Welcome to the eighteenth issue of Analytical Matters, the e-newsletter of the Analytical Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). Analytical Matters aims to showcase the wide range of analytical science activities being run across the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Division as well as linking with parts of the UK analytical community beyond our membership.

We are delighted to announce that we will be running the Analytical Research Forum 2021 this year virtually. The event provides an opportunity for early career researchers to present their work alongside high-profile analytical scientists. The event will be split over two days and will include keynote talks, panel discussion and poster sessions. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

The pandemic has been tough for many. I want to use this opportunity to highlight the range of RSC funding opportunities to assist you. These range from Researcher Development Grants to help you develop new skills, to the Chemists’ Community Fund to help with financial hardship. More information can be found on these throughout this issue.

Please note that over the next few months the Analytical Division will be sending out a survey to our community, asking our members how we can best support you as analytical scientists. Our aim is to use this feedback to feed into our strategy for the next few years to make sure that our membership needs are met and that we continue to strive for improved diversity and inclusion within the analytical sciences. We want to hear your opinion and help us best serve you.

Please send your feedback and any content for the next issue by May 31st by emailing the Editor here.

With my very best wishes,

Diane Turner FRSC

President, RSC Analytical Division
Opportunities to present your work at the 2021 Analytical Research Forum
15-16 June 2021, online

The Analytical Research Forum (ARF) provides the opportunity for early career researchers from analytical communities to present their work alongside high-profile analytical scientists. This flagship event of the Analytical Division will showcase cutting-edge analytical chemistry and applications to stimulate new research, collaboration and engagement between academia and industry. Our two day online format includes keynotes and invited talks, panel discussions about careers in analytical chemistry plus additional oral and poster contributions selected by the Scientific Committee from the submitted abstracts.

Oral abstract deadline – 01 March 2021
Poster abstract deadline – 05 April 2021

Submit your oral or poster abstract today.
For further information and to register for the event visit rsc.li/arf2021

We are looking for volunteers to join a panel discussion on different career pathways in analytical science. If you would like to get involved please contact Analytical Matters.

Please also get in touch if you would be interested in sponsoring the event.

Schools’ Analyst Competition

Although we still need to maintain social distancing we are keen to keep the Schools’ Analyst Competition going in 2021. Further details on current plans can be found on the webpage.

Analytical Methods Committee celebrates its 100th Technical Brief

The Analytical Division’s Analytical Methods Committee (AMC) celebrated the publication of their 100th Technical Brief. Produced by AMC Expert Working Groups and published in Analytical Methods, the AMC Technical Briefs keep the community informed with developments in analytical science and ensure quality in measurement science. Topics covered by the Technical Briefs include experimental design and optimisation, sampling uncertainty and multivariate analysis. Read more about the milestone here.

UPCOMING ANALYTICAL DIVISION REGION EVENTS

CBD – Novel food, rich prospects, old problems?
15 March 2021, online

The Analytical Division Northern Ireland Region invites you to a lecture on CBD – Novel food, rich prospects, old problems? By Prof. Michael Walker on March 15th at 16:00.

Registration and details can be found on the event webpage.
UPCOMING INTEREST GROUP EVENTS

Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry Conference 2021
29-30 March 2021, online

The Thermal Methods Group are pleased to announce that TAC 2021 will take place on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March. This will be a virtual conference and is free to attend.

Speakers include:
- John Duncan (Lacerta) – The Glynn Van-de-Velde Memorial Lecture
- Hugh Tuffen (Lancaster University) - Thermal analysis of magmas – extreme hazards, extreme challenges
- Ruth Tunnell (QinetiQ) – Thermal analysis of an energetic material

Abstract submissions are welcome for oral or poster presentations on any area of thermal analysis or calorimetry. Submissions are particularly welcomed from PhD students and early career researchers.

Registration and details of abstract submission are now available on the RSC events webpage.

