



## Analytical Science Community

Welcome to the twenty-fifth issue of Analytical Matters, the e-newsletter of the Analytical Science Community Council (ASCC) 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 Science Community as well as linking with parts of the UK analytical community beyond our membership.

This is my first newsletter as President of the Analytical Science Community, and I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to those of you that voted for me. I also want to thank Dr Diane Turner for paving the way, and for making great strides in the analytical community in the last 3 years.

A range of work has been conducted by the ASCC over the last year: from participating in the cross-Community Indoor Air Quality roundtable event, to contributing to the RSC Sustainable Laboratory Report, to running our annual conference the Analytical Research Forum. Thank you very much to all of you that have contributed throughout 2023.

As I start out in my presidential term, I hope to progress our work in four key areas of importance to both myself and the community: sustainability (both in the workforce and environmental); celebrating the successes of our community; diversity, accessibility and inclusion; and community involvement. As a Council we will be reviewing our current activities, making sure that we are doing the very best we can to support each of these areas, and work to embed them in everything we do. The recent Member's Network Conference provided an excellent opportunity for me to meet many of our Member Network Committees - I look forward to working with the Analytical Interest Groups and Regions (and many others) going forward. I'm always interested in hearing from the community so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Of note, is that nominations for Royal Society of Chemistry awards are now open. Our Prizes recognise individuals across all career stages as well as teams and collaborations, in both industry and academia - so please do nominate those around you! Additionally, there are two vacancies now open for applications to join the ASCC. Please do consider putting yourself forward. If I had never taken the leap, I would not be here writing this newsletter.

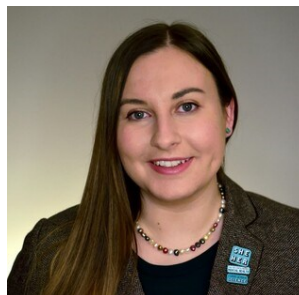
I'm also excited to say that we are in the process of finalising our invited speakers for ARF 2024. Watch this space for early bird registration.

As we approach Christmas, perhaps it is only natural to think about community and connection. Christmas can be a challenging time of year for some, and I want to remind you that the RSC Chemists' Community Fund is here to support you, whether that is for health-related, wellbeing, financial or social support.

I am grateful for the analytical science community, and proud of what we have achieved this year.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas Break,

Zoë Ayres,  
**President, RSC Analytical Science  
Community**



## Highlights from the community

### Vacancies for elected positions on our boards and subject communities

We are looking for passionate and dedicated members of the chemical sciences community to stand for election for:

#### Analytical Science Community Council

- 2 elected members of the Analytical Science Community Council

#### Other RSC vacancies

- RSC President
- Member Communities Board
- Professional Standards Board
- Other Science and Education Community Councils

The diversity of our membership is a huge asset, so we welcome nominations from across the chemical sciences community. With a broad range of career backgrounds, geographical locations, ages, genders and ethnicities represented, we can get a better understanding of the needs of our members.

Those elected will start serving in their posts from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2024.

The call for nominations opened on **Friday 1 December 2023**. [Visit our vacancies and elections web page](#) for details of the individual posts and how to submit a nomination.

**The nomination deadline is 5pm (UK time) on Monday 5 February 2024. Thank you for your support.**

If you have any queries regarding the nominations process, [please contact Hilary Beckett by sending an email](#) or calling +44 (0)207 440 3341.

### Publication of Indoor Air Quality report

The World Health Organisation estimate that globally, more than 3 million people die every year due to illnesses resulting from harmful indoor air.

In the UK, poor air quality is a factor in approx. 28,000-36,000 deaths. We spend about 90% of our time indoors, but while outdoor air pollution has been studied and regulated extensively, indoor air quality is not as well understood, and the regulation is somewhat fragmented.

The Analytical Science Community (ASC), Environment, Sustainability and Energy Community (ESEC) and Faraday Community for Physical Chemistry (FCPC), organised an expert workshop to discuss the topic and the output from the workshop is summarised in our Indoor Air Quality report.



The report:

- Highlights this global issue, focusing on funding, regulation, policy, and research in the UK.
- Outlines multiple scientific challenges and opportunities.
- Highlights the importance of chemistry in quantifying and understanding indoor pollutants, their impacts on human health, and how chemistry is key in developing sensors and technologies to improve air quality.
- Makes several recommendations for government, policymakers, funding bodies, and researchers.

