  
electronics, and catalysis.  
**Contact Mark Gibson**  
**t 07917 652278**  
**e mag7@sellfieldsites.com**

Lancaster and District  
SectionFrom Laboratory to  
Commercial Success4 October at 19:30  
ID=108894

Preston College, Fulwood  
Campus  
• Dr Stephen Coulson,  
Chief Technical Officer, P21  
**Contact Harry Clarke**  
**t 01995 640003**  
**e hclarke906@btinternet.com**

Liverpool  
SectionRetired Members'  
Luncheon28 September at 12:00  
ID=107769

The Grange Country Club,  
Thornton Hough  
• Michael Murphy  
A three course luncheon  
with menu choice,  
followed by 'The Terrible  
Tale of Gin', a presentation  
given by Michael Murphy.  
**Contact Bob Lee**  
**t 0151 3347875**  
**e drboblee@msn.com**

Other  
EventsPhysical Organic  
Chemistry GroupRSC POC group  
Postgraduate Meeting14 September at 10:00  
ID=108795

AstraZeneca, Macclesfield  
This annual meeting offers  
postgraduate students the  
possibility to give oral or  
poster presentations to the  
physical organic chemistry  
community in the UK  
**Contact Niklaas Buurma**  
**t 0292 0870301**  
**e buurma@cardiff.ac.uk**

Chemical Biology  
Interface Division  
Carbohydrate Group  
RSC Carbohydrate Group  
Autumn Meeting15-16 September  
ID=108698

University of Liverpool  
The meeting will include  
RSC Carbohydrate Award  
lectures, five invited  
speakers and 10 oral  
presentations selected  
from abstracts.  
**Contact Jerry Turnbull**  
**t 01517 954427**  
**e j.turnbull@liverpool.ac.uk**

EPR Spectroscopy in  
Pharmaceutical R&D12 October at 09:00  
ID=108413

AstraZeneca, Macclesfield  
This is the first  
pharmaceutical industry

based seminar to  
showcase Electron  
Paramagnetic Resonance  
(EPR) spectroscopy.  
The seminar is aimed  
at those working in this  
area but also to team  
managers and scientists  
from industry who would  
benefit from an enhanced  
understanding of this  
technique.

**Contact Helen Williams**  
**t 01625 518013**  
**e helen.williams@astrazeneca.com**

## SOUTH EAST

Chilterns and  
Middlesex SectionExplosives in Society -  
Younger Members Event28 September at 18:00  
ID=108735

London Metropolitan  
University  
Prof Jackie Akhavan,  
Cranfield University  
Discussion with Prof  
Akhavan and a senior  
government scientist  
on the science of, and  
challenges posed by,  
explosives.

**Contact Gareth Williams**  
**e g.williams@londonmet.ac.uk**

## Evening Boat Trip

9 September at 19:00  
ID=108538  
(see listing below under  
Thames Valley Section)Downland  
SectionEducation Division -  
South East  
Chemistry Challenge  
2011-1212 September – 26  
November  
ID=108897

Chemistry Challenge is a  
competition which tests  
teams' chemical and  
general knowledge. It is  
open to teams consisting  
of four year 10 pupils.

**Contact Terry Page**  
**e thpage@talk21.com**

Kent  
SectionRenewable Fuels: Can  
We Really Run Our Cars  
On Waste, Wee, Water or  
Wodka?8 September at 19:00  
ID=108574

Duke of York's Royal  
Military School, Dover  
• Dr Bruce Alexander  
Dr Alexander is a lecturer  
in physical chemistry in  
the School of Science  
and has researched new  
materials for alternative  
energy sources, including  
materials for solar energy,  
hydrogen production and  
thermoelectrics.

**Contact Raj  
Hanarasinghe**  
**t 01634 883187**  
**e hr91@gre.ac.uk**

Education Division –  
South East  
Chemistry Challenge  
2011-1212 September –  
26 November  
ID=108893

Chemistry Challenge is a  
competition which tests  
teams' chemical and  
general knowledge.