Atomic Spectroscopy Virtual Symposium
24 March 2021, online

The Atomic Spectroscopy Group invite you to join their first in a series of virtual meetings ‘Atomic Spectroscopy Virtual Symposium -A is for Arsenic’ on 24th March 2021 at 4-5.30 pm UK time

The meeting will offer the chance to hear about the work and research specifically with regards to arsenic related projects. Speakers include:

- Tracking the Analytical Chemistry of Arsenic, Prof Julian Tyson, UMass Amherst, US
- Arsenic exposure from food intake in endemic areas of Bihar, India, Dr Debapriya Mondal, St George’s University, London, UK
- Environmental exposure to inorganic arsenic via PM2.5 in Bangladesh (title tbc), Dr Laurie Savage, University of Aberdeen, UK
- Case study: the use of biological monitoring to identify arsenic exposure from well water in the UK, Dr Jackie Morton / Dr Liz Leese, HSE Science and Research Centre, Buxton UK

Register here.

The next in this series will be ‘B is for Biomonitoring’, so if you would like to present at this meeting planned for late April/early May please get in touch.

OTHER EVENTS

#RSCPoster Competition

The #RSCPoster Twitter Conference is an annual online event held entirely over Twitter to bring members of the scientific research community together to share their research, network and engage in scientific debate.

Held online over 24 hours, the unique format removes the environmental and financial costs of attending a traditional conference, and helps scientific researchers share their work and network across disciplines, wherever they are in the world.

All Analytical Chemistry entries will be under the #RSCAnalytical hashtag! Register here.
OTHER EVENTS

Euroanalysis 2021
Save the date: 22 - 27 August 2021 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands – Hybrid symposium
https://www.euroanalysis2021.nl/

RSC SUPPORT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Researcher Development Grants

PhD students and postdoctoral researchers can apply for grants of up to £250 for activities that will help to develop skills for their research career. Examples include (but are not limited to) virtual conference registration, training courses and organising virtual meetings.

The scheme is now open and applications will be reviewed monthly by staff.

For more information or to find out how to apply, see the Researcher Development Grant webpage.

A list of RSC approved training courses can be found here.

Chemists’ Community Fund

If current events are having a negative financial impact on you, your partner or dependants – especially if they have led to changes in your regular income – please speak to the Chemists’ Community Fund, the benevolent fund for RSC members.

While we recognise that the support we can offer will be limited, we may be able to offer financial support to you and your family as a Royal Society of Chemistry member.

The Fund offers a completely confidential service. Please get in touch by phoning +44 (0)1223 432227, or by ccfund@rsc.org

Please see the Chemists’ Community Fund website for more details and feel free to share this with others in your networks.

Grants for Carers and Assistance Grants

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RSC have extended the purpose of our Grants for Carers and Assistance Grants schemes. Further information is available here.

RSC Outreach Fund

The Outreach Fund remains open and welcome to applications. For further details on applying at this time please visit the webpage.

Inclusion and Diversity Fund

The Inclusion and Diversity Fund provides financial support for innovative products, activities and research projects that will help make the chemical sciences community more inclusive and diverse, including a specific open call to support community-driven project that looks at the needs, challenges and opportunities in support of the Black chemistry community.

Find out more about the Inclusion and Diversity fund and make an application here.
Analytical Methods Committee Technical Briefs

Technical Briefs published by the AMC are prepared by experts in the field to highlight recent information on topics of interest to the analytical chemistry community.

For free technical briefs of many topics of interest to the analytical chemistry community, please visit RSC.LI/AMCTB

All technical briefs can be used towards CPD!

RSC CPD RESOURCES

The Royal Society of Chemistry encourages all members to undertake suitable professional development. One of the ways in which RSC support this is through their approval of training courses, where they approve training courses offered by 3rd party training providers.

A training course has to go through a rigorous peer-review process in order to meet certain criteria and become approved. Each training course is assessed by members that are expert in their field. Our members can be assured that these approved courses have met our high standards. We currently approve over 160 courses across a wide variety of subject areas. These include courses that look to develop technical skills in analytical chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, coatings, water treatment, quality assurance as well as many other areas. There is also a range of courses that look to develop professional skills such as leadership skills, project management skills and effective communication.

All RSC approved courses can be found at www.rsc.org/cpd/training, where you can easily browse and search for courses that are of interest.

