

# RSC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015 [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org)

## Chemistry's role in energy and sustainability

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▲ **ACS Fall Conference in Boston**  
Colleagues from our events, sales and communications teams represented us at the American Chemical Society's showpiece conference – their 250th – held in Boston in August.

▶ **International Olympiad**  
Daniya Aynedinova, William Drake, Alexander Mayorov and Rory McMillan, were named as the UK's top Olympiad competitors and they each brought home a medal from the international final, held in Azerbaijan at the end of July. See page 4 for more details.

▼ **Celebrating the buckyball**  
Our special symposium to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Buckminster fullerene paper, Fullerenes, past, present and future, brought together Sir Harry Kroto and many of the Sussex University team, a host of international experts, as well as present and former RSC presidents and colleagues.



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SEPTEMBER 2015

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# Snapshot

A look at the latest news from around the world

## IN BRIEF

### UK students shine at the chemistry Olympiad

Burlington House hosted celebrations for four students as they prepared to travel to Azerbaijan to represent the UK in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) final.

The UK Chemistry Olympiad invites secondary school students to test their chemistry knowledge in a series of rigorous challenges. With support from INEOS, this year's competition was bigger than ever with 6,630 students entering from 640 schools.

Daniya Aynedinova from Bromsgrove School won a bronze medal in Baku, with William Drake from The Perse School, Alexander Mayorov from Westminster School and Sherborne School's Rory McMillan each bringing home a silver medal from the international final in July.

Daniya said: "For me the preparation and the Olympiad itself were a superb experience. During the preparation I learnt new material and also developed some chemical logic which enabled me to predict the products and mechanisms of reactions which I saw for the first time.

"Questions at IChO are very challenging – you need to combine the knowledge from different parts of chemistry: physical, inorganic, organic just in one problem, and then apply strong mathematical skills to solve it. This is exactly what's required in research, so I think the experience I gained during the Olympiad will be very useful in my future.

"IChO gave me a unique opportunity to learn more about the culture of Azerbaijan and to meet students from all over the world."



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## Royal Society open access publishing partnership

We have announced a new collaboration with the Royal Society, on a multidisciplinary open access journal called *Royal Society Open Science*. We will manage the commissioning and peer review processes for the chemistry section of the journal.

*Royal Society Open Science*, which launched in September 2014, is an open access journal publishing research across the entire range of science, using objective peer review and without any restrictions on scope, length or impact. The journal comprises 12 subject sections, including chemistry. For an introductory period open access article processing charges are being waived.

As well as its appeal as an open access journal, the multidisciplinary nature of *Royal Society Open Science* means researchers can get more widespread visibility for their work than could be achieved in a subject-based journal.

*Royal Society Open Science* offers:

- **objective peer review:** any judgement of potential impact is left to the reader
- (optional) open peer review: referees sign their reports, and we publish those reports along with author responses
- open data: authors are required to make available all supporting data through supplementary information or through deposition in a publicly-available repository
- article-level metrics and post-publication comments.

Dr Robert Parker, CEO of the Royal Society of Chemistry, said: "Chemical scientists worldwide publish with us because they share our values and trust our reputation.

"We've taken bold steps to lead and support our community in open access

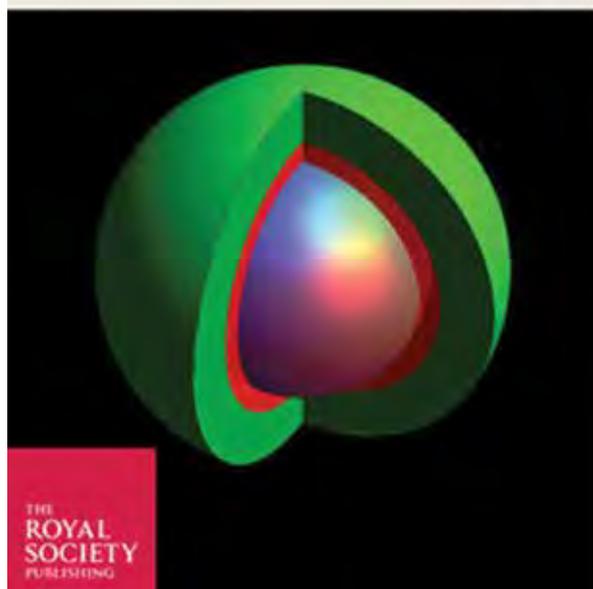
– including making our flagship journal *Chemical Science* Gold open access last year – and so we're proud to offer even more choice to chemical scientists through this new collaboration with the Royal Society.

"With five hundred years' combined experience in world-leading science publishing, I'm sure authors will agree that the Royal Society and Royal Society of Chemistry are natural partners to make *Royal Society Open Science* an influential journal for chemistry and a powerful force in ethical, trustworthy open access publishing."

Dr Stuart Taylor, Director of Publishing at the Royal Society, said: "We are delighted to be working with the RSC on our newest journal which we hope will benefit greatly from our joint brands.

"*Royal Society Open Science* is innovative in a number of ways and this collaboration with the RSC illustrates how closely aligned we are in our publishing philosophy."

## ROYAL SOCIETY OPEN SCIENCE



# Chemistry International Exchanges Award

We're also partnering with the Royal Society to fund a programme of international exchanges, bringing together chemists in the UK and sub-Saharan Africa to stimulate new collaborations with leading scientists through funding to strengthen emerging research networks.

We're offering up to £12,000 for two-year projects to share knowledge, build research capacity and create links for further collaboration.

## What are we looking for?

Applicants must be scientists in the UK who wish to collaborate with leading sub-Saharan African scientists. Both researchers must have a PhD or equivalent experience and hold a permanent or fixed-term contract in an eligible university or research institute for the duration of the project.

Applications must be initiated by a lead UK researcher and then assisted by the co-applicant (overseas based scientist).

All applications must be made through the Royal Society electronic application system at <https://royalsociety.org/grants/applications>

For further information and full instructions, please view the full set of scheme notes. To find out more about the eligibility and to begin your application, visit the Royal Society website. **Submit your application by 14 October 2015.**



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## IN BRIEF

### Exam results on an even keel

Congratulations to all those students around the UK and Ireland who have received their exam results recently.

The proportion of chemistry A-level exams taken by girls has risen slightly this year to almost half. Girls now make up 49.1% of the chemistry A-level cohort so are increasingly close to equalling the number of boys who take the A-level. Chemistry AS-level showed a similar trend.

There was an overall increase in the numbers taking all A-level subjects in the UK, however the number of students taking chemistry A-level dropped slightly from 53,513 in 2014 to 52,644 this year. This is the first time the numbers have dropped for over a decade, in line with a similar drop in the numbers taking AS-level chemistry last year. Although there was a slight decrease in entries this year, the numbers had been steadily increasing for a number of years.

There was also a slight improvement in A-level chemistry grades achieved, with 78.2% of entries awarded A\*-C grades compared to 78% last year. It also appears that attainment has gone up slightly for boys and down for girls compared to last year. 78% of boys achieved A\*-C grades this year (up from 77% last year) whilst 78.3% of girls achieved A\*-C grades this year (down from 79.1% last year).

Looking in more detail reveals more very high achieving boys than girls this year. 10.6% of boys taking A-level chemistry achieved an A\* compared to 8.1% of girls. Whilst this trend was visible last year, the difference has become wider.

Scottish school qualifications are currently in a period of change and this is the first year of the introduction of the new Higher exams, which are being taken concurrently with the old Higher examinations.

The chemistry Advanced Higher continues to be the second most popular qualification at that level, after mathematics. A total of 2,783 pupils sat the chemistry exam this year, a 4.2% increase in uptake from 2014 and 25% up from 2010. The percentage of pupils achieving an A grade has increased from 24.9% in 2014 to 33.3% in 2015. The total number of entries for the chemistry Higher examinations are actually down this year to 10,892, a slight drop of 4.6% in the total uptake of the exam compared to last year. This bucks the trend in the increase we have seen in the past few years of entries to Higher chemistry – entries to chemistry at Higher level this year are still 7% higher than entries in 2010.

## New periodic table app

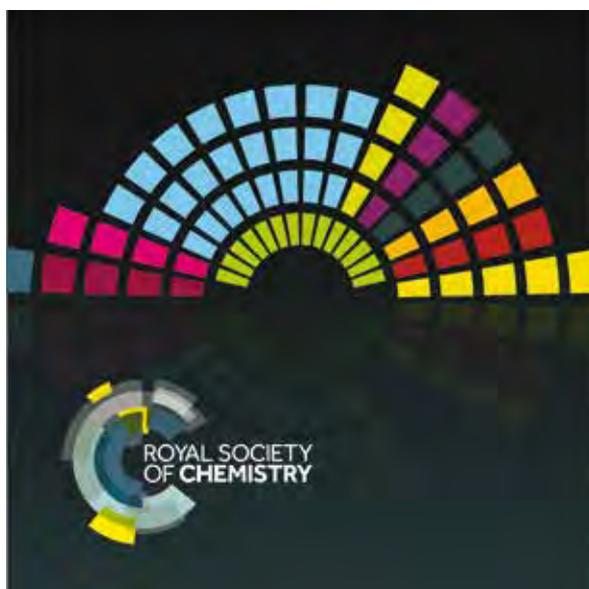
We've created a new app based on our hugely popular Periodic Table website. The app includes our favourite features from the website, like an interactive slider which shows the elements change state as you increase the temperature, and the discovery of the elements as you scroll through history. There are podcasts and videos about the elements too.

We've also added some exciting new features, including lots of new images. There are photos of the elements in their natural states, and pictures of real-life applications

of the elements. For example, did you know that neodymium is used in microphones? And europium is used in Euro bank notes to help prevent counterfeiting?

You can also customise your Periodic Table app so you just see the things you're interested in. You can adjust your settings to turn sections of data on or off, depending on what stage of education you're at. For quick access to figures, we've also added a simple table where you can do things like sort the elements in order of increasing density.

► The app is free, and is available for tablets and mobile phones on both Android and Apple, through Google play and the App Store.



# One to one

Take advantage of a wide range of member services

## Volunteer visitors – more than just financial help

The Royal Society of Chemistry Benevolent Fund provides support in times of difficulty, offering general advice and guidance to all members as well as their spouses, partners or dependants. We want to make a positive difference by supporting members when they are in need.