**Contact Amanda Hardy**  
**e drhardyteacher@hotmail.com**

Thames Valley  
SectionChilterns and Middlesex  
and Thames Valley  
SectionEvening Boat Trip  
9 September at 19:00  
ID=108538

Maidenhead  
Joint meeting with  
Chilterns and Middlesex  
Section. Boat to leave and  
return to Maidenhead.

**Contact David Matkin**  
**t 01628 639343**  
**e david\_matkin@btinternet.com**

Education Division –  
South East  
Chemistry Challenge  
2011-1212 September – 26  
November

## ID=108895

Chemistry Challenge is a  
school competition which  
tests teams' chemical  
and general knowledge.

**Contact John White**  
**e john.869white@btinternet.com**

Thames Valley Section  
Annual Dinner23 September at 18:15  
ID=108889

St John's College, Oxford  
The dinner will be  
preceded by a tour of St  
John's College. Tickets cost  
£30 per person, £20 for  
students.

**Contact Pauline Gavan**  
**t 01235 528186**

TVS International  
Year Of Chemistry  
exhibition – Chemistry  
and Plants6 October – 23 December  
ID=108964

Oxford Botanic Gardens  
This exhibition illustrates  
such themes as  
photosynthesis and solar  
hydrogen production,  
chemical specialisation in  
plants, and more.

**Contact John Oversby**  
**e j.p.oversby@reading.ac.uk**

SOLD OUT - Tour of  
CCFE (Culham Centre for  
Fusion Energy)19 October at 18:15  
ID=108466

Culham Centre for Fusion  
Energy, Abingdon  
**Contact David Knox**  
**t 07890 546964**  
**e knoxy1986@hotmail.com**

**Other Events**

**Chemical Biology Interface Division Biotechnology Group and Carbohydrate Group Stability and Degradation of Complex Carbohydrate Structures: Mechanisms and Measurement**

**5 September at 09:00**  
**ID=107609**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 In association with EPNOE, the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence  
**Contact Stephen Harding**  
**t 01159 516148**  
**e steve.harding@nottingham.ac.uk**

**Hale and Hearty?**

**7 September at 12:30**  
**ID=108736**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 Julie Lovegrove investigates how our diet plays a crucial role in the health of our heart and blood vessels.  
**Contact Lucy Sandbach, RSC**  
**t 01223 420066**  
**e chemistrycentre@rsc.org**

**Recharging Our Future**

**8 September at 18:30**  
**ID=108737**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 • Prof Clare Grey, University of Cambridge  
 Looking at some of the latest development in energy storage technologies such as fuel cells, batteries, electrolysis and super capacitors.  
**Contact Lucy Sandbach, RSC**  
**t 01223 420066**  
**e chemistrycentre@rsc.org**

**Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector 16th RSC-SCI Cambridge Medicinal Chemistry Symposium**

**11-14 September**  
**ID=107965**  
 University of Cambridge  
 This symposium will focus on first disclosures and new strategies in medicinal chemistry and have a theme of 'The Path Forward: Collaboration or Competition?'  
 In association with the SCI  
**Contact the SCI Conference Dept**  
**t 0207 598 1561**  
**e conferences@soci.org**

**Mini-Symposium: New Tools for Organic Synthesis**

**19 September at 14:00**  
**ID=108863**  
 Queen Mary University of London  
**Contact Christopher Bray**  
**t 0207 882 3271**  
**e c.bray@qmul.ac.uk**

**Marketing Group Packaging's Contribution to Sustainable Development**

**19 September at 18:00**  
**ID=107590**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 • Jane Bickerstaffe, Director, INCPEN, the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment  
 Jane Bickerstaffe will describe how INCPEN encourages industry to minimise the environmental impact of packaging and packaged goods and continuously improve packaging.  
**Contact Margaret Bond**  
**e margaret.3791@btinternet.com**

**Energy Sector European Industrial Emissions Directive Seminar**

**22 September at 09:40**  
**ID=108671**  
 Imperial College, London

Contributors include leading representatives from government and industry.  
 In association with the Coal Research Forum and Combustion Engineering Association  
**Contact David McCaffrey**  
**e mail@coalresearchforum.org**