Read the  
report

We are grateful to the workshop participants and the members of our [Science Subject Communities](#) for their involvement and invaluable contributions.

## Upcoming Events

[11th Analytical Biosciences Group Early Career Researcher Meeting 2024](#)

14 - 15 March 2024, Nottingham, UK

[Analytical Research Forum](#)

18 June 2024, Burlington House, London, UK

Oral abstract deadline: 11 Mar 2024

### [Faraday Discussion - NMR crystallography](#)

4-6 Sept 2024, Birmingham, UK

Oral abstract deadline: 18 Dec 2023

### [Faraday Discussion - Data-driven discovery in the chemical sciences](#)

10-12 Sept 2024, Oxford, UK

Oral abstract deadline: 22 Jan 2024

### [Faraday Discussion - New horizons in nanoelectrochemistry](#)

14-16 Oct 2024, planned for Nanjing, China

Oral abstract deadline: 29 Jan 2024

## News and opportunities

### 2024 RSC Prizes open for nomination

Do you know of exceptional work being carried out in your field? This is your chance to let us know by [making a nomination](#) for the 2024 Royal Society of Chemistry Prizes today. Any RSC member can make a nomination, and the identity of nominators is never shared with the panels that judge the prizes.

For 2024, you might consider making a nomination for all or any of the following:

- [Horizon Prizes](#), which recognise groups, teams and collaborations who are opening up new directions and possibilities in their field, making discoveries and innovations that push the boundaries of science. Teams can be of any form or size, from a single research group to a multi-national collaboration. Winners receive a professionally produced film about their work.
- [Research & Innovation Prizes](#) recognising exceptional individuals who are advancing the chemical sciences, working in academia and industry.
- Our opportunities for those based in industry, including an expansion of our [Apprentice Prizes](#), new [Technical Excellence Prizes for individuals](#) and teams in technical roles, a new [Innovation Through Partnership Prize](#) to celebrate and highlight organisations/bodies that collaborate to solve global challenges and a refresh of our [Rising Star in Industry Prize](#).

**Nominations close at 17:00 GMT (UK time) on 18 January 2024.**

### Pay and Reward Report 2023 is now available

The 45th edition brings together 4,833 responses generously provided by members like you to create a picture of what it is like to be currently working in chemical sciences in the UK and internationally. It includes reliable and unbiased data exploring median salaries in your sector, and provides the latest pay gap data across chemistry allowing you to compare to your own internal pay gap data and take action.

You can also read about the changing nature of employee benefits, skills development prioritises and understand how employers can attract, retain and develop talented professionals. The state of wellbeing in our community, and the impact of the cost-of-living increases are also explored. **This year's report is a must-read** and will support your own career planning and development as well as those of your colleagues, and team members.

Read the  
report

## Funding and support

### Researcher Development and Travel Grants

Our [Researcher Development and Travel Grants](#) have **now reopened** for applications. We are accepting applications for activities starting on **1 April 2024** or later.

Please note that the scheme now runs in 4 quarterly rounds. For full details of application rounds and updated applicant's guidance, please see our website. The Researcher Development and Travel Grants provide up to £500 for PhD students and early career scientists in both industry and academia wishing to undertake an activity that supports their research career. Examples include, but are not limited to, presenting work at conferences, developing new skills by attending training courses or developing networks by organising a scientific meeting.

### Undergraduate Research Bursaries

The [Undergraduate Research Bursaries](#) will open again for application on **15 January 2024** and closing for applications on **19 February 2024**. This scheme supports undergraduate students in the middle years of their degree to undertake a research project in the summer. The scheme aims to give experience of research to those who are considering their future career plans and would like to explore chemical sciences research as an option.

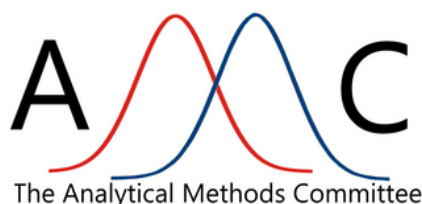
### Chemists' Community Fund

For impartial, confidential help and advice on a range of issues, [contact the Chemists Community Fund](#).