Our volunteer visitor scheme shows that the benevolent fund is not just financial help.

Many people at any age can feel lonely and socially isolated at times in their lives, for many different reasons: bereavement, job loss, illness, moving to a new area, lack of transport.

People can also feel lonely in the midst of other people. Older members and care home residents may not appear to be physically isolated but their relationship with the people they live with may not be enough to ward off loneliness. Sensory deprivation, especially severe hearing loss, depression and other mental health issues can all create physical barriers, meaning that people living in group settings can be just as severely affected as those living alone.

Feeling isolated can make it a lot harder to access information on topics you might find helpful. For example, you may not be aware of the financial support you could be eligible for or activities you could be attending.

Sadly there are many elderly and vulnerable people who live lives that are very isolated. When they seek out volunteers who are able to visit them it provides an occasion to look forward to – a friendly face to provide support, a friendly ear and much more besides.

Receiving a visit from a volunteer is one way to address isolation, and we can provide a little company and friendly social contact at home.

### How we can be of help?

The benevolent fund has a team of volunteers who can visit members and their families at home, offering peer support and a caring service at a local level. Regardless of age, if you need to talk in confidence, our volunteers are there to listen and support you, whether it's regarding bereavement, long-term sickness, stress or personal problems that trouble you.

Our volunteers help members of all ages, maintain an interest in chemistry, and they arrange social outings and activities for older or isolated members.

All of our volunteers are required to submit references before becoming a volunteer and receive our in house volunteer training.

### What difference can you make?

Our volunteer visitors are vital to the work of the benevolent fund, providing invaluable support. And, in turn, we cannot provide that support without the help of our members. This is a very flexible role and our volunteers are only ever asked to offer what time they can – any level of support is appreciated.

We are in particular need of more volunteer visitors in the south west, Wales and eastern regions. We would also be interested in

hearing from any members outside the UK who are keen to find out more about how they might be able to support the fund.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to the benevolent fund, so if you are interested in applying to become a volunteer visitor, contact us to learn more or to request an application pack.

Whether you are looking to help others or searching for help for yourself, the benevolent fund team are here to talk to you, in confidence.

You can call us on +44(0)1223 432227 or +44(0)1223 432327 or, if you prefer, email [benfund@rsc.org](mailto:benfund@rsc.org)

If you know of a member who you think would benefit from any of the information in this article please let them know that the benevolent fund would be pleased to hear from them.

“Our volunteer visitor has been a huge source of support in our situation. It is wonderful to know that the fund has such fantastic people providing local help for members in need.”

### WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF SOME SUPPORT

If you would like us to arrange a volunteer visitor for you, please get in touch. Wherever possible (subject to your location), we would ask a local volunteer to contact you directly to arrange a convenient time to visit you.

As a complement to the current package of support from the benevolent fund, we are considering whether

we can offer an additional service of a regular telephone call for members who would value this. These calls could provide a friendly chat and listening ear, or simply someone to share your news with. It would be really useful to hear your views on whether you would be interested in this service.

If you have a visual impairment, one of

your concerns may be the possibility of no longer being able to read. Our *Talking Chemistry World* is a CD of the monthly *Chemistry World* podcast and one of the things that our members can enjoy without having to rely on anyone else.

If you would like to receive a copy of our *Talking Chemistry World* please get in touch (contact details above).

# Profile

A closer look at our members and their interests



**Gordon Thompson**  
AMRSC is a Technical Officer for the Renewable Energy Association.

## Gordon Thompson

Group Health and Safety Officer and certifier of compostable packaging and bio-based materials

### Q What inspired your interest in chemistry?

A Possibly unusually for a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, my degree is not in chemistry. I have always been interested in science and, having spent much of my working life in a variety of roles around the periphery of science, I studied at the University of Northampton as a mature student and have a degree in Waste Management and Pollution Control, which involves quite a bit of chemistry. I spent the first ten years of my working life as a laboratory technician in the photographic industry, and following various changes, some years working as surveyor in the asbestos industry.

### Q What path has chemistry taken you down in your career so far?

A I started my current job with the Association for Organics Recycling which, within twelve months of me joining, merged with the Renewable Energy Association (REA). My initial role was to manage the certification scheme for compostable packaging materials, which the association ran in the UK and provides secretarial support to the association's health and safety working group for the organics industry.

### Q What does your current work involve?

A The REA is the UK's largest trade association for the renewable energy sector with around 800 members. We have a diverse staff who are always willing to help with the insoluble problems. I now have two very different roles - I am group Health and Safety Officer and I also manage several schemes for the certification of compostable packaging and bio-based materials; these involve me working very closely with colleagues at the Berlin based certification body DIN CERTCO.

Within the health and safety role, I am responsible for all internal health and safety and I manage several schemes for members. Our Chief Executive Dr Nina Skorupska has recently launched an initiative to

improve health and safety across the renewable energy sector. Given that this can include hazards in sectors as diverse as compost, biogas, solar power, and energy from waste, it is challenging.

We are currently working on a project with the UK Fire and Rescue Service to help identify firefighting tactics on waste management and renewable energy sites. These fires can lead to emergency responders being exposed to various health hazards, including inhaling potentially harmful bio-aerosols.

My work on compostable and bio-based materials makes me continuously consider various chemistry related issues as I try to explain the technicalities of the schemes to our clients. Examples of this are a packaging manufacturer from Glasgow who now use their process waste to manufacture compostable plant pots and food packaging.

Another example is a Dorset-based company who sell disposable towels into the medical, veterinary, beauty and hairdressing trades. Whilst these towels are probably compostable as they leave the factory, they would not be acceptable for composting when contaminated by human or animal waste or hairdressing and cosmetic preparations. I had to discuss this with the company and explain the benefits of bio-based certification which uses carbon isotope analysis to establish that the product is produced from non-fossil materials and is considerably cheaper.

Use of the bio-base certification scheme means that the company now has a relevant certificate for their product at an affordable price. I have written several articles on compostable and bio-based materials, and I was amazed and delighted when certification body DIN CERTCO recently requested permission to have one of these translated for use in China.

### Q How are you involved with the Royal Society of Chemistry?

A The importance of support from a knowledgeable professional body in times of crisis became clear to me in 2011 when I was quite poorly and out of work for some time. During this time the RSC was very helpful in advising me how to deal with the more ridiculous suggestions of job centre staff who seemed to think that whilst on strong pain killers I could work at height with only one functioning arm. I am now a trained visitor for the benevolent fund and, although I have not been called on to visit any members up to now, I am sure that with the support of fund staff I could assist other members in a time of crisis.

*"We are currently working on a project with the UK Fire and Rescue Service to help identify firefighting tactics on waste management and renewable energy sites."*

# Chemistry's role in energy and sustainability

The third of our *Global Challenges, Chemistry Solutions* features looks at energy and sustainability, exploring the work we are doing to support our community and in collaboration with other organisations

The World Energy Council coined the term 'energy trilemma', to summarise the difficulty in maintaining secure, reliable energy supplies, which are not only affordable and accessible for all, but also environmentally sustainable. The environmental dimension will be in the spotlight again from 30 November, when national representatives gather in Paris, at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11) to develop a new international climate agreement.

Some countries have already set targets to reduce emissions; following the 2008 Climate Change Act, the UK government set out its aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% from the 1990 baseline, by 2050, and President Obama's recent Clean Power Plan promises a 32% drop from the 2005 baseline by 2030.

More broadly, there is a need to reduce both gaseous and particulate emissions because of their direct impacts on human health; the World Health Organization reported that around seven million people

died globally as a result of air pollution in 2012. Chemists have a role in understanding air pollution and developing ways to mitigate it. Earlier this year, Professor Alastair Lewis, of the University of York, delivered a public lecture at Burlington House explaining Air Pollution, Past, Present and Future, which is available on our website.

The idea that we can better use waste products as a resource is a key part of Europe's future plans to develop a more sustainable economy. Later this year, the European Commission will be presenting their strategy for a circular economy, aiming to transform Europe into a more competitive, resource-efficient economy.

## New and improved technologies

To address the 'energy trilemma' we need to develop low emission, cost-effective and efficient energy technologies. The chemical sciences have an important role to play in meeting this need,

from electricity generation and energy storage to understanding the potential impacts of different energy options. Our community is working towards a host of chemistry solutions, underpinned by advances across catalysis, materials, sensing and formulation and the many interfaces between chemistry and other disciplines such as engineering, biology and environmental sciences.

In July, we were one of 24 organisations to release a communiqué calling on governments to take action and commit to an international response on climate change at the COP21/CMP11 meeting in November. The communiqué also highlighted the opportunities for innovation and economic growth in tackling the threats posed by climate change, and the far-reaching interconnections between climate change, air, water, food, energy and resource security.

Our new *Inspirational Chemistry for a Modern Economy* brochure includes examples of advances in energy technologies that are also leading to returns on government investment in science.

An example is transport, which accounts for 27% of UK energy use. Ilika Technologies plc, a spin-out from the University of Southampton, uses combinatorial chemistry to produce large numbers of compounds in a single process, enabling the development of a wide range of materials. These new materials have been used to increase the energy capacity of solid-state lithium-ion batteries, with the technology adopted in the development of the next generation of Toyota electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Another example is the work of University of Sussex researchers into the effects of radiation on graphite, which is used to moderate nuclear reactors. They used an experimental approach to examine the structure of graphite and to model its behaviours under different radiation scenarios. Their work contributed to ensuring that reactor conditions were assessed more accurately, meaning the lifetime of 14 of the UK's reactors was extended significantly, leading to savings of tens of millions of pounds.

## Supporting the community

In July, our Energy Sector Interest Group organised the first Chemistry in Energy Conference at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism of the Scottish Parliament, gave the plenary address to open the conference. That covered a breadth of energy, topics ranging from fossil fuels, to nuclear and renewable energy, and the conference also provided the opportunity for us to present our 2015 Sustainable Energy Award winner with their medal.

Energy materials was also a theme at our 12th International Conference on Materials Chemistry (MC12). Delegates discussed

advances in perovskite solar cells, high performance supercapacitor electrodes, lithium-ion batteries and energy storage. MC12 showcases the latest advances in materials chemistry from around the world, and sessions like the one on energy materials illustrate the interplay between curiosity-driven research and new solutions to global challenges such as energy.