**Energy Sector Energy Sector Annual General Meeting**

**22 September at 16:30**  
**ID=108672**  
 Imperial College London  
 Energy Sector AGM following the European Industrial Emissions Directive Seminar (see above).  
**Contact Chris Satterley**  
**t 02476 182312**  
**e rscenergysector@gmail.com**

**Law Group Indian Patent Enforcement in the Chemical Arts**

**26 September at 09:00**  
**ID=107956**  
 The Law Society, London  
 This seminar will discuss aspects of patent enforcement in India.  
**Contact Maggi Churhouse**  
**t 01359 221004**  
**e maggi@maggichurhouseevents.co.uk**

**Chemical Biology Interface Division Biotechnology Group Chemical Tools and Challenges in Systems Biology**

**27 September at 10:25**  
**ID=108292**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 The emphasis of this symposium will be on exploring and promoting the synergies that chemical and biological sciences can deliver in the procurement of a deeper understanding of the complexity of biological systems.

**Contact Klaus Rumpel**  
**e chemicaltools.systemsbiology@googlemail.com**

**Industry and Technology Division Industry Hour**

**27 September at 18:30**  
**ID=108923**  
 Holiday Inn, Oxford  
 See listing under Mid-Anglia Section.  
**Contact Aurora Antemir, RSC**  
**e industry@rsc.org**

**Bio-Organic Group, Protein and Peptide Science Group Frontiers in Chemical Biology**

**10 October at 11:00**  
**ID=108952**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 This is a multidisciplinary meeting to bring together academics and industrialists with world-leading chemical biologists.  
**Contact Ali Tavassoli**  
**e ali1@soton.ac.uk**

**Joint Pharmaceutical Analysis Group Modern Methods of Drugs Analysis In Biological Materials: Analysis Of Drugs For The Olympic And Paralympic Games 2012**

**13 October at 10:00**  
**ID=108541**  
 Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London  
 This event will explore recent developments in methods of drugs analysis in biological materials and their application to anti-doping control methods in the 2012 Olympic Games.  
**Contact Gabriella Highfield**  
**t 0207 572 2640**  
**e events@rpharms.com**

**What's In My Stuff?**

**13 October at 18:30**  
**ID=108738**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 • Dr Hywel Jones, Materials

and Engineering Research Institute  
 Dr Jones presents a science and art based approach to raising awareness of the use of the elements in consumer technology.  
**Contact Lucy Sandbach, RSC**  
**t 01223 420066**  
**e chemistrycentre@rsc.org**

**Chemical Detectives: Putting Spectroscopy to Work**

**19 October at 14:00**  
**ID=108867**  
 Newham College of Further Education  
 • Dr Alan Osbourne  
**Contact Julian Cass**  
**t 0208 257 4569**  
**e julian.cass@newham.ac.uk**

**Industrial Advisory Board Workshop**

**19 October at 10:30**  
**ID=108726**  
 The Chemistry Centre, RSC London  
 Industry Advisory Boards (IABs) provide forums for interaction between industry and academia. This workshop will facilitate the sharing of best practice between departments that have IABs and those wishing to establish them.  
**Contact Catherine Joce, RSC**  
**e HESTEM@rsc.org**

**SOUTH WEST**

**Other Events**

**Faraday Division Electrochemistry Group Electroanalytical Sensing Systems Group British Carbon Group Electrochem 2011**

**5-6 September**  
**ID=108443**  
 University of Bath  
 A two day conference highlighting new developments in

electrochemical sciences and technologies.

In association with: SCI Electrochemical Technology Group, The Corrosion Institute  
**Contact Frank Marken**  
 t 01225 383694  
 e f.marken@bath.ac.uk

**Materials Chemistry Division**  
**Recent Appointees in Materials Science (RAMS) 2011**

14-16 September  
 ID=108460

University of Bristol  
 This conference is open to anyone who is within five years of starting an academic career who wants to make the transition into academia or industry.

**Contact Annela Seddon**  
 t 01173 940015  
 e annela.seddon@bristol.ac.uk

**Industry and Technology Division**

**Industry Hour**

11 October at 18:30  
 ID=108925

Holiday Inn, City Centre, Bristol

See listing under Mid-Anglia Section.

