

Analytical Matters

Issue 23 – Summer Edition 2023

Welcome to the twenty-fourth issue of Analytical Matters, the e-newsletter of the Analytical Science Community (ASC) 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.

At this time of year, we are starting to wind down for our summer break, after a flurry of conferences, workshops and seminars. There seem to have been more this year, catching-up with in-person events after the Covid pandemic and included in this newsletter is a summary of the successful Analytical Research Forum (ARF) 2023, the flagship event of the ASC that took place in June.

This is my last newsletter as President of the Analytical Science Community. It has been a whirlwind 3 years with big changes in the RSC. This has included the change from 'Divisions' to 'Communities' and with this the focus on collaborations both inside, between communities and interest groups, and outside of the RSC. My highlights have been co-chairing the joint Cancer Research UK and ASC workshops to measure cancer earlier; co-chairing the joint Community Indoor Air Quality roundtable event; and being on the scientific organising committee of the Solutions in Science (SinS) conference that took place at the beginning of this month in Cardiff. Of course, the Covid pandemic has also been a major player in the last few years but has resulted in some positive outcomes, with a proportion of RSC council and committee meetings now taking place online, as well as hybrid events enabling delegates to participate in conferences and meetings virtually. These have really been a big step forward in terms of inclusivity and accessibility, for those not able to attend events and meetings in person especially due to location and/or caring responsibilities and really helps with CPD too. I am proud that the ASC has contributed to the RSC Sustainable Laboratories report and furthers sustainability through the ASC working group and Analytical Methods Committee technical briefs, please see the newsletter for details about the RSC sustainable lab grants too.

Last month the 2023 Prize winners were announced. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all Prize winners on their achievements, their awards are well-deserved. Please consider nominating for the 2024 Prizes, nominations will be opened later this year, but meanwhile, the 2023 Theobald Award is now open. More details on all the Prizes and winners are included in this newsletter.

I would like to welcome Dr Zoë Ayres as the new President of the ASC. Having worked with Zoë on committees for the past 7 years, I know she will do an amazing job and has plenty of ideas to support our community and further analytical science. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our newly elected members of the ASC council, I look forward to working with you over the next 4 months. I would especially like to thank all volunteers on the council and in all areas of the RSC, alongside the RSC staff who all work so hard and achieve so much. Finally, I would like to thank all of you, the members of the Analytical Science Community, for your support over the past 7 years since I was first elected on to the ASC council, your feedback and enthusiasm.

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

Updates from the community

Highlights from Analytical Research Forum 2023

The [Analytical Research Forum](#) took place on Thursday 8th June in Burlington House, London with attendees joining both in person and online. The programme included 3 invited speakers: Professor Helen Cooper (2022 Analytical Division Open Award winner: Theophilus Redwood Award), Professor Bhavik Patel and Dr Camilla Liscio, as well as a plenary lecture from Professor Phil Potts (2022 Analytical Methods Committee Theobald Lectureship winner).

There were also shorter talks from 8 early career scientists two of which presented virtually from Brunei and Spain and poster sessions throughout the day. A very engaging panel discussion explored careers and opportunities in analytical sciences. At the close of the day, Zoë Ayres (President Elect of the Analytical Science Community Council) presented Diane Turner with the RSC President's medal.



Look out for more information on next year's Analytical Research Forum soon.

Welcome to the new elected members of the Analytical Science Community Council

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the Analytical Science Community Council, whose election to the Council was announced at the recent RSC Annual General Meeting:

- Professor Karen Faulds (University of Strathclyde)
- Ms Claire White (Selden Research Ltd)

During their terms on Council, they will help to shape and develop the Analytical Science Community's activities by providing advice and identifying opportunities related to the field as well as input to RSC programmes and policy work on behalf of the Analytical Science community. Find out more about the [Analytical Science Community Council](#) on our webpage.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Analytical Science Community Prizes

On 13 June, the RSC announced the 2023 winners of its Horizon, Inclusion and Diversity, Research & Innovation and Volunteer Recognition Prizes. This year, we are recognising 49 individuals, as well as 16 teams and collaborations for their exceptional achievements in advancing the chemical sciences.