## Looking forward

A transition to a circular economy, with a greater emphasis on reuse and renewal, would create numerous opportunities for chemistry-based innovations, for example harnessing waste as a resource. In November, we will host a symposium on Renewable Chemicals From Waste, bringing together chemists, biologists and engineers to discuss ways of developing processes to better exploit waste as a resource.

Another interesting possibility is that of converting CO<sub>2</sub> from a waste product to a valuable feedstock, indeed this month we will host a Faraday Discussion on Carbon Dioxide Utilisation. In 2016, we will host a Faraday Discussion on Carbon Capture and Storage that will examine materials for capture and potential future deployment.

In the UK we have also seen increasing calls from the Government to use shale gas, to help secure domestic energy supplies. Extraction of shale gas using the technique known as fracking is already widespread in the USA. Concerns regarding environmental impacts have been raised on both sides of the Atlantic. Our Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division is supporting a joint USA-UK workshop on unconventional hydrocarbons in Washington DC, along with the UK Natural Environment Research Council and the United States National Science Foundation. The aim of the workshop is for researchers from the USA and UK working on potential impacts of shale gas extraction to share knowledge and identify opportunities for further research in areas such as aquifer contamination and fugitive emissions.

As governments strive to tackle inter-related challenges such as energy and materials security, climate change and pollution, the chemical sciences will have a vital role to play in the development of the new technologies required to help tackle global energy and sustainability issues for future generations.

Find out more about our work across energy and sustainability at <http://rsc.li/global-challenges>

## WORDS

MINDY DULAI  
VICKI MARSHALL

## FORTHCOMING ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES 2015

- Carbon Dioxide Utilisation: Faraday Discussion, 7-9 September, Sheffield, UK
- Challenges in Chemical Renewable Energy: ISACS 17, 8-11 September, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Joint US-UK workshop on Improving Understanding of Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with Unconventional Hydrocarbons, 5-6 November, Washington DC, USA
- Renewable chemicals from waste – securing the molecular value from waste streams, 20 November, London, UK

# Public attitudes to chemicals

Since the publication of our research on Public Attitudes to Chemistry in the UK (*RSC News* June 2015) there has been much interest in this study and its implications for public communication of chemistry. *RSC News* continues to gather feedback and opinions and in this issue we are focusing on public attitudes to *chemicals*.

At the American Chemical Society (ACS) 250th National Meeting & Exposition in Boston *C&EN* magazine and ACS Office of Public Affairs organised a Public Perception of the Chemistry Enterprise symposium where we were invited to present our research and discuss with Matt Hartings and Raychelle Burks on the topic: Chemistry Reacts to Chemophobia: A Problem of Public Perception and/or Communication?

Our research shows us that chemistry might have an image problem, but that is not quite the problem we thought it would be. Public perception of chemistry, chemists and chemicals is far more positive than our community believed, and before we can hope to influence public attitudes, we need to change our attitudes towards the public.

As we looked into chemists' attitudes towards the public, we found that 'chemophobia' is often mentioned as the cause and/or the effect for a chemistry's perceived negative reputation. Without real evidence, our community has developed this widely discussed belief.

It turns out, as highlighted by Mark Lorch (in *RSC News*, July 2015), that chemophobia is a chemists' construct. Trying to fight a supposed fear of chemicals – imposing a scientific meaning for the word – is not doing our community much good because we ignore what people *really* mean and risk sounding patronising and disconnected from society.

We must accept that the word 'chemicals' is commonly used as a short hand for toxic and poisonous, and that meaning emerges in the language that people are using, not in the pages of a dictionary, or in this case in a chemistry textbook. Words have different *connotative* meanings, as opposed to *denotative* meaning, and this is hard to control: while we can regulate the use of nomenclature within our community we can't impose the use of a word like chemicals to always comply with what we mean by it. For example, technically a tomato is a fruit, but we all think and refer to tomatoes as vegetables.

Most people are 'cognitively polyphasic', which means they can handle different thought content at the same time, even if they are actually contradictory. Most people know that everything made of chemicals and chemical elements make up everything in the universe, but in everyday expression when they use 'chemicals' that is not what they mean.

This connotation of the word 'chemicals' evolved within a common and powerful heuristic – a mental shortcut – where something

'natural' is considered better than something man-made. This idea is centuries old, and it's deeply embedded in our culture and language.

People's views of chemicals do not affect their view of chemistry or chemists. But if we talk about chemicals all the time, especially in trying to combat perceived inaccuracies in the views of others – we actually risk activating existing fears.

Supposed misuse of 'chemicals' has become a pet peeve for our community: we get upset when it is employed in this way and in trying 'to set the science straight' we end up sounding patronising, petty and don't really achieve what we set out to in communicating. We have many opportunities to showcase chemistry, but if what we do is to go around with a red pen and check whether they are using the right terminology, who can blame the public if they don't care to listen? Do we want to be vigilantes for the word 'chemicals' or do we want to be ambassadors for chemistry?

We need to create new, positive associations instead of focusing on the old negative ones. We should avoid talking about 'chemophobia' or framing our communications in negative terms ('fighting ignorance', 'debunking errors' etc.). Instead we should try to be more positive, showing people how chemistry makes us feel and championing the cause of chemistry in society.

Find out more about what we need to remember when talking about chemicals in our public attitudes to chemistry communication toolkit [rsc.li/pac](http://rsc.li/pac)

Follow the conversation online [#chemperceptions](https://twitter.com/chemperceptions)

We have now published the data with the tables from our public survey on public attitudes to chemistry in the UK. You can find the data at [rsc.li/pac](http://rsc.li/pac)

*"Do we want to be vigilantes for the word 'chemicals' or do we want to be ambassadors for chemistry?"*

**WORDS**  
CHIARA CECI



**Matthew Hartings, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, American University**

"Chemistry, as a practice and a field of study, has always had the perception of being difficult or unapproachable. I think that in comparison to other sciences, there is a dissociation between the broader public and the action of doing chemistry. This perceived distance is directly related to the barriers that we put in place; there are good reasons for requiring training of those who want to practise chemistry. Some of these barriers are institutional and require that chemistry is performed in safe lab environments (a good thing) and that it uses jargon (which is always unhelpful).

"Chemists are all too happy to keep chemistry to themselves and have people take interest in it from afar. Despite this, there are a large number of people who still take an interest in the chemistry in their everyday lives. I think these are the same people who are protesting against the use of genetically modified organisms or requiring only natural chemicals be used in consumer products. These people have a natural desire to engage with chemistry.

"Rather than maintaining a detachment from the broader public, it is our responsibility to engage people with chemistry. And the best way to do this is to enable non-chemists to do real chemistry. I have found great success with enabling non-chemists through kitchen chemistry, but there are a number of other avenues to facilitate engagement. While real engagement is not always easy, I think our profession has much to gain by supporting these activities."



**Raychelle Burks, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Doane College**

"For me, writing and speaking about chemistry is outreach. I had to ask myself if my use of 'chemophobia' and ascribing to a deficient model of science communication was really outreach. It wasn't. It was *inreach* – a kind of 'preaching to the choir'. Being an ambassador for chemistry requires more listening, flexibility in communication style, and even more listening!"



# My Year as Wikimedian in Residence



Doesn't time fly, when you're having fun? It only seems like yesterday that I began work as the Wikimedian in Residence here at the Royal Society of Chemistry. I've enjoyed the job, met some really interesting, generous and knowledgeable people, and – though I say so myself – we've done some great things.

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As Wikimedian in Residence, my role has been to encourage and assist the Royal Society of Chemistry's members and staff – as well as members of the public with whom we engage through our outreach work – to contribute to improving the coverage of chemistry related content on Wikipedia and its sister projects (you can read more about the project, at [bit.ly/RSCWiki](http://bit.ly/RSCWiki)). I've been a Wikimedian in Residence a few times previously, mainly at museums and galleries, but it's still something fewer than fifty people have ever done, world-wide!

These days, most people know about Wikipedia, 'the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit'. The sister projects, run in the same manner and hosted by the same organisation, the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF), are less ubiquitous, but equally worthwhile. For instance, there are millions of free-to-reuse media files (pictures, video and audio) on Wikimedia Commons. Wikidata offers machine-readable 'linked, open data' (it's a bit like our ChemSpider, but for everything, not just chemicals), and so on.

By taking a very broad view of 'chemistry related content', including biographies, histories of organisations, and artworks depicting chemists, we've enabled the participation of many non-scientists. In the last year, I've trained almost a hundred individuals to edit Wikipedia. We've held a number of Wikipedia editing marathons ('Editathons'), where we introduce experienced volunteer Wikipedia editors to knowledgeable subject specialists (RSC members, academics, librarians, curators and archivists), so that they can collaborate on writing or improving articles. Most recently, we held an editathon at Catalyst, the science discovery centre and museum in Widnes. Some volunteers brought their cameras, and had added high-resolution (not to mention high quality!) images to Wikimedia Commons. I've done some photography, too, and am particularly pleased with my pictures of Royal Society of Chemistry medals.

I've worked with Wikipedia editors in or from other countries, to

have articles translated into their own languages (Wikipedia isn't one encyclopedia, but 290, in languages ranging from French to Welsh, Russian to Cornish). Introducing volunteers in Barcelona to nearby academic chemists, known to the RSC though their contributions to our journals, we enabled those volunteers to translate articles into the local Catalan language, with someone to call on if they needed help with a technical term or understanding an underlying principle. Those volunteers are now teaching Catalan-speaking chemistry students to edit Wikipedia.

During a private visit to Tunisia (a busman's holiday – I was speaking at a Wikipedia conference!), I was pleased to be able to meet our local section committee there, and give a talk about Wikipedia to chemistry students and lecturers at the University of Tunis El Manar.

Shortly afterwards, I made another overseas trip, to talk to early-career chemists from around Europe (plus an American guest) in Berlin. Sadly, I wasn't able to accept an invitation to speak at the American Chemistry Society's conference in Boston in August – but one of my Royal Society of Chemistry colleagues did – and kindly gave a talk on my behalf, while I answered questions from the audience on Twitter!

