



Analytical Matters - Issue 22 Spring 2022

Welcome to the twenty-second 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.

This is an exciting and busy time of year for the Analytical Division, with the nominations for the Council and next President not long closed, the award nomination scoring underway, our event deadlines this month, nominations for the education prizes opening soon and then all of the preparation for the transition from the Analytical Division to the Analytical Sciences Community.

Focusing more on our events, we have three diverse events on the horizon. The joint AD and Cancer Research UK interdisciplinary workshop and networking event expression of interest closes on the 18 March. This workshop focuses on measuring cancer earlier and I am very much looking forward to this in-person event in May, after the successful virtual event last year.

The Analytical Research Forum abstract submission deadline is the 21 March and we are looking forward to selecting the early career researcher presentations which, from previous years experience, will be of very high quality research and on very diverse subject matters. Registration for ARF22 is now open for in-person and online participants, I look forward to meeting you there!

The Schools' Analyst Competition registration deadline is the 25 March, if you know of any schools who have not yet registered then please encourage them to do so soon!

Thinking about education, the 2022 Education Prize nominations will open on the 6 April. Please take the time to nominate your friends and colleagues for the great work that they do and celebrate their success!

Please send your feedback and any content for the next issue by 18 May 2022 by [emailing the Editor](#).

With my very best wishes,

Diane Turner FRSC
President, RSC Analytical Division



ANALYTICAL DIVISION NEWS

Analytical Research Forum 13-14 June 2022, London, UK and online

Join us in London or online in June 2022 for a showcase of cutting-edge analytical chemistry and applications to stimulate new research, collaboration and engagement between academia and industry.



Get involved: abstract submission and registration are open

If you're a PhD student, postdoctoral researcher or early career scientist in industry or academia, take advantage of this opportunity to present your work and network with high-profile analytical scientists.

Abstract submission closes on 21 March 2022.

[Submit your abstract](#)

Interested in sponsoring the event? Contact analyticalmatters@rsc.org for more information.

AD CRUK Wearables for detecting cancer earlier Friday 6 May 2022, London, UK

The Analytical Division and Cancer Research UK are hosting a joint online workshop and networking event to bring together analytical scientists and cancer researchers across academia and industry to facilitate new collaborations for early cancer detection research.

Our keynote speakers will give their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for developing new tools for the early detection of cancer. A Technology Marketplace will also be hosted for researchers to promote novel approaches and technologies that could be relevant to clinical problems and showcase new technologies to address the challenge of wearable devices for earlier cancer detection. The remainder of the programme will focus on workshop discussions and structured networking to enable the communities to connect with each other.

[Further information is available on the webpage.](#)

If you would like to attend the workshop and networking event, please complete the [expression of interest form](#) by **18 March 2022**.

Spring SciX 11-13 April 2022, Liverpool, UK

Spring SciX will return to Liverpool this year offering the opportunity to learn the latest analytical methods applied to biological systems and present some of your own work. Join current and future leaders in the analytical sciences, meet with exhibitors, and network over the three days.



There are over 30 bursaries to cover Early Career Researcher registration.

[Registration is open](#) until **21 March 2022**.

EDUCATION NEWS

2022 RSC Education and Horizon Prizes for Education

Our Excellence in Education Prizes celebrate inspirational, innovative, and dedicated people working at all levels of education. These prizes recognise a wide range of skills – from curriculum design to effective teaching, and from personal development to working culture.

Horizon Prizes for Education celebrate ground-breaking innovations and initiatives that mark a step-change in science education.



[Explore the prizes](#)

Schools' Analyst Competition 2022

The Schools' Analyst Competition is returning to schools in 2022, with teams tasked with finding the perfect formula for fish and chips!

Teachers across the UK and Ireland are invited to apply for the chance to receive one of 300 kits for their students to compete in this practical analytical competition in your own schools. Aimed at students in Year 12 / S5 / 5th Year, the boxes will provide samples and equipment for up to ten teams of three to participate in a flexible challenge that fits around your school timetable. Teams must work together to solve the problems, answer



tough questions, and submit their answers for marking.

Each school will be informed of their winning team after the closing date, but winners will also be entered into a second round against school winners in their region for the chance to be crowned regional champions!

[Apply now for the chance to receive one of 300 kits to be sent to schools across the UK and Ireland.](#)

Registration closes on **Friday 25 March 2022**.

ANALYTICAL METHODS COMMITTEE

New Analytical Methods Committee Technical Briefs

The Analytical Methods Committee (AMC) continues to produce Technical Briefs (TBs) and reports through Expert Working Groups (EWGs). The following TBs have been published since the last Newsletter:

109. [X-ray micro-computed tomography for heritage building materials](#) (*Anal. Methods*, 2021, **13**, 5875)

110. [Summarising the precision statistics from collaborative trials](#) (*Anal. Methods*, 2022, **14**, 678)

Members are welcome to suggest topics for TBs to the AMC Secretary or Chair. Contact analyticalmatters@rsc.org

SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS

RSC Report Launch: Missing Elements: Racial and ethnic inequalities in the chemical sciences

The RSC are launching a new report on **17 March 2022** on the racial and ethnic inequalities within the chemical sciences community. The report will be launched at an [online event](#) on 17 March which will share findings and our long-term commitments to tackling racism and racial inequality in science.

Commonwealth Chemistry Report: A sustainable chemistry workforce for a sustainable future

In 2021 Commonwealth Chemistry undertook research in 2021 surveying Early Career chemists and including a series of focus groups to produce a report on "[A sustainable chemistry workforce for a sustainable future](#)". The report shows that ECR chemists are being held back by lack of promotion opportunities, mentoring and support; limited

access to equipment and consumables, difficulty getting funding for research and a lack of confidence in skills across grant applications and papers.

FUNDING

The RSC offers [funding](#) opportunities to support our members and wider community in many ways and at every career stage. The following grants are currently open or re-opening soon:

Accessibility Grants

The RSC now provides up to £1000 per year for individuals to reduce accessibility challenges when attending professional events (including chemistry-related meeting, conference, workshop or professional development event). The [Accessibility Grant](#) supports attendance at online and in-person events.

Research Enablement Grant

Our [Research Enablement Grant](#) supports members in the UK and Ireland who have limited access to research funding. The Research Enablement Grant will reopen on **4 April 2022**.

Researcher Development Grant

Our [Researcher Development Grants](#) are open to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers wishing to undertake an activity that supports their research career.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Emerging Analytical Professionals 13-15 May 2022, Kettering, UK

Hosted by the [Analytical Science Network](#), EAP provides networking and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for early career analytical scientists across all disciplines, open to both industry and academia. The 2022 theme, '2022 Vision: Light at the End of the Tunnel' explores the wide breath of analytical sciences. Topics during the weekend will cover general analytical techniques, clinical science, environmental, forensic, pharmaceuticals and much more.



Registration is open and bursaries are available.

[Poster abstract submission](#) closes on **31 March 2022**.

The Frank Pullen Symposium

8 April 2022, London, UK

This symposium will honour the dynamic legacy of Professor Frank Pullen in championing the implementation of novel and accessible mass spectrometry-based strategies to leverage research in the pharmaceutical and health sciences.

The symposium is being co-hosted by the BMSS and RSC-SSG, with support from the ChromSoc.

[Details and registration can be found on the event website.](#)

WorldSkills UK Laboratory Technician Competition

The WorldSkills UK Laboratory Technician Competition is now open. The competition recognises the contributed skilled technicians make in a wide variety of organisations across (but not exclusive to) analytical science services, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and laboratories in educational institutions.

Registration is open until **1 April 2022** and [more information is available on the WorldSkills website.](#)



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