For more information on funding and to explore those open for application, please visit the [RSC's funding pages](#).

## Analytical Methods Committee update

### Vacancy for secretary of the Analytical Methods Committee



Applications are invited from individuals interested in taking on the role of Secretary to the Analytical Methods Committee (AMC), a Committee of the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Science Community.

The AMC aims to contribute actively to international and national work on quality in analytical measurements, to improve analytical methodology, and to communicate these developments to the analytical science community. It operates through several Expert Working Groups (EWGs) in specific areas, and also interacts with regulatory and standards bodies on the Society's behalf.

The secretary is expected to support and coordinate the meetings of the AMC and the EWGs, approximately ten occasions a year, with some meetings in London and some held online. This is an unsalaried consultancy role, with an honorarium paid for each meeting by the Analytical Methods Trust. The Analytical Methods Trust is an independent charity that promotes and supports analytical chemistry.

The main actions of the Secretary will be the preparation of agendas, additional papers and minutes in consultation with the chairs of the meetings; booking meeting rooms and refreshments; sending members the draft Technical Briefs produced by the EWGs; preparation of an annual report for the Analytical Methods Trustees; and the circulation of occasional papers produced by regulatory and standards bodies represented on the main committee, the Analytical Science Community Council and other RSC bodies.

If you are interested in this role and would like further information please contact [analyticalmatters@rsc.org](mailto:analyticalmatters@rsc.org) before **15 January 2024**.

## Education News

### Schools' Analyst Competition

Following the success of the Schools' Analyst Competition in 2023, the competition will be returning for 2024, with teams working as analysts in the Trading Standards office looking at some questionable food and drink.

Teachers across the UK and Ireland are invited to apply for the chance to receive one of 400 kits for their students to compete in this practical analytical competition in your own schools. Aimed at students in Year 12 in England and Wales, Y13 in Northern Ireland, S5 in Scotland or 5th Year in Republic of Ireland, the boxes will provide samples and equipment for up to twenty-five teams of three to participate in a flexible challenge that fits around your school timetable.

Please visit the webpage to [find out more details and a link to register](#). Registration closes on **Friday 23rd February 2024**.

Register your  
interest

## Items of interest from other organisations

### Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund

The Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund (ACTF) is a charity established for the purposes of promoting, assisting and extending the science and study of Analytical Chemistry and of all questions relating to the analysis, nature and composition of natural and manufactured materials for the benefit of the public. [Please visit the webpage](#) for a number of new ACTF grants alongside education and training opportunities.

### Spring SciX 2024

**17-19 April, 2024, University of Strathclyde, UK**  
**Abstract submission deadline: 12 January 2024**

[SpringSciX](#) will cover a wide range of analytical chemistry research. Speakers will include established researchers as well as having a strong focus on early career researchers. There

will be opportunities for oral and poster presentations with the aim of establishing career mentors.

## **Emerging Analytical Professionals Conference 2024**

**10th – 12th May 2024, Leeds, 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 2024 theme, 'Level Up: Advances in Analytical Science' explores the wide breadth of analytical techniques and the progress that has been achieved across many subject areas. Topics during the weekend will cover general analytical techniques, clinical science, environmental, forensic, pharmaceuticals and much more.

**Oral abstract deadline - 31st January 2024**

**Poster abstract and registration deadline - 31st March 2024**

[For more information and to submit an abstract please visit ASN | The Analytical Science Network](#)

## **Report from the Solutions in Science conference and SinS-2 in 2025**

*John Langley, University of Southampton*

The Solutions in Science ([SinS](#)) Conference held in Cardiff in July 2023 was born out of a desire to amalgamate the Separation Science Group meetings into one larger event. This aimed at covering complementary and diverse subject and technique areas and allow for improved networking and collaboration with sister interest group members. The meeting included sessions focused on food, environment, one health, clinical and forensics, latest challenges in molecular characterisation, contaminants, hyphenated techniques, green techniques, and emerging contaminants, with a balance and diversity of presenters from early career, academia, and industry.

Following the success of this first meeting, **SinS-2** will be held in Cardiff on 8-10 July 2025. If you have a topic of interest that you would like presented at SinS-2, please contact the conference Chair, Professor John Langley, University of Southampton. [More information is available on the conference page.](#)





Supporting the development of research and training within analytical science.