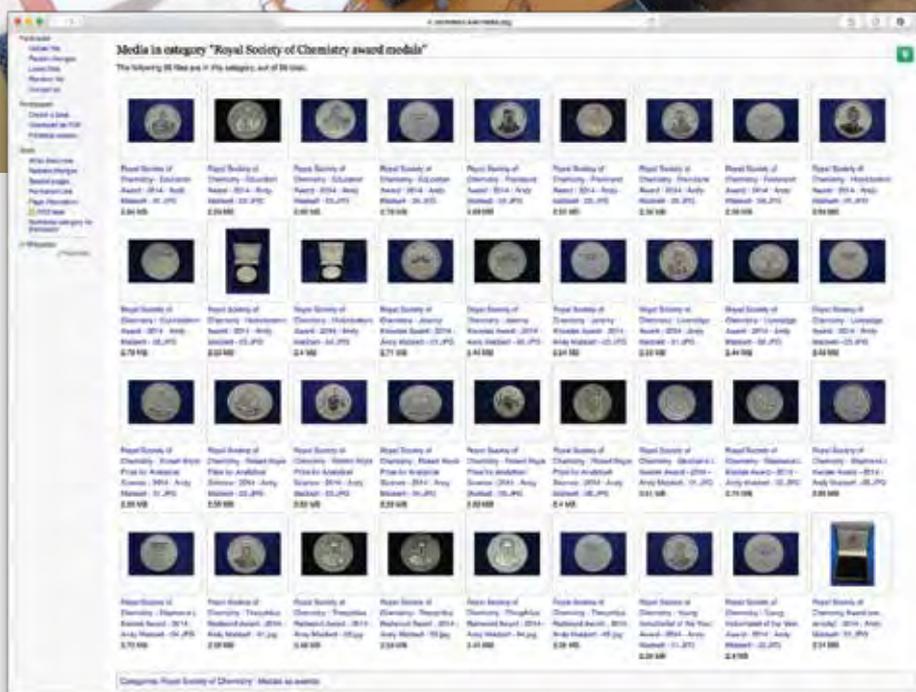
However, I haven't been working on my own, and my colleagues at the Royal Society of Chemistry have kindly contributed in a variety of ways. Many have written or improved Wikipedia articles, and some have uploaded their own photographs. Some of our more famous members, with Wikipedia articles about them, have kindly consented to having their voices recorded for a project I run, in which we ask people to introduce themselves, in an audio file, which then goes onto their Wikipedia biography so that readers can find out what they sound like and hear the definitive pronunciations of their names.

In July, my colleagues on *Chemistry World* ran a competition to source chemistry-related quotations so that they could be added to



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A Wikipedia Editathon at Burlington House (above) and a Wikimedia Commons page showing Andy's medal images, each CC BY-SA 4.0 (right). Images via Wikimedia Commons.



**WORDS**  
ANDY MABBETT

another of Wikipedia's sister projects, Wikiquote. Dozens of Royal Society of Chemistry members suggested material, some of it funny, and some of it poignant. By the time you read this, the quotations should all be online.

The Royal Society of Chemistry itself has also been generous: in December last year, it donated 100 RSC Gold accounts – giving access to the full archive of Royal Society of Chemistry publications – so that Wikipedia editors who could demonstrate an existing commitment to working in a relevant subject area could use them as reference sources for Wikipedia articles.

So why is all this important to the Royal Society of Chemistry? Well, there is evidence – not least from the research underpinning our recent Public Attitudes to Chemistry report – that Wikipedia is the

primary resource for many people looking for information about chemistry, whether it's 'what is this drug I've been given?', 'is this old insecticide safe to spray on my tomatoes?' or 'where does saccharin come from?' or even 'why did Fred Bloggs win a Nobel prize?' We can't ignore Wikipedia, and if people are using it, it's sensible for us to help to ensure that it's as accurate and complete as possible.

While my year in this role may be coming to an end, I'm sure that the people I've helped and encouraged will continue to edit Wikipedia, to take photographs for Wikimedia Commons, or to work on the other WMF projects, and to contribute to their mission of 'a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge', and I hope you will, too.

Now, who's next for a Wikimediaman in Residence?

# Opinion

## Letters and comments on RSC activities and issues

### FROM THE EDITOR



The snappily titled *21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* will take place in

Paris at the end of 2015. The third of our *Global Challenges, Chemistry Solutions* features this year looks at the crucial issue of energy and sustainability, exploring the work we do with our community and in collaboration with other organisations (p8).

My colleague Chiara Ceci was invited to present our *Public Attitudes to Chemistry* research at the American Chemical Society's Fall Conference and discuss the topic: *Chemistry Reacts to Chemophobia: A Problem of Public Perception and/or Communication?* You'll find our feature on *Public Attitudes to Chemicals* on p10.

Our last feature takes a look at our *Wikimedian in Residence*, the ever-enthusiastic Andy Mabbett (p12). It's been a pleasure working with Andy for the last year, so I wish him all the best for whatever comes next.

Edwin Silvester  
rscnews@rsc.org

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)

You can also let us know your thoughts and comments via Twitter or Facebook.



@RSC\_Newsroom



[facebook.com/RoyalSocietyofChemistry](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyofChemistry)

In August's RSC News we featured a letter about the academic qualification of GradRIC which was offered in decades past by the Royal Institute of Chemistry. We received a large number of responses – some sharing memories of their GradRIC studies, and others asking for more recognition of this route into chemistry:

I took my GradRSC (as the GradRIC became when the Society was formed) in the mid 1970s and followed that by gaining CChem status. I am of the opinion that taking my degree by this route was a positive help to my career. On one occasion I was told by a new employer that the fact I had taken my degree by the day release route was the major deciding factor to selecting me over the other candidates for the role.

It is also worth noting that I graduated with no 'student' debt, indeed I had my own new car and money for a deposit on a house.

I advocate that we should move back towards the industry sponsored professional qualifications, of which GradRIC/GradRSC was one of the best examples.

#### Colin Foan CChem, GradRSC

Regarding the equivalence of a vocational GradRIC to a university BSc., my experience is that the latter is more appreciated/understood by employers and the general public so I understand why students 'voted with their feet' for BSc courses. I ended my career in the USA, and part of the visa process required investigation of my GradRIC. In 1990, a company specialising in the 'Evaluation of Foreign Education and Training', concluded that GradRIC was 'the equivalent of at least a Bachelor's degree at an accredited institution in the United States.' Damned by faint praise was my first feeling but I did get the visa.

#### Wilf Anderson CChem MRSC

It was inevitable that GradRIC as a route to professional membership would end. The creation of so many universities, and the dramatic increase in the number of places available, made the choice of full time study for three or four years much more attractive than six or seven years of part time study, whilst also holding down a full time job. Whilst I share the sadness of Drs Davison and Villiers over the demise of GradRIC, the world has moved on and for those of us who are left from the halcyon days of part-time education, we can only be thankful that it is now so much easier for students to attain professional qualifications than it was in our day.

#### Dr R G Wilkinson OBE MRIC CChem

Without doubt, the GradRIC qualification through examination and the recognition of its value by industry and commerce was well accepted and indeed some employers provided funding for post A-level employees wishing to proceed towards higher academic qualifications.

I would agree that some form of recognition be given to those who were encouraged to follow the RIC examination route and perhaps developed the concept of linkage between industry and academia. Perhaps a reception could be organised during the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition inviting those 'few' pioneers RIC graduates to attend.

#### Dr Martin Turner FRSC

It was back in 1949 that started my road to the ARIC.

I had day release from work, which continued over many years, through ONC, HNC and Post NC examinations, before I sat for my ARIC exam at Newcastle and then Birmingham universities, where I had to take a resit practical.

Now retired I still look back at those 'heady days' with fond memories.

I must admit that chemical advances in my once chosen subject leave me 'lost'!!!

Thank you for reminding me what fantastic subjects chemistry and the sciences are.

L R Plant CChem MRIC (pushing on to 60 years membership)

# International research at the heart of chemistry

Deirdre Black looks at the interplay between international collaboration, researcher mobility and immigration

We are part of an international community in chemistry with a passion for scientific exploration that is shared across international borders. The ability of researchers to collaborate internationally is increasingly a key element in cutting-edge science. Studies show that, on average, researchers who collaborate outside their home country publish more research papers and that papers that have co-authors residing in more than one country are more highly cited.

One way of facilitating international collaboration is by enabling researchers to meet face to face, and supporting researcher mobility within the chemical sciences is an important part of our work at the Royal Society of Chemistry.

## Researcher Mobility Grants

Our Researcher Mobility Grants support early career researchers and PhD or Masters students across academia and industry. Since the scheme's launch in 2014, we have supported 73 chemical scientists to participate in international research collaborations, projects and initiatives across 24 countries. Applicants to the scheme can request funding for return travel to their host country, accommodation and subsistence during their visit, as well as supporting funding for their host organisation such as bench fees and administrative support costs. Applications are open now at [rsc.li/funding](http://rsc.li/funding), where there's also an overview of our other funding opportunities.

## The Newton Fund

We are partnering with the British Council to support the Newton Fund, benefitting the UK chemistry community and scientists in the developing world working together to tackle challenges across areas such as health, energy and sustainability.

Launched in 2013 by the UK government department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Newton Fund aims to build science capacity and partnerships to promote the economic development and social welfare of developing countries, and to support the UK's research community. The £375 million fund provides £75 million per year for five years. Through the British Council Researcher Links programme, we will provide 50% matched-funding for a selection of high-calibre chemistry applications that would not otherwise receive funding through the scheme.

## International Exchanges Award

We are also partnering with the Royal Society to fund a programme of international exchanges, bringing together chemists in the UK and sub-Saharan Africa to stimulate new collaborations by providing funding to strengthen emerging research networks.

We're offering candidates up to £12,000 for two-year projects to share knowledge, build research capacity and create links for further collaboration. Applications are now open and more information can be found at [royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/international-exchanges/](http://royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/international-exchanges/)

Researchers who have worked internationally know that securing funding for their work is not the only challenge. Keeping cross-border paperwork in order is another important skill, and sometimes getting the required visa or establishing a particular immigration status is another part of visiting or working in another country.

As chemists in the UK prepare for the new academic year, the question of immigration rules and their impact on researcher mobility is timely. The possibility of tougher restrictions on immigration has raised concerns with some members of the community about potential implications for international scientific collaboration and the mobility of researchers coming to the UK. At present, EU citizens are allowed to travel freely between EU Member States, including the UK, for work. The tiered system for immigration to the UK also allows people to enter, under specific conditions, as students, temporary workers, skilled workers, or because of 'exceptional talent'. There is a concern that systems may become more complex and arduous to navigate over the coming years.