Through its Prizes programme, the Analytical Science Community celebrates the individuals, teams and collaborations from both academia and industry at all career stages who contribute to the advances in analytical science, as well as recognising significant recent novel discoveries in the field. Winners are selected by the Analytical Science Prize Committee.

How can I get involved?

Take a look at the list of winners below to learn more about them and their work:

[2023 Analytical Science early career Prize: Joseph Black Prize](#)

Professor Robert Weatherup MRSC

For the development and application of interface-sensitive X-ray spectroscopies for observing reactions in atmospheric pressure and liquid environments.

[2023 Analytical Science mid-career Prize](#)

Professor Bhavik Patel FRSC

For the development of innovative electrochemical sensors for advancing the understanding of biological signalling processes.

[2023 Analytical Science open Prize: Theophilus Redwood Prize](#)

Professor Frank Vanhaecke FRSC

For the development of inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) based methodologies for elemental, isotopic and single-event analysis.

Visit our [online gallery](#) to find out more about the rest of our 2023 winners. For the first time this year we have introduced a commenting feature on our webpages – it's not too late to congratulate the winners!

What's next?

Nominations for our 2023 [Education Prizes](#) closed on 21 June, and we are looking forward to announcing the winners in November.

Nominations for our 2024 [Horizon](#), [Inclusion and Diversity](#), [Research & Innovation](#) and [Volunteer Recognition](#) Prizes will open in the autumn. Keep an eye out nearer the time for more information and consider making a nomination.

News and Events

Upcoming events

[Faraday Discussion - Water at interfaces](#)

20-22 Sept 2023, London, UK

Early-bird registration deadline: 7 August 2023

[Faraday Discussion - NMR crystallography](#)

4-6 Sept 2024, Birmingham, UK

Oral abstract deadline: 18 December 2023

Interested in contributing to an important new RSC Books initiative?

The Practical and Technical Guides for Laboratory-based Chemists book series is looking for proposals.

RSC Books are looking for authors in analytical science to contribute to the Practical and Technical Guides for Laboratory-based Chemists book series.

Write 120-150 pages on your technique to provide guidance to those new to an area – give them some tips and tricks to help them on their analytical journey.

We are particularly looking for authors in the following areas but don't hesitate to contact us if you have an idea:

- Microscopy and imaging
- Microfluidics
- Metabolomics
- Techniques of atmospheric analysis
- Heritage science

If you're interested in getting involved, please do contact [Janet Freshwater](#), Associate Publisher, Books.

Sustainable Laboratories Grants

The RSC [Sustainable Laboratories Grant](#) will open on 25 September 2023. Please visit the website for more details, to download promotional resources, and to sign up to receive more information when the grants launch.

Our Sustainable Laboratories Grant aims to accelerate the chemical sciences community's journey to environmentally sustainable research and innovation.



Grants of up to £10,000 are available for initiatives and activities that achieve one or more of the following aims:

- Advance understanding of environmentally sustainable laboratory practice
- Increase the take-up of environmentally sustainable laboratory practices in the chemical sciences
- Facilitate sharing of best practice

The grants are open to everyone regardless of career stage, job role, sector, or location. The applicant (or at least one of the co-applicants) must be an RSC member.

These grants are the result of the work initiated and developed by our Subject Community Councils since 2021. They follow a commitment we made in October 2022 (alongside the publication of [our Sustainable laboratories report](#)) to provide funding for initiatives to improve the environmental sustainability of research in the chemical sciences.

More information, including applicant guidance, will be added to the website before the grants open in September.

Researcher Collaborations Grants

Our new Researcher Collaborations Grants will open for applications on 29 August until 2 October. This scheme will enable researchers to establish and develop national, international, interdisciplinary and cross sector collaborations, and to build networks. Members can apply for up to £5,000 for research visits or to host meetings to develop new research areas and/or foster new networks or collaborations. Please see the [Researcher Collaborations Grant](#) website for more information.