**Contact Aurora Antemir, RSC**  
 e industry@rsc.org

**IRELAND**

**Other Events**

**Analytical Division Printed Functional Materials 2011**

12 September at 09:00  
 ID=108716

Dublin City University  
 This meeting, the second in a series, will focus on the production, characterisation and properties of printable functional materials and how they are being applied to printed electronic systems. The meeting will bring together researchers and industry in

this rapidly emerging and important field.

**Contact Aoife Morrin**  
 t 00 353 1 7006731  
 e aoife.morrin@dcu.ie



**Elements: The Beauty of Chemistry Until 23 September**

Trinity College, Dublin.

An interactive exhibition bringing together science and art.

www.sciencegallery.com/elements/exhibits

**INTERNATIONAL**

**BELGIUM**

**A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World 19 September at 20:00**  
 ID=108966

The British School of Brussels, Belgium  
 Popular science writer Dr John Emsley will give a talk based on his latest book of the same title.

**Contact Ian Carson**  
 t 0032 497 69 18 83  
 e rscbelgium@gmail.com

**CHINA**

**Dalton Division, Materials Chemistry Division**

**6th International Symposium on Advancing the Chemical Sciences - Challenges in Organic Materials & Supramolecular Chemistry**

2-5 September  
 ID=106949

Peking University, Beijing  
 This conference will bring together exceptional researchers – all leading names in the field – for an outstanding plenary programme, complemented by contributed talks and extensive poster sessions.

**Contact Robert Eagling**  
 e isacs@rsc.org

**GERMANY**

**Dalton Division AGICHEM 2011 8th International Conference on Inorganic Chemistry**

21-23 September  
 ID=108838

Heidelberg University,

Germany

This conference covers a broad range of topics, including inorganic materials and solid state chemistry, coordination chemistry, organo-metallic synthesis and molecular catalysis. In association with Wöhler-Vereinigung

Für Anorganische Chemie (GDCh)

**Contact Markus Enders**  
 t 0049 6221 54 2162  
 e agichem2011@uni-heidelberg.de

## Deaths

**Dr Derek Charles Abbott CChem FRSC** Retired consultant analyst.

Died 6 July 2011, aged 82

**Mr Peter Jonathan Barnett CChem MRSC** Retired industrial advisor, ICFC.

Died 7 July 2011, aged 83

**Mr Jozef Beck CChem FRSC** Retired principal scientist, Thomas de la Rue, Research Division. Died 23 June 2011, aged 87

**Dr Raphael Ben-Shoshan MRSC** Retired, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Died 9 July 2011. Age not supplied.

**Mr Paul Harwood Blanchard CChem FRSC** Retired technical specialist, Cerestar, USA. Died 22 June 2011, aged 87

**Mr Roland Bolton MRSC** Retired senior scientist, Borax Europe Ltd, Died 4 July 2011, aged 69

**Mr Stanley Edwin Bradshaw CChem FRSC** Retired, leader of semiconductor materials group, NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken. Died 13 July 2011, aged 88

**Dr Beverly Carss CChem MRSC** Retired laboratory services manager, ICI Ltd. Died 1 July 2011, aged 79

**Mr Sydney Martin Corless CChem MRSC** Retired section leader, Amersham International Ltd. Died 11 April 2011, aged 85

**Dr Vijay Jaywant Dalvi CChem MRSC** Retired. Died 23 February 2011, aged 84

**Dr Allan Dickson Dunn CChem MRSC** Formerly copy editor, Beilstein GmbH. Died 25 June 2011, aged 63

**Mr Stanley Ellis Fishwick CChem MRSC** Retired inspection coordinator, SGS UK Ltd. Died 20 June 2011, aged 71

**Dr James Grigor OBE CChem FRSC** Retired managing director, Ciba-Geigy. Died 25 June 2011, aged 81

**Mr Timothy Gye CChem FRSC** Retired principal inspector, Health and Safety Executive. Died 29 June 2011, aged 67

**Mr Roy Harrison CChem FRSC** Retired senior consultant, British Ceramic Research Ltd. Died 4 July 2011, aged 84

**Mr John Johnson CChem MRSC** Retired. Died 4 July 2011, aged 73

**Dr Christine Susan Leeming CChem MRSC** Formerly formulation team leader, Colormatrix Europe Ltd. Died 16 May 2011, aged 32