Whether or not the message that the UK is 'open for business' is getting out there is something the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) have been asking over recent weeks. Their research called for information about specific experiences of the ease or difficulty of using the UK visa system. The results, available later this year, will no doubt be of interest to many working in science and engineering in the UK as the Government continues its review of migration systems.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is also currently reviewing the Tier 2 Visa route used by many chemists from outside the European Economic Area with an offer of skilled employment in the UK. There is still time for your views to be represented in a report MAC will publish later this year by responding to their consultation at [gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-review-tier-2-route](http://gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-review-tier-2-route). It is hoped that the recommendations outlined in the MAC report will inform the new Immigration Bill proposed by the UK Government.

Laboratories around the UK benefit from operating internationally – both in sending researchers abroad and in bringing in talented, experienced people from other countries. We are always interested in members' view on the interplay between immigration policy, researcher mobility and international collaboration.



**Dr Deirdre Black** is Science Manager at the Royal Society of Chemistry, based in Cambridge.

"The ability of researchers to collaborate internationally is increasingly a key element in cutting-edge science."

# Diary

Your guide to all important events

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## NOTICES



Find out which deserving members of our community will receive this year's Royal Society of Chemistry awards for service (p20).

### Further 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)

## RSC conferences

Faraday Discussion

### Chemistry in the Urban Atmosphere

6–8 April 2016  
London, UK

**Full paper submission deadline: 16 November 2015**

This meeting will address the key questions and over-arching issues related to understanding chemistry in the urban atmosphere.

Submit your abstract now if you want to be considered for an oral presentation and the chance to showcase your research in one of four key themes:

- Chemical complexity of the urban atmosphere and its consequences
- Timescales of mixing and of chemistry
- Urban case studies
- Numerical modelling strategies for the urban atmosphere

**Join us in London, April 2016 – register now**

With the increasing urbanisation of human populations, the chemistry of the urban atmosphere – including air pollution in the context of human health and accurate numerical modelling – is growing in importance. Spaces for this meeting are limited and will fill up fast, so secure your place by registering online now.

<http://rsc.li/atmosphere-fd2016>



Faraday Discussion

### Nanoparticles with Morphological and Functional Anisotropy

4–6 July 2016  
Glasgow, UK

**Oral abstract submission deadline: 19 October 2015**

Anisotropy at the nanoscale is a critical factor in the mechanical, optical, electronic and magnetic properties of nanoparticles. This brings together some of the most active and recognised chemists, physicists, theoreticians, engineers and biomedical researchers to discuss the use of anisotropy as a tool to design, organise and provide special functions to nanoparticles of various kinds.

Submit your abstract now if you want to be considered for an oral presentation and the chance to showcase your research in one of four key themes:

- Anisotropic nanoparticles
- Janus and patchy particles
- Particles at interfaces
- Biomedical applications

**Registration is now open**

Join us in Glasgow, July 2016 – register online now.

<http://rsc.li/anisotropy-fd2016>



## ANNOUNCING



### Liquid Salts for Energy and Materials (Faraday Discussion)

11–13 May 2016  
Ningbo, China

<http://rsc.li/liquidsalts-2016>

## DATES AND DEADLINES

### Joliot-Curie Conference 2015

16–17 September 2015  
Cambridge, UK

Bursary application deadline:  
6 September 2015

Final registration deadline:  
6 September 2015

<http://rsc.li/joliot-curie-2015>

### Challenges in Organic Materials and Supramolecular Chemistry (ISACS 18)

19–21 November 2015  
Bangalore, India

Early bird registration  
deadline: 28 September 2015

Final registration deadline:  
19 October 2015

<http://rsc.li/isacs18>

### Nanoparticle Assembly: From Fundamentals to Applications (Faraday Discussion)

7–9 January 2016  
Mumbai, India

Poster abstract deadline:  
26 October 2015

<http://rsc.li/assembly-fd2016>

# Events



**ChemCareers 2015**  
19–23 October  
Get ready for your perfect job  
<http://rsc.li/chemcareers>  
#ChemCareers

## Further information

The RSC News Diary this month lists Royal Society of Chemistry events from September to October 2015 that are held on our conference database. Further details on any of these meetings can be obtained from the named contact or from our conference website at [www.rsc.org/events](http://www.rsc.org/events)

You can search events by name, date or keywords and have the option to browse by location, subject area and event type.

## EASTERN

### Mid-Anglia Section

#### Behind the Scenes at the Cambridge Museum of Zoology

1 October  
Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge  
The museum is currently undergoing a major redevelopment and refurbishment, so we are very privileged to have been granted access. Museum staff will take us around the new collection stores, and we will see some of the hidden treasures and learn about the new museum.

**Contact John O'Toole**  
+44 (0)1223 894174  
[john.otoole9@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.otoole9@btopenworld.com)

### Other events

#### Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector

#### 18th SCI/RSC Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

13-16 September  
Churchill College, Cambridge  
The Symposium will focus on first disclosures and new strategies in medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical research. The scientific programme features lectures and short talks across the full range of drug targets. There will also be poster sessions.

**Contact Patricia Cornell**  
+44 (0)207 5981566  
[patricia.cornell@soci.org](mailto:patricia.cornell@soci.org)

#### Faraday Division

#### Faraday Discussion: Supramolecular Photochemistry

15-17 September  
Downing College, Cambridge  
This meeting aims to bring together top researchers and new entrants to the field to generate a vibrant atmosphere that will lead to new perspectives on supramolecular photochemistry.

**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
[events@rsc.org](mailto:events@rsc.org)

#### Joliot-Curie Conference

16-17 September  
Murray Edwards College, Cambridge  
With a programme of workshops, one-to-one consultations, and keynote speeches from world-renowned experts, the Joliot-Curie Conference seeks to raise awareness of research careers available and potential routes to access, provide information and support on issues that may act as barriers to choosing or progressing in a research career, provide opportunities for delegates to develop communications skills and increase their confidence when talking about and presenting their research and provide relevant information and tangible support during the event through targeted group discussions and one-to-one sessions. Final year PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and other early career chemists in academia or industry from the UK or Republic of Ireland who aspire to establish an independent career in research are welcome to attend the conference.

**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
[events@rsc.org](mailto:events@rsc.org)

## INTERNATIONAL

### Brazil

#### ISACS17: Challenges in Chemical Renewable Energy

8-11 September  
Rio Othon Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
This conference will bring together leading scientists from across the world to share scientific developments in renewable energy generation and storage.

**Contact Events Department**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
[events@rsc.org](mailto:events@rsc.org)

### China

#### Nanoscience Symposium

3 September  
Beijing International Convention Centre, China  
This one-day symposium will be in conjunction with the journal *Nanoscale* published by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The symposium will appeal to researchers exploring nanoscience across all physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, materials and energy/environment disciplines.  
**Contact RSC Materials Team**  
+44 (0)1223 432195  
[coynea@rsc.org](mailto:coynea@rsc.org)

#### NSFC-RSC International Symposium on Emerging Frontiers in Organic Synthesis

8-10 October  
Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China  
This free symposium will bring together leading international experts in organic synthesis, including established scientists and outstanding early career researchers, in order to share expertise and best practice and discuss cutting edge research and applications. In addition, this symposium will also feature some insights and opinions on what challenges there will be in the field of organic synthesis in the next 10-20 years. Young research fellows and students are also encouraged to participate and present flash talks and posters.  
**Contact RSC China Events**  
+86 10 5982 2317  
[chinaevents@rsc.org](mailto:chinaevents@rsc.org)

#### 3rd Roche and RSC Chemistry Symposium on Leading Science for Drug Discovery

24-25 October  
Roche Training Center, Shanghai, China  
This two-day scientific symposium will bring together leading international experts in drug discovery research particularly, in the anti-infectious disease arena, covering organic chemistry, chemical biology, structural biology and drug discovery technologies, in order to share expertise and best practice. With 6 outstanding young Chinese scholars, also the Roche Chinese Young Investigator Awardees, the first-day symposium will focus on pioneering research by emerging Chinese Scholars on

topics in the fields of asymmetric catalysis, cross-coupling reactions, heterocyclic synthesis, and chemical and structural biology, particularly related to infectious diseases. The second-day symposium will showcase several cutting-edge talks and case studies of drug or drug candidate molecules by leading experts from both academia and industry.  
**Contact RSC China Events**  
+86 10 5982 2317  
[chinaevents@rsc.org](mailto:chinaevents@rsc.org)

### Germany

#### Molecular Spectroscopy Group ORCA User Meeting

7-8 September  
Wissenschaftspark Gelsenkirchen, Germany  
In order to facilitate discussion between developers, contributors and users the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion organizes the first ORCA Users Meeting.  
**Contact Christin Ernst**  
+49 (0)208 306-3681  
[info@cec.mpg.de](mailto:info@cec.mpg.de)

### Turkey

#### Turkey Symposium Series: Catalysis and Sensing for Health

7 September  
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey  
The event will include a mix of international and locally based speakers. There will be the opportunity for students to showcase their work in poster sessions, with plenty of networking opportunities. The event is free to attend but please register your attendance  
**Contact Stuart Govan, RSC**  
+44 (0)1223 432637  
[govans@rsc.org](mailto:govans@rsc.org)

#### Turkey Symposium Series: Catalysis and Sensing for Health

8 September  
Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey  
The event will include a mix of international and locally based speakers. There will be the opportunity for students to showcase their work in poster sessions, with plenty of networking opportunities. The event is free to attend but please register your attendance.  
**Contact Stuart Govan, RSC**  
+44 (0)1223 432637  
[govans@rsc.org](mailto:govans@rsc.org)

## EVENTS

### Turkey Symposium Series: Catalysis and Sensing for Health

10 September  
Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey  
The event will include a mix of international and locally based speakers. There will be the opportunity for students to showcase their work in poster sessions, with plenty of networking opportunities. The event is free to attend but please register your attendance  
**Contact Stuart Govan, RSC**  
+44 (0)1223 432637  
govans@rsc.org

### Turkey Symposium Series: Catalysis and Sensing for Health

11 September  
Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey  
The event will include a mix of international and locally based speakers. There will be the opportunity for students to showcase their work in poster sessions, with plenty of networking opportunities. The event is free to attend but please register your attendance  
**Contact Stuart Govan, RSC**  
+44 (0)1223 432637  
govans@rsc.org