Funding and support

Researcher Development and Travel Grants

[PhD students and early career scientists can apply for up to £500](#) to undertake an activity that develops their skills and experience as a researcher. Applications are now open.

Chemists' Community Fund

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

Outreach Fund

The [Outreach Fund](#) provides financial support to members, individuals and organisations to enable them to run chemistry-based engagement activities. Applications are now open. You can apply for a small grant of up to £5,000 or a large grant of between £5,001 and £10,000.

Accessibility Grant

With our [Accessibility Grants](#), you can apply for up to £1,200 per year to help with the cost of specific support to attend a chemistry-related meeting, conference, workshop or professional development event. This support might be any form of equipment, service, or other personal expense associated with meeting your access needs.

Grants for Carers

With our [Grants for Carers](#), you can apply for up to £1,200 per year to help you attend a chemistry-related meeting, conference or workshop or professional development event. This money would be used to cover any additional costs you incur, paying for care that you usually provide.

Analytical Methods Committee Update

L S Theobald Award

The award is made to someone who has demonstrated a significant contribution to the development or application of analytical chemistry/analytical science. The Analytical Methods Trust (AMT) provides an honorarium of £1000, together with a certificate and covers reasonable expenses incurred in presenting the award lecture. The award is open to all academic, public service and industrial scientists resident in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. It is not a requirement that the recipient should be a member of the RSC or have contributed directly to the work of the Analytical Methods Committee (AMC) or its Expert Working Groups. Trustees of the AMT are not eligible for nomination.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 25 August 2023. More information about the award and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

Interested in becoming a member of the Analytical Methods Committee?

Analytical Science Community Council would like to hear from any early career scientists who might be interested in joining the Analytical Methods Committee (AMC). The AMC is a Committee of the Analytical Science Community whose broad aim is to contribute to the national and international efforts to establish a comprehensive framework for quality in analytical measurement, to improve and develop analytical methodology and to keep the wider analytical science community informed of developments. Expressions of interest including a short biography should be sent to analyticalmatters@rsc.org. Further information about the AMC and its Expert Working Groups can be found [here](#).

Education News

Schools' Analyst Competition

The RSC Schools' Analyst Competition 2023 recently came to a close, and thanks go to all of the schools and colleges around the UK and Ireland who participated this year.

350 boxes of samples and equipment were sent out for students to determine who sabotaged the County Bake Off! Using their investigative powers and their skills in titrations, TLC, and chemical reactions, students discovered why the cakes didn't rise, who wrote a ransom note, and what mysterious new ingredient turned up in the kitchen.

Each school or college crowned their own winner, but also each of the Analytical Sciences Community regions has a champion of champions listed below.

- Scotland - Dollar Academy
- North East - Giggleswick School
- North West - Oldham Sixth Form College
- Midlands - Newcastle under Lyme School
- East Anglia - Copleston High School
- South West - Stroud High School
- South East - Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School
- Northern Ireland - Wallace High School
- Republic of Ireland - St Flannan's College

The competition will return in 2024, so keep an eye out on the [RSC Events](#) webpage for more details on how to register your interest in hosting your own competition heat.

Items of interest from other organisations

Bright Spark Symposium

This year, the Analytical Science Network are excited to welcome you back to the Bright Spark Symposium 2023, being held on Friday September 8, 2023 at Victoria Gallery & Museum, University of Liverpool, Liverpool. This FREE event is an opportunity for early career analytical scientists both in industry and academia to present their work.

Thank you to everyone who has already registered or submitted an abstract. The registration and abstract deadlines are approaching.

Talk abstract deadline: 31st July 2023

Poster abstract deadline: 18th August 2023

We would like to encourage you to submit an abstract via the link below! BSS is a free and friendly environment to present your analytical science. Please also forward to anyone you feel will benefit.

More information and registration can be found on the event [website](#)