**Mr Philip Martin Myhill MRSC** Retired project manager, technical services, Anglian Water Services Ltd. Died 5 July 2011, aged 62

**Dr Richard Andrew Pike FRSC** Formerly chief executive officer, Royal Society of Chemistry. Died 23 July 2011, aged 61

**Mr Michael John Randell CChem MRSC** Retired technical information services manager, Procter and Gamble Ltd. Died 14 June 2011, aged 75

**Mr Edward Robert Rice CChem MRSC** Retired self employed consulting industrial chemist. Died 12 July 2011, aged 83

**Dr Hugh McKenna Skelly CChem FRSC(UK)** Retired research scientist, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ontario, Canada. Died 18 April 2011, aged 94

**Mr Norris Stanley Trout MRSC** Retired laboratory technician, part-time lecturer, Kidderminster College. Died 20 June 2011, aged 69

## Dr Richard Pike CSci CEng FRSC

2 April 1950 – 23 July 2011

**Many tributes have been sent in to the RSC from across the world in memory of former RSC Chief Executive Richard Pike, who died in July at the age of 61.**

Born on 2 April, 1950, Richard attended Gosport County Grammar School (later to become the comprehensive Bay House School) before studying at Downing College, Cambridge, where he gained a 1st Class BA in engineering in 1971. He gained a PhD in 1977, also from Cambridge, and his research work investigated experimental and theoretical aspects of vapour bubble dynamics in boiling liquids, focusing on the thermal and fluid characteristics of water and organic liquids in various gravitational fields, including Earth and zero gravity.

He was sponsored by BP as an undergraduate and went about studying Japanese during his time at college. This led to a 25-year career in British Petroleum (BP), where he held a number of technical and commercial positions in the UK and abroad. While working in Tokyo as General Manager, Chemicals, BP Far East, he was also appointed President, BP Chemicals, Japan and Director, Samsung-BP Chemicals, South Korea.



Upon returning to the UK, Richard became Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers – a position he held for five years. He moved on to become senior associate at Gaffney, Cline & Associates, advising on corporate strategy within the oil and gas industry.

In February 2006 he was appointed as the Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Chemistry and said he looked forward to “ensuring that the RSC maintains and develops its role in championing the vital role that the chemical sciences and those who practise them play in the future prosperity and well-being of the population, economy and environment”.

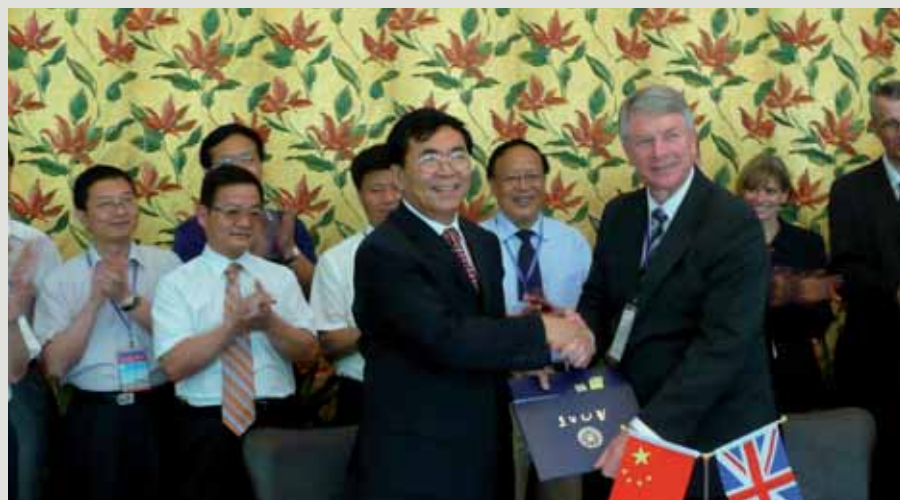
Those that worked with and knew Richard

soon saw that this was a position he relished. He quickly became the UK’s leading advocate of the chemical sciences through a sustained media campaign, allowing the RSC, combined with its parliamentary activities, to become a significant voice in science and education, acknowledged for its robust defence and worldwide promotion of the chemical sciences. Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and President of the Board of Trade commented: “Richard made a massive contribution via the RSC in raising awareness of the importance of chemistry as one of the core STEM subjects. His influence is bearing fruit in the rising number of students wanting to study chemistry.”