### Japan

Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division

### MANA-RSC Symposium: Materials for Energy Generation and Storage

15-16 October  
National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), Tsukuba, Japan  
This is an event for the energy materials community. Top local and international speakers will present their research in energy storage and generation over two days, across topics including batteries, bio-fuel cells, fuel cells, hydrogen production and storage, solar cells and supercapacitors.  
**Contact Hiromitsu Urakami**  
+81 (0)3 5577 4360  
UrakamiH@rsc.org

### MIDLANDS

#### Other events

### British Carbon Group 16th International Nuclear Graphite Specialists' Meeting

13-17 September  
The National College, Nottingham  
Whilst primarily of interest to those working in or supporting the nuclear power industry, all with an interest in nuclear graphite are welcome to participate and to discuss current issues and developments.  
**Contact Tony Wickham**  
+44 (0)159 786 0633  
confer@globalnet.co.uk

### Materials Chemistry Division Recent Appointees in Materials Science (RAMS)2015

16-17 September  
University of Warwick  
A national conference specifically aimed at new Academic appointees (Lecturers, Research Fellows and Postdocs) in Materials Science. The conference will include symposia with plenary and contributed oral presentations and a poster session covering a broad range of subjects in Materials Science, networking opportunities as well as panel discussions to encourage collaboration, stimulate discussions and provide an open forum for advice.  
**Contact Gemma-Louise Davies**  
+44 (0)2476 151828  
RAMS2015@warwick.ac.uk

### A Future in Chemistry – Careers Education and Information Resources from the Royal Society of Chemistry

22 September  
King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham  
The meeting will be of special interest to all teachers of chemistry. STEM Ambassadors with a chemistry background will be present and teachers may wish to find out how to bring them into their own schools. Tickets are free but registration is required.  
**Contact Jill Oldfield**  
+44(0)121 472 1834  
jo@kehsmail.co.uk

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### Other events

### Science and Stormont 2015

12 October  
Parliament Buildings, Stormont  
This event is designed to develop closer links between the scientific community in Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive. This year's scientific presentations are based on the theme of Energy and The Environment.  
**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
events@rsc.org

### NORTH EAST

#### Other events

### Faraday Division Faraday Discussion: Carbon Dioxide Utilisation

7-9 September  
The Edge, Sheffield  
Carbon dioxide utilisation is an emerging technology which can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the use of CO<sub>2</sub> to manufacture useful products. While generally un-reactive, CO<sub>2</sub> can be activated, particularly through catalysis, to yield a vast array of chemical feedstocks, intermediates and value-added products. For this to be effective, a synergistic approach is needed where multiple technologies and energy sources are integrated over a complete system.  
**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
events@rsc.org

### Dalton Division DYME: Dalton Younger Members Event

9-10 September  
University of Leeds, School of Chemistry  
The symposium will begin with a plenary talk by an inspiring well-established academic who will give a brief run-through of their research career and give advice about the best way to obtain an academic position and succeed in an academic environment. The rest of the first day will consist of presentations by younger members. A conference dinner in the evening will allow for networking and potential collaborations. The second day continues with a packed schedule of young researcher contributions and will finish with another plenary lecture.  
**Contact Flora Thorp-Greenwood**  
+44 (0)113 3436574  
chmft@leeds.ac.uk

### Careers Consultations: Leeds

26-28 October  
The Queens, Leeds  
The Royal Society of Chemistry's team of qualified careers specialists will be in your area and available for free one-to-one, confidential consultations on any aspect of managing your career.  
**Contact RSC Careers**  
+44 (0)1223 432231  
careers@rsc.org

### NORTH WEST

#### Lancaster and District Section

### The Sun-Earth Connection

6 October  
University of Central Lancashire, Preston  
The influence the Sun has had on the Earth over millions of years  
**Contact Harry Clarke**  
+44 (0)1995 640003  
hclarke906@btinternet.com

### The Scientists of World War 2

20 October  
University of Central Lancashire, Preston  
An evening lecture at University of Central Lancashire  
**Contact Harry Clarke**  
+44 (0)1995 640003  
hclarke906@btinternet.com

#### Liverpool Section

### Retired Members' Lunch and Talk

23 September  
Blackburne House, Liverpool  
A 2-course lunch will be followed by a talk on the 'Wonderful World of Whimsy'. Tickets are £17 and members may bring a guest.  
**Contact Dr Bob Lee**  
+44 (0)151 334 7875  
drboblee@msn.com

#### Manchester and District Section

### Dalton Lecture 2015

7 October  
The Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester  
This year's lecture will be presented by Doctor Tony Bristow, Associate Principal Scientist at AstraZeneca. Entitled The Arsonist, the Martian and a Cat meet Floyd, Walt and Jesse the lecture will focus on mass spectrometry.  
**Contact Katharine Sullivan**  
+ 44 (0)161 275 6982  
KatharineSullivan@manchester.ac.uk

## Other events

Formulation Science and Technology Group

### Advances in Personal Care Formulation

29 September  
Chester Zoo, Chester  
This one day meeting will focus on challenges encountered in personal care formulation including delivery of actives to complex biological substrates e.g. hair and skin and associated measurement and formulation challenges..

**Contact Deborah Reed-Aspley**  
+44 (0)115 922 9422  
deborah@constableandsmith.com

### Careers Consultations: Liverpool

13-14 October  
Holiday Inn Liverpool  
The Royal Society of Chemistry's team of qualified careers specialists will be in your area and available for free one-to-one, confidential consultations on any aspect of managing your career.

**Contact RSC Careers**  
+44 (0)1223 432231  
careers@rsc.org

## SCOTLAND

## Other events

### Careers Consultations: Edinburgh

21-23 September  
The Royal Society Of Edinburgh, Edinburgh  
The Royal Society of Chemistry's team of qualified careers specialists will be in your area and available for free one-to-one, confidential consultations on any aspect of managing your career.

**Contact RSC Careers**  
+44 (0)1223 432231  
careers@rsc.org

### 2nd Asian-European Symposium on Organic Optoelectronics

27-29 October  
Royal Society of Edinburgh, Edinburgh  
This symposium provides an ideal forum to discuss the tremendous progress in the areas of plastic electronics and organic optoelectronic devices such as organic light emitting diodes, organic solar cells including dye-sensitized and perovskites solar cells, organic semiconductors, transistors and other flexible devices such as flexible displays. We wish to cover all aspects of molecular electronics from fundamental research such as materials

design and engineering, physical properties and modelling studies, to optimisation of processes and commercial applications. We hope that the symposium will help to identify the next generation of emerging organoelectronics and the challenges facing this field. We expect participation from leading scientists from academia, government, and industry. Aiming to share best practice, expertise and identify collaboration opportunities, the talks will involve chemists, physicists, engineers and materials scientists both from academia and industry.  
**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 434048  
events@rsc.org

## SOUTH EAST

### Chilterns and Middlesex Section

#### Daniell Lecture

21 October  
King's College London  
21st annual Daniell lecture for senior school pupils, speaker Professor Lesley Yellowlees, Edinburgh University, title 'Challenge Chemistry'.  
**Contact Stephen Robinson**  
+44 (0)208 5467940  
stephenrobinson\_3@hotmail.com

#### Retired Members' Lecture and Lunch

30 October  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
A lecture entitled Sir Thomas Gresham and his Vision for Gresham College followed by lunch.  
**Contact Stephen Robinson**  
+44 (0)208 546 7940  
stephenrobinson\_3@hotmail.com

## Other events

Coordination and Organometallic Discussion Group

#### 2015 RSC Coordination and Organometallic Discussion Group Meeting

3-4 September  
University of Oxford, Oxford  
The COMDG of the RSC is devoted to support the scientific interests of researchers involved with any aspect of co-ordination and organometallic chemistry broadly defined.  
**Contact Jose Goicoechea**  
+44 (0)1865 275961  
jose.goicoechea@chem.ox.ac.uk

Protein and Peptide Science Group

#### IMAP 2015: 5th International Meeting on Anti-Microbial Peptides

7-8 September  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
There will be a full programme of talks and posters based around four main themes: Structure, Function & Design of AMPs, Therapeutic Applications of AMPs, Peptide Biomaterials & Peptide-Polymer Hybrids and Immunomodulatory Aspects of AMPs  
**Contact Dr Stephen Hoare**  
+44 (0)1949 839586  
shoare@peptideconferences.org

Toxicology Group

#### Working safely with Nanomaterials in R&D Laboratories – an Update.

9 September  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
Current knowledge and good practice regarding the safe handling of nanomaterials  
**Contact Kate Jones**  
+44 (0)1298 218435  
kate.jones@hsl.gsi.gov.uk

#### Main Group Chemistry Group Annual Meeting and Annual General Meeting

11 September  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
**Contact Charles O'Hara**  
+44 (0)141 548 2667  
charlie.ohara@strath.ac.uk

Faraday Division

#### Faraday Discussion: Single-Molecule Microscopy and Spectroscopy

14-16 September  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
**Contact RSC Events**  
+44 (0)1223 432380  
events@rsc.org

#### Open House London 2015

19 September  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
Open House London is in its 23rd year and is a city wide celebration of the buildings, places and neighbourhoods where we live and work under the theme of 'revealing great architecture'. This weekend of activity helps people learn about and advocate for the value of good design through direct experience of great buildings and places. A quarter of a million people take part in this unique initiative visiting over 800 featured sites. Burlington House has been a cultural campus for arts and sciences since 1874. The original

Palladian mansion was home to the Earls of Burlington, but was later entrusted to the care of six organisations concerned with the artistic, historic, natural and scientific cultural environments. The 18th-century mansion and 19th-century additions around the courtyard are fascinating works of architecture imbued with the history and significance of their current inhabitants. Open House visitors may spend Saturday exploring Burlington House to learn about the building and each of the six unique organisations: The Geological Society of London, The Linnean Society of London, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Royal Society of Chemistry. This event is free to attend – no booking is required.  
**Contact Carrie Boyce RSC**  
+44 (0)1223 432528  
outreach@rsc.org

Marketing Group

#### Food for Thought – Food Production, Security, Safety and Fraud

8 October  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
Food production, especially meat and fish production, is often hit by real or perceived threats to security of the consumers, one recent example being the horse meat scandal. Prof Jim Scudamore will provide examples from his previous experiences as Government Chief Veterinary Officer and contributions to government committees.  
**Contact Mark Scudamore**  
+44 (0)20 8241 9080  
marksudamore@blueyonder.co.uk

Automation and Analytical Management Group / Chemical Information and Computer Applications Group

#### Measurement, Information and Innovation – Digital Disruption in the Chemical Sciences

20 October  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
Over the last few decades, chemistry laboratories have been experiencing a steady transition from traditional manual work and analogue measurement techniques to the adoption of new systems and processes based on digital technologies. In practical terms this means that work in the chemistry laboratory is changing, not only in day-to-day operations, but also in the long term processes for storing, maintaining, finding, using, interpreting and understanding scientific data and information.

