

## 2020 Royal Society of Chemistry Organic Division: London and South East Regional Meeting

Kingston University, Penrhyn Road Campus, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The 2020 Royal Society of Chemistry Organic Division London and South East Meeting was a half-day symposium and poster exhibition held at Kingston University with some 95 registered delegates attending. Although the majority of participants were from the host institution, there were at least 40 visitors from other institutions in the region, local industry, and beyond. The symposium was truly multidisciplinary in honour of the interdisciplinary award presented to Prof Schofield and to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of chemical research and teaching at Kingston University. Supporting talks were given on drug discovery projects targeting asbestos mesothelioma and pancreatic cancer by Prof Adrian Dobbs and Dr Sharon Rossiter respectively. While, Drs James Bull and Peter Roth gave synthetic talks on small ring heterocycles and biodegradable polymers respectively. Dr Sianne Schwikkard completed the supporting talks by detailing synthetic and natural product chalcone research. Prof Stuart Conway (RSC Organic Division President) presented Prof Christopher Schofield with the RSC Interdisciplinary Prize for 'pioneering work on the mechanisms of activity and resistance to antibiotics'. Following the recent passing of Prof Jack Baldwin, Prof Schofield began his lecture by paying tribute to his former mentor, before giving a thought provoking and inspirational lecture describing historical aspects of antibiotic drug discovery and research, including on  $\beta$ -lactams. The lecture ended with the intricacies of targeting difficult to treat cancer hypoxia. There were plenty of opportunities for Q&A, with early career researchers and Kingston undergraduate students making valued contributions. The symposium ended with five externally sponsored poster awards, which covered the various research disciplines in Chemistry and Pharmacy at Kingston University.



**Organising Committee and Speakers:** L-R Prof Christopher Schofield (University of Oxford, RSC Interdisciplinary Prize Winner), Dr James Bull (Imperial College London, Speaker), Dr Peter Roth (University of Surrey, Speaker), Prof Adrian Dobbs (University of Greenwich, Speaker), Dr Sharon Rossiter (University of Hertfordshire, Speaker), Dr Jean-Marie Peron (Kingston University, Organising Committee), Dr Amr Elshaer (Kingston University, Organising Committee), Dr Leeanne Marle (RSC Program Manager), Prof Stuart Conway (RSC Organic Division President, University of Oxford) and Prof Fawaz Aldabbagh (Kingston University, Organising Committee Chair)

**Thursday 13 February 2020, 1.30pm - 6.05pm**

**Venue:** John Galsworthy Building 0001, Penrhyn Road campus, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2EE

This half-day symposium includes the **Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Prize Lecture** by **Prof Schofield (Oxford)**, who won the award for pioneering work on mechanisms of activity and resistance to antibiotics. There will be a host of short talks from researchers and academics from across London and the South East.

1.30pm Arrival and display posters

1.50pm Welcome: Dr Richard Singer, Kingston University

### First Session

Chair: Dr Jean-Marie Peron, Kingston University

2.00pm **Prof Adrian Dobbs, University of Greenwich**

*"Total Synthesis in the drug discovery and development process"*

2.30pm **Dr Peter Roth, University of Surrey**

*"New Approaches to Biodegradable Polymers through Thiocarbonyl Addition–Ring-Opening Radical Polymerization"*

3.00pm **Dr Sharon Rossiter, University of Hertfordshire**

*"Exploring small molecule inhibition of S100P, a potential anti-cancer target"*

3.30pm **Dr James Bull, Imperial College London**

*"Synthesis of Small Rings and Heterocycles"*

### Second Session

Chair: Prof Fawaz Aldabbagh, Kingston University

4.45pm **Dr Sianne Schwikkard, Kingston University**

*"Biologically Active Natural and Synthetic Homoisoflavonoids"*

5.15pm **Prof Christopher Schofield (2019 Interdisciplinary Prize Winner), University of Oxford**

*"Remarkable Enzymes – from Bacteria to Humans"*

6.05pm Poster Prizes and Closing: Dr Amr Elshaer and Prof Fawaz Aldabbagh

6.10 – 7.00 pm Networking Event, The Picton Room

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## 2020 Royal Society of Chemistry Organic Division: London and South East Regional Meeting

There were 34 high quality posters in the competition with the following selected for prizes:

### **Biotope Poster Prize in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry**

*Sebastian P. Green* for poster entitled, 'Assessing the explosive hazard of diazo compounds with thermal analysis' Supervisor: Dr James A. Bull (Imperial College London)

### **Fluorochem Poster Prize in Synthetic Chemistry**

*Sanaz Sadig Baهران* for poster entitled, 'Synthesis and characterisation of novel chalcones for the treatment of pterygium' Supervisor: Dr Sianne Schwikkard (Kingston University)

### **Molbank (MDPI) Poster Prize in Organic Chemistry**

*Natalia A. Larionova* for poster entitled, 'Photocatalytic transformations of cinnamate derivatives' Supervisor: Dr Xacobe C. Cambeiro (Queen Mary, University of London)

### **Postnova Analytics Poster Prize in Pharmaceuticals, Materials and Drug Delivery**

*Maria Saeed* for poster entitled, 'Chitosan-based glucose-sensitive nano particles for insulin delivery' Supervisor: Dr Amr Elshaer (Kingston University)

### **Molecules (MDPI) Poster Prize for Interdisciplinary Research**

*Ryan T. Howard* for poster entitled, 'A chemical proteomics probe for live-cell PARP profiling' Supervisor: Prof Edward W. Tate (Imperial College London)