One of his best known initiatives was the ‘Five-Decade Challenge’, an exam for the brightest 16-year-old chemistry students taking in exam questions from the 1960s through to the 2000s. The results showed the pupils performed significantly worse on the older papers’ questions – Richard said this demonstrated a lack of problem-solving ability, a problem stemming not from pupils or teachers but a flawed national science curriculum too focused on ‘hoop-jumping’.

He appeared on news channels and radio stations throughout last summer using his experience as a chemical engineer and former BP executive to explain to the nation the developments concerning the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. But raising standards in education was the theme Richard returned to with passion throughout his time at the RSC, never missing an opportunity to question whether exam boards challenged British pupils enough while simultaneously highlighting the important role chemical scientists played in the health and well-being of the nation.

Richard stood down as the RSC’s chief executive in February this year after five successful years at the helm. Under his leadership, membership reached a record high of more than 47,500. Among other notable achievements, 10 new journal titles were launched and the number of chemical science articles published since he joined in 2006 trebled. “He has clearly had a long lasting





Executive, said: “Everyone who worked with Richard is shocked and saddened by the news of his death. He brought a tremendous energy and enthusiasm to the role of Chief Executive and he helped build strong and abiding relationships with RSC’s partner organisations overseas. Richard left behind him a very strong team with a dedicated group of staff in the UK and overseas, who are in excellent shape for building further upon his legacy.”

David Phillips, President of the RSC, said: “Richard Pike made an immense contribution to the RSC by the improvement of the management structures and the enhancement of the RSC’s overseas reach. When still President-Elect in 2010, I travelled with him to Xiamen, China to attend the CCS (Chinese Chemical Society) Annual Congress. The warmth and respect shown to Richard by the officials of the CCS was ample testimony to the high regard which was held by our partners in the countries with which Richard helped forge deeper relationships. His legacy will be enduring.”

Richard is survived by his wife Fiona and three children.

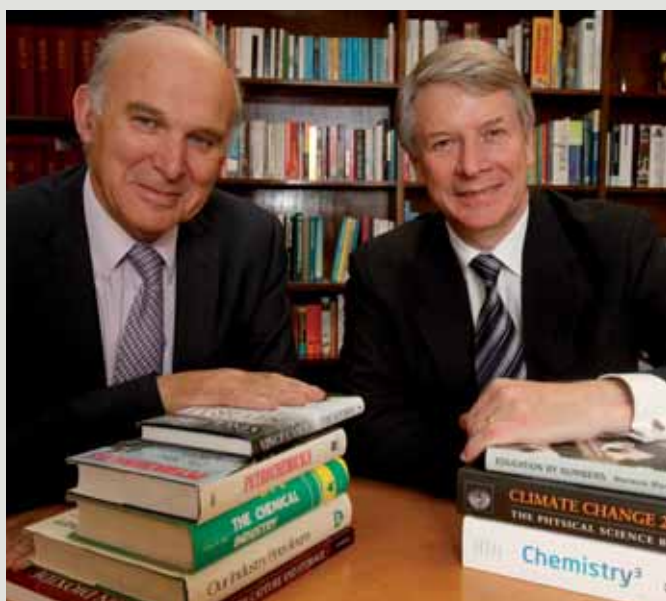
The RSC sends deepest sympathies to all of Richard’s family, friends and colleagues.

personal impact on the shaping of the RSC in these areas, to the betterment of the society as a whole”, commented Jim Milne, the RSC’s Acting Managing Director, Publishing.