## EVENTS

This has significant implications for chemistry, and for the required skill sets and expertise needed by laboratory chemists.

**Contact Helen Cooke**  
helen.cooke100@gmail.com

### Law Group

#### The RSC Patent Debate – Does Chemistry Benefit From the Patent System?

28 October  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London  
Patents are often justified on the basis they provides inventors with an incentive to invest in research and development of new products, and to disclose valuable technical information to the public which would otherwise have remained secret. However, arguments have been put forward that not only are many restricted in benefitting from a patent's contribution to science but also that due to the sheer number of patents innovation has been stifled.

**Contact Maggi Churchouse**  
+44 (0)1359 221004  
maggi@maggichurchousevents.

## SOUTH WEST

### Thames Valley Section

PALAVA Teacher Researcher Group

#### 2015/16 Launch Meeting

12 September  
Reading  
Please contact John to register and receive a detailed annual programme.

**Contact John Oversby**  
oversby61@gmail.com

#### Family Chemistry Trail

4 October  
Reading  
Open to members, families (children of all ages but especially 9-16). Under 18s must be escorted by a parent or guardian who will take responsibility. No booking needed.

**Contact John Oversby**  
oversby61@gmail.com

#### Virtual Flipped Science and Technology Education Conference on STEM for Justice

23 October-6 November  
Virtual event

**Contact John Oversby**  
oversby61@gmail.com

## WALES

### South Wales West Section

#### Science and Energy Demonstration Lectures for Children

15 September  
Swansea University  
Demonstration lectures where children may undertake the experiments themselves

**Contact Neville Jones**  
+44 (0)1792 894778  
dnj.derwydd@mac.com

### Other events

#### Careers Consultations: Bangor

12-13 October  
The Management Centre, Bangor  
The Royal Society of Chemistry's team of qualified careers specialists will be in your area and available for free one-to-one, confidential consultations on any aspect of managing your career.

**Contact RSC Careers**  
+44 (0)1223 432231  
careers@rsc.org

# Notices

## Awards for Service 2015



**Mr John Beckett CChem MRSC**

John Beckett has served the East Anglia Local Section diligently for 10 years, first as chair (2005-2009) and subsequently as the secretary (2009-2015). This ensured the effective long-term leadership of the section.

His mentorship of younger committee chairs has been particularly valuable. He remains a committee member with an active role as Local Section Benevolent Fund Representative.

As chair and secretary John was actively responsible for reinvigorating the section, introducing a range of events and promoting harmony between the large academic community and section members in industry and teaching. In particular, John introduced and organised the Suffolk Retired Members Lunches. He was keen to acknowledge that many older members were disenfranchised by Norfolk centred events yet wished to retain contact with the RSC. The continued popularity of these events endorse this approach.

John is also passionate that the next generation of chemists gains practical experience. He ensures that our Top of the Bench heats go from strength to strength. He leads a sub-committee which annually devises innovative and engaging experiments. John tests and refines the majority of these experiments and works with teachers to link them to skills required by the curriculum. He co-ordinates the volunteers and liaises with hosts, Briar Chemicals. Without his motivation, dedication and enthusiasm in the past 10 years this event would have ceased.

In his retirement John has chosen to devote large amounts of his time to his professional body. He thoroughly deserves recognition for his service to the Royal Society of Chemistry.



**Professor Robin Perutz BA PhD CChem FRSC FRS**

Robin Perutz's service to the Royal Society of Chemistry has been outstanding, in particular through his continuous contributions to the Dalton Division. Robin was on Dalton Division Council 1986-89 and 2002-05, was vice-president 1994-98 and 2004-07, president 2007-10 and past president 2011-12. During his time as president he worked to oppose EPSRC's decision to abolish first grants and pushing the agenda in support of first grants. The battle was eventually won.

With his predecessor, he led the way for democratic elections to Council to ensure the diversity of candidates. He worked with Council on the revision of the Strategy on a Page to put members' issues at the forefront. By now, the strategy has changed substantially in this direction. He brought Council meetings to the regions to coincide with endowed lecture symposia (Edinburgh and Liverpool, for example), held endowed lecture symposia abroad (including Toulouse) and supported the organisation of a joint meeting of interest groups (coordination/inorganic reaction mechanisms/main group/inorganic biochemistry). By now this is an established and very successful biannual event. With Dalton Editorial Board, Robin has organised Dalton Discussion meetings.

He was Scientific Organiser for the RSC Conference on Chemistry of Platinum Group Metals, York 1996 (with participants from 22 countries) and the Dalton Discussion on Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis, York September 2003.



**Professor Sengottuvelan Balasubramanian**  
MSc PhD CChem FRSC

Professor Balasubramanian has been associated with the Royal Society of Chemistry for more than twenty five years (since 1990) in various capacities and has been actively involved in its functions. He took part in RSC

events even during his postdoctoral research period and he has served as a Royal Society of Chemistry representative.

When the RSC (South India) was dormant for several years he took initiative to revive its activities and took over as its secretary. Since then several events have been successfully conducted, which include invited lectures by eminent scientists from the UK, USA, Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland and Hungary and he has established a good rapport with other national and international sections.

The international workshop on solar energy applications and the RSC Road show were successfully conducted in this section in which he played a key role. The demonstration/quiz programmes he has conducted in schools and colleges as a part of outreach activities are highly appreciated by the students and faculty.

He has motivated the postgraduate students and research scholars to take active part in science exhibitions. The one-day national workshops, conducted in various colleges across the state on different themes, have attracted a large number of students, research scholars and faculty.

The interaction with industry researchers has not only enabled the students to undergo internship in industries but also secure employment in their R&D and quality control labs. The unique weekend special lectures, on advanced topics in chemistry, has greatly benefitted the postgraduate students to pursue research after their graduation.

He has publicised the Royal Society of Chemistry teacher training programme among school and college teachers and the print and electronic media have extensively covered many of these events.



**Dr William Byers BSc CChem FRSC**

Bill Byers has been a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry for over 50 years and has consistently sought to further both the discipline and the chemistry community by championing the promotion of chemistry education and the image of chemistry. He

has made outstanding contributions both to the NI Local Section and the Royal Society of Chemistry itself.

He has served several terms on the Local Section Committee including terms as minutes secretary, vice-chair and chair. Nationally he has served terms on Council as district member for Ireland (2001-2003), on the Education Division Council, on the Education and Qualifications Board and on the IUPAC Committee.

While on Council he served on the Atkins Committee, whose report on the workings of the benevolent fund was accepted by the charity commissioners in 2005. He subsequently served two terms, the second as vice-chair on the Benevolent Fund Grants Committee and, since retiring from this committee, has become a volunteer visitor. He has been particularly interested in education and has served for several years on the RSC Irish Regional Educational Committee.

He has contributed to a large number of inset and outreach programmes, has coordinated a number of Salters Festivals of Chemistry, has been a national judge for the Rolls-Royce Schools Science Prize for the past 10 years and was the recipient of the Royal Society of Chemistry Silver Medal and Tertiary Education Award in 2002.

**Société Chimique de France awards prestigious prize**

The 2015 Société Chimique de France French-British Prize has been awarded to Professor Willie Motherwell, of University College London, 'in recognition of his eminent works in the development of organic synthesis and their applications in the petrochemical and pharmaceutical industry'. It is also in recognition of the strong links that he has established with French chemists.

The presidents of the SCF said: "On behalf of our society, we want to congratulate him warmly and we will organize in the second half of 2016 the official ceremony during which we will hand over his Prize. A lecture tour in three French laboratories will be arranged as well."

**Dr David Woodcock's 100th Birthday**

David Woodcock BSc, MSc, PhD, CChem, FRSC, celebrated his 100th birthday on 11 July 2015. He has been a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (and predecessor bodies) for 73 years. His celebration was held at Yatton Rugby Club and was enjoyed by children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends and former work colleagues from the University of Bristol.

Colin Chapman, current Chair of the RSC Bristol & District Section presented Dr Woodcock with a commemorative certificate, signed by RSC President Dominic Tildesley and by Chief Executive Robert Parker, and with an inscribed Beechwood bowl from the RSC local section.

David Woodcock joined the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1942, the Bristol & District Section Committee in 1950, becoming its Secretary in 1953 and 1954. He was elected a Council member in 1958 and served on the Institutions Committee from 1960. He was deeply involved in the benevolent fund and remained committed to its activities nationally and locally until very recently. In 1992 he was presented with a Silver Medal by Professor Rees, RSC President at that time, and with a Long Service Plate in 1999. The RSC benevolent fund presented him with a Commemorative Plate in 1994 and a Long Service plate in 2000.

Dr Woodcock's 60 years in membership of the RSC was marked by yet another certificate from the RSC in 2002. At his 100th birthday party David Woodcock proudly displayed his medals and certificates together with photographs of many of them being given to him by RSC personnel over the years.

In presenting the 2015 certificate and bowl Colin Chapman told the guests that through the local committee of the RSC he had known Dr David Woodcock for some 45 years as both a sincere friend and a wonderful role model – a long-standing relationship that had been cemented through a mutual passion for chemistry and the activities of the Royal Society of Chemistry.



IMAGE COURTESY OF COLIN R CHAPMAN

## Recognising a vital contribution to science – Rosalind Franklin

Rosalind Franklin has been announced as the latest in our 175 Faces of Chemistry profiles, coinciding with what would have been her 95th birthday.

175 Faces of Chemistry celebrates the diversity of individuals within our community who have helped shape chemistry and science as a whole both past and present and identify role models and ambassadors for the future generation of chemists.