Chartered Status

Why not work towards chartered status? The award of chartered status recognises the well-developed skills, knowledge and professionalism of those working within the chemical sciences. They are part of a broader recognition and development framework that includes the professional registers: Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) and Registered Scientist (RSci).
Gaining Chartered Chemist (CChem), Chartered Scientist (CSci), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) or Chartered Manager (CMgr) status demonstrates that you have:

- built on your academic achievements and developed professional skills in a work environment
- gained in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of your chosen area of the sciences
- developed strong scientific skills and are committed to improving them
- made a critical contribution to the success of your organisation, business or institution
- shown personal and professional integrity
- committed to developing your career, as well as advancing excellence in the sciences

**EVENT REVIEWS**

12th Scottish Symposium on Environmental and Analytical Chemistry symposium, online

**On 12th December 2020, the** Scottish Region Analytical Division hosted the symposium online including the keynote lecture ‘Using molecular fossils to decipher past environmental and climate signals’ from Professor Jaime Toney (School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow). Read more about the event [here](#).

**COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**Analytical Science Network Update**

Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, the 2021 Emerging Analytical Professionals conference for 2021 has been cancelled. The new date for your diary is Friday 13th-Sunday 15th May 2022.

The Bright Sparks Symposium is likely to be held virtually in September. Subscribe for all ASN event updates via our website [https://www.analyticalsciencenetwork.co.uk/](https://www.analyticalsciencenetwork.co.uk/) and follow us on Twitter @ASN_RSC.

**Community for Measurement Science Update**

**CAMS Call 2021**

The Community for Analytical Measurement Science (CAMS) has just closed its 2nd Lectureship, PostDoc and PhD funding call. Designed to encourage research and innovation within the field of analytical measurement science, applications aligned with at least one of CAMS’s priority areas (listed below) and wherever possible addressing a specific industry challenge, were invited:

- Point of use sensors and photonics
- Complex mixtures, separations and detection
- Data analytics
- Novel instrumentation or technique

As CAMS is an industry-led network, applicants and their academic institutions are expected to work closely with CAMS Industry Members throughout the duration of the awards, which will be announced in mid-March.
CAMS Events Calendar

Be sure to keep an eye on the CAMS Events Calendar for details of upcoming training events, webinars and conferences that CAMS members and partners are hosting throughout 2021. If you, or your organisation, would like to promote an event via the calendar please contact the CAMS Secretariat.

CAMS Surface Analysis Webinar - April 2021

CAMS will shortly be kicking off this year’s virtual events looking at industrial challenges and solutions of surface characterisation within the food and pharmaceutical sectors. We are in the early stages of planning this event with CAMS members from NPL and RSSL, so if you’d like to know more or be involved please contact the CAMS Secretariat.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Warwick Analytical Science Centre Launch

Supported by a four-year EPSRC Grant, the Warwick Analytical Science Centre (WASC) will facilitate enhanced access to experimental Analytical Science Instrumentation (AS-I) at Warwick, with a particular focus towards supporting postgraduate training, expanding multi-disciplinary collaboration and investing in the development of research technical professionals (RTProfs). In addition, we place a strong emphasis on networking activities for RTProfs and PhD students, which will be delivered in conjunction with our learned society partners.

As part of our funding, we are providing 480 days of seedcorn use for the AS-I facilities to regional PhD students and nationally, to those studying analytical science, the intent of which is to foster new collaborations and new research opportunities. Upon successful application, users will be able to carry out short analytical investigations of up to two days, cost-free, whilst also benefiting from the expertise of our RTProfs. In addition, we are enhancing the offering by building a library of online AS-I training resources which will be made available to users via our dedicated web-portal. This seedcorn provision will be spread over the four-year length of the grant and in 2021 we will be offering 60 days access in total.

Because of the limitations in place due to COVID-19, we are currently unable to provide in-person use of the facilities. Despite this, we can offer seedcorn access through running samples on behalf of the users. Applicants will still get access to our highly skilled RTProfs both before the experiments to help define scope and understand theory, and afterwards to get input on data analysis in order to maximize the outputs from the access.

For more information and to learn about our facilities, please visit us at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/wasc/ and follow @WASC_Warwick for updates. We look forward to hearing from you!

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

Chemistry in Europe - EUChemS
Eurachem

To view previous issues of Analytical Matters please use the link: http://rsc.li/analytical-matters