Richard developed the RSC’s international reach, with several new offices opening in China, India and the United States. He also oversaw plans for the opening of the RSC’s Tokyo office, which took place in July 2011. Chunli-Bai, former President of the

Chinese Academy of Sciences said: “With his numerous efforts, the Royal Society of Chemistry and Chinese Chemical Society have established friendly cooperation and have been carrying out bilateral academic exchanges regularly. His enthusiasm on chemistry and social affairs left an unforgettable impression to anybody who ever had contact with him.”

Robert Parker, interim RSC Chief



## RSC Award for Service

The Royal Society of Chemistry Award for Service recognises outstanding non-academic service to the work of the RSC. In 2011, it has been awarded to four members.



### ◀ Ashish De CChem FRSC

Ashish De has won his award in recognition of his dedication to the Eastern Indian Section of the RSC.

He was inducted into the Eastern India Section Committee in 1987 and within a very short period of time his enthusiasm and leadership qualities led him to become unanimously elected as the Honorary Secretary of the Section. Under his direction, the section not only continued its existing events, such as three scientific lectures and a half-day symposium each year, but also greatly expanded its activities.

Through his initiative, the section engaged with school children for the first time with an annual endowment lecture for pupils and a biennial inter-school essay competition. Other first-time events included three-day international symposia attracting reputed chemists from India and abroad, and a very successful Golden Jubilee celebration of the Eastern India section. This culminated in the publication of a successful commemorative volume of articles from scientists in India and across the world.



### ◀ Noel Grabham CChem FRSC

Noel Grabham has won his award in recognition of his exceptional work for the RSC Benevolent Fund.

Noel is the South East Region Benevolent Fund Coordinator, who, over the years, has helped organise the structure of volunteer visitors across Kent. He has written comprehensive guidelines for new volunteer visitors and taken a leading role in many training events. These efforts have been so successful that Kent is often considered a model of good practice which other areas are encouraged to copy. Under his leadership, some 20 volunteer visitors maintain regular contact with retired members in the area, with locally organised events such as retired members' lunches a regular occurrence.

In addition to his coordinating work, he remains an active Volunteer Visitor himself and has given many years' service on the Kent Local Section committee.



### ◀ David Grayson CChem FRSC

David Grayson has won his award in recognition of his dedication to the work of the RSC in Ireland and also for services to the RSC Benevolent Fund.

David has been a prominent and active member of the RSC in Ireland, promoting RSC activities and initiatives in the country over many years. He has also made many contributions to the RSC as a whole. He served as Chairman of the Benevolent Fund at a difficult time. Subsequently he became an RSC Pension Fund Trustee, and then Chairman of the Trustees. In that challenging role he has worked and continues to work diligently and successfully. This work has required considerable commitment from David to attend many meetings in London, Cambridge and elsewhere in the UK, despite having to travel from Dublin each time.

In addition to his committee work he also acts as a Benevolent Fund volunteer.



### ◀ David Alexander Whan CChem FRSC

David Whan has won his award in recognition of his dedication to the RSC, both on a national level and for the Teesside Local Section.

The list of committees that David has been a member of is extensive. He has served as a member of the Teesside Section Committee for many years and contributed extensively to its activities. At a national level he has chaired the Membership Affairs Board and the Professional Affairs and Membership Board as well as being Chairman of the Council Working Group on the development of Burlington House. David has been a member of the Committee for Local Sections, the Education and Qualifications Board, the Benevolent Fund Committee, and the *Chemistry in Britain* Editorial Board, where he was involved in getting *Chemistry World* started. He acted as a consultant for the RSC in a project which brought in £1m of funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. He has also spent seven years on the Committee for Accreditation and Validation and has acted as External Examiner for the RSC at Leeds, Huddersfield and Humberside Polytechnics.

## Notices

### Honorary Fellow Nominations

Members of Council, Division Presidents, Section Chairs and other Interest Groups have been invited to make nominations for new Honorary Fellows of the RSC.

Further information is available online or by contacting the secretariat. The closing date for nominations is 21 October.

[secretariat@rsc.org](mailto:secretariat@rsc.org)

[www.rsc.org/honFRSC](http://www.rsc.org/honFRSC)

### AkzoNobel Awards

AkzoNobel, the largest global paints and coatings company, and a major producer of speciality chemicals, has partnered with the RSC to inaugurate a biennial award for researchers based in the UK.