Born in London on 25 July 1920, Rosalind Franklin was an X-ray crystallographer who is best known for her pioneering work into the discovery of the structure of DNA. However, when Rosalind died of ovarian cancer, aged only 37, she was unaware of how much her work had actually contributed to this discovery.

Whilst Rosalind was working at King's College London, her X-ray images of DNA were shown to James Watson and Francis Crick, without her knowledge. Watson and Crick published their model in the journal *Nature* in 1953 but did not mention Rosalind's X-ray images.

On Rosalind's 175 Faces of Chemistry profile, writer and biographer Jenifer Glynn gives an insight into the tragically short, yet nonetheless illustrious life of her older sister, Rosalind Franklin.

175 Faces of Chemistry was launched by Professor Lesley Yellowlees, our first female president and a vocal campaigner for equality and diversity within the chemical sciences.



IMAGE COURTESY OF JENIFER GLYNN

Leading to our 175th anniversary in February 2016, we will profile 175 different scientists who represent diversity in its broadest sense.

We are dedicated to growing an inclusive environment within the chemical science community and building on the skills, knowledge and experience of early career chemists through to established chemists regardless of gender, age, disability, career pathway or social, ethnic or financial background.

## Dr Stan Higgins awarded fellowship of York University

The Senate of York University has accorded Dr Stan Higgins CChem CSci FRSC the status of Honorary Fellow of the university's chemistry department.

Dr Higgins is CEO of NEPIC, an industry-led cluster organisation that currently has 700 participating member companies. The cluster focuses on skills, innovation, investment, manufacturing productivity, internationalisation, supply chain connectivity and SME engagement.

It is 41 years since Dr Higgins started as chemistry undergraduate

at the university and he has maintained a relationship with the department since that time. For the last 10 years he has worked closely with the Chemical Industry Education Centre based at York which delivers the Children Challenging Industry science education programme.

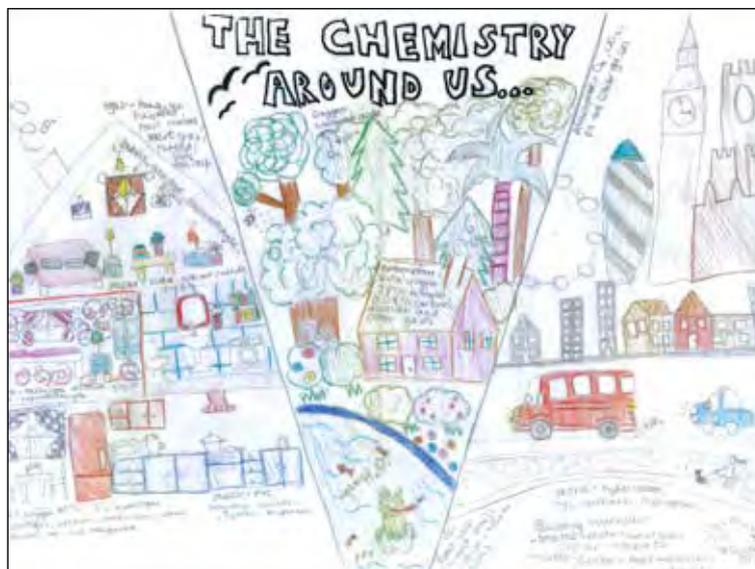
Dr Higgins said "It has been a privilege to be associated with a university that has risen so highly in the global university rankings and a chemistry department that has led the way in both teaching and research."

## The Chemistry Around Us competition

The RSC Chilterns and Middlesex local section has conducted a pilot poster competition on the theme of: The Chemistry Around Us.

Students in years 7 to 10 at secondary schools took part, producing many imaginative and informative posters. The successful participants received certificates and Amazon vouchers.

The poster below was created by Elif, from Highbury Fields School in London.



## RSC Organic Division Poster Symposium 2015

This poster symposium for final year organic chemistry PhD students, headline sponsored by F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Ltd, will take place at the Royal Society of Chemistry at Burlington House, in London, Monday 30 November 2015.

Abstract submission is now open and the closing date for submissions is Wednesday 30 September 2015. For more information or to submit an abstract see <http://rsc.li/organic-poster>

This symposium offers final year PhD students a chance to showcase their research to their peers, leading academics and industrial chemists. It is open to all branches of organic chemistry – in its broadest interpretation – and has a tradition of being the most competitive and highly-regarded organic chemistry symposium for PhD students in the UK and Ireland.

There will be a first prize of £500, two runner-up prizes of £250, and a 'selected by Industry' prize – also of £500. Industrial delegates will select this winner based on the potential for application in an industrial context.

## NMR Discussion Group – 8th Annual Postgraduate Meeting, University of Manchester

The annual NMR Discussion Group Postgraduate Meeting is now an established event and the eighth meeting was hosted by the School of Chemistry at the University of Manchester. As always, the meeting provided an ideal forum for early career research workers to present their work in an informal environment, either orally or as a poster. Established researchers, from both academia and industry, also attended the meeting as delegates. A diverse range of topics included all magnetic resonance related disciplines, small molecule characterisation, solid-state NMR, imaging and molecular biology.

To complement presentations given by early career research workers, overview lectures were delivered by Professor David Middleton (University of Lancaster) and Dr Mathias Nilsson (University of Manchester) on 'Adventures in Biomolecular Design and Solid-State NMR' and 'Pure Shift NMR' respectively. The meeting was sponsored by Thermo Scientific and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and prizes were awarded for the best oral and poster presentations. Judging was carried out by three independent members of the NMR Discussion Group Committee.

The prize for the best oral presentation was awarded to Davy Sinnaeve (Ghent University/University of Manchester), for his work on Ultrahigh resolution  $1\text{H} - 1\text{H}$  coupling measurements, by Professor Gareth Morris (NMR DG Chairperson) and Dr Andrew McLachlan (Thermo Scientific).

The prize for the best poster presentation was awarded to Giulia Bignami (University of St Andrews) for Solid-state NMR

Characterisation of  $^{17}\text{O}$ - and  $^{29}\text{Si}$ -enriched Zeolites by Professor Gareth Morris and Dr Matt Cude (Analytical Methods, Royal Society of Chemistry).

Both prize winners have been invited to make oral presentations at a joint Anglo-German NMR Discussion Group meeting which will be held at the Technische Universität Darmstadt in September 2015.

The 9th NMR Discussion Group Postgraduate Meeting will be held at the University of Oxford in June 2016, and details of all NMR DG events are made available on <http://www.nmrdg.org.uk/>



IMAGE COURTESY OF STEPHEN BYARD

Left to right: Professor Gareth Morris, Dr Andrew McLachlan and Dr Davy Sinnaeve.

## Deaths

**Mr Peter Doughty Arculus CChem FRSC** Retired senior science master, Solihull School. Died 2 July 2015, aged 85

**Mr Anthony Michael Aslett CChem MRSC** Retired senior laboratory technician, Temple School for Boys. Died 4 June 2015, aged 67

**Dr Leslie Atkinson MRSC** Non-executive director. Died 10 March 2015, aged 71

**Mr James Chalmers CChem MRSC** Retired. Died 6 May 2015, aged 97

**Mr Edwin Cropper EurChem CChem FRSC** Retired consultant. Died 11 July 2015, aged 73

**Professor Brian Robert Currell CChem FRSC** Emeritus Professor, University of Greenwich. Died 4 July 2015, aged 80

**Mr Anthony John Francis MRSC** Died 14 June 2015, aged 72

**Dr Adrian Leonard Balkwell Gale MRSC** General manager, ValeInco Europe Ltd. Date of death not supplied

**Dr Alan Guthrie Green CChem FRSC** Retired consultant biochemist, York Health Authority. Died 24 June 2015, aged 89

**Mr John Percy Green CChem FRSC** Retired self-employed. Died 1 July 2015, aged 88

**Dr John Ruff Gwilt MBE CSci CChem FRSC** Retired. Date of death not supplied

**Dr John Haddow CSci CChem MRSC** Teaching Fellow, University of Strathclyde. Date of death not supplied

**Dr Michael Robin Harris CChem FRSC** Retired. Died 20 June 2015, aged 87

**Dr Leslie Redman Holloway CChem MRSC** Retired company technical manager, Wavin Industrial Products Ltd. Died 18 June 2015, aged 70

**Dr Jack Ian Hoppe CChem FRSC** Retired. Died 29 June 2015, aged 86

**Professor Peter William Linder CChem MRSC** Emeritus Professor, University of Cape Town. Died 3 July 2015, aged 83

**Mr Alexander Stuart McIntosh Munro CChem MRSC** Retired. Died 6 May 2015, aged 93

**Dr Alan Richard Parkinson CChem MRSC** Managing director, Vapor-Tek. Died 1 February 2015, aged 81

**Professor Irwin Rose HonFRSC** University of California. Died 1 June 2015, aged 88

**Dr Walter Alan Ross CChem FRSC** Retired senior lecturer, pharmaceutical chemistry, Kings College, London. Died 16 June 2015, aged 88

**Dr Graham Ruecroft CSci CChem FRSC** Director and co-founder, Celbius Ltd. Died 9 June 2015, aged 54\*

**Professor John Melvin Swan MRSC** Retired Monash University. Died 15 June 2015, aged 91

**Mr Peter Raymond Thomas CChem FRSC** Retired chemist, Royal Ordnance Plc. Died 28 June 2015, aged 87

**Mr Gavern Thomas Goldney Walker MRSC** Retired consultant chemist, Eudora Research & Development. Died 15 July 2015, aged 90

**Mr Peter James Wilson Whelan CChem MRSC** Retired. Died 18 July 2015, aged 88

**Mr Kenneth Harold Willis MRSC** Retired analyst, Flour Milling and Baking Research Association. Date of death not supplied

**Mr John Alan Winter CChem MRSC** Retired consultant, AEA Technology Plc. Died 9 June 2015, aged 81

To inform us of the death of an RSC member or to submit an obituary, please contact our membership team on 01223 432141 or [membership@rsc.org](mailto:membership@rsc.org). \*See [www.rsc.li/obituaries](http://www.rsc.li/obituaries) for obituaries.

# Where will your career take you?

Get free, confidential one-to-one advice on every aspect of managing your career

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**Mentoring** – take your professional development further with a mentor, or become one yourself

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

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