The £50,000 award aims to recognise outstanding scientific contributions in the fields of chemistry or materials sciences which show promise in leading to sustainable societal and/or user benefits. The winner will be selected by an independent panel convened by the RSC, and the award will be presented at a ceremony at the Chemistry Centre next February.

Nominations for the inaugural UK award open on 1 September and close on 31 October. For more information, visit the web page, which will be accessible from the beginning of September.

[www.rsc.org/akzonobelaward](http://www.rsc.org/akzonobelaward)

### Industrial Advisory Boards Workshops

On 19 October, the RSC is holding an Industrial Advisory Boards Workshop as part of the National HE STEM Programme's employer engagement strand. The workshop aims to raise the profile of industrial advisory boards in higher education institutions, share good practice, support practitioners and generate a forum to explore issues relating to creating an appropriate and successful board. Visit the website for registration details or see the diary on page 18.

[www.rsc.org/IAB](http://www.rsc.org/IAB)

### Industrial placements

If you're thinking of employing student interns or industrial placement students, contact the RSC, where we can advertise placements for free on a dedicated web page, on our online jobs board ChemistryWorldJobs. This service is provided as part of the National HE STEM Programme.

[www.rsc.org/iplacements](http://www.rsc.org/iplacements)

### Growing talent

The Kent Local Section organised a crystal growing competition for schools earlier this summer.

Contestants were given the task of producing the biggest, clearest and best-shaped crystal of potassium aluminium sulphate (potassium alum) starting from 250g of the compound.

The winning crystal was grown at Highesta Grammar School, Kent, by Georgia Mantle.

### First issue of RSC Advances published

The first issue of the RSC's new journal, *RSC Advances*, has been published online.

Scientists from Argentina to New Zealand, South Korea to the United States, have shown their support for the journal by submitting their work. The journal covers the breadth of the chemical sciences, including speciality and interdisciplinary fields. Visit the website for more information and to read the first articles.

[www.rsc.org/advances](http://www.rsc.org/advances)

## Personal News



At the Corday-Morgan Prize Symposium in Cambridge in June, **Jason Chin** (left), of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, was presented with the 2010 prize. He was awarded for his work on genetically encoding the synthesis of novel polymers in cells through the development of methods to incorporate, for example, new amino acids.

**Steven Ley CBE CSci CChem FRSC FRS** of the University of Cambridge, and a former president of the RSC, has been awarded the Royal Medal for his pioneering research in organic chemistry and outstanding contributions to the methodology of synthesis. The Royal Medals are awarded annually by the Sovereign on the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society.

**Fred Wudl FRSC**, from the University of Santa Barbara, was presented with the Materials Chemistry Division's Stephanie L Kwolek Award at the 10th International Conference on Materials (MC10) in July. Wudl won the award in 2010, in recognition of his pioneering work in applied polymer synthesis for the preparation of polymeric conductors, semiconductors and ferromagnets.



# The RSC needs your views

Help us improve your RSC services by taking part in our membership survey.

Every two years, the RSC conducts a survey of its members. This helps us ensure that we understand what members expect and value in order to improve upon our products and services. The next survey is due to be launched in September 2011 and we're urging all members to take part.

## Your feedback does make a difference.

Recent surveys have indicated that RSC members are increasingly making use of electronic and social media. In response, we launched digital editions of *Chemistry World* and *RSC News*, and two years ago we also launched *MyRSC*, a networking tool that has been put to excellent use by many members and groups.

With your help, we can make sure the RSC continues to move in the right direction. Invitations to take part in the survey will come in the next few weeks. If you think we might not have your e-mail address, you can take part by visiting [www.rsc.org/membership](http://www.rsc.org/membership) where a static link will be available from 22 September 2011.

Please do take part.

ENTERPRISING  
INCLUSIVE  
INFLUENTIAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
INSPIRATIONAL  
KNOWLEDGEABLE  
CUSTOMER FOCUSED

2009 RSC Member Survey. Members were asked which words best describe the image that they would like the RSC to have.