



## Organic Division Newsletter, Summer 2017

Dear Division Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest newsletter of the Organic Division (OD). Since our last issue in December a lot has happened and so this time we'd like to review some of the events that have taken place this year and then look ahead to what's coming up. Please feel free to comment on any of the content in this message by emailing [here](#) we'd love to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Alison Hulme CChem FRSC  
President of the Organic Division

### Contents in this issue

[Prize and Award Winners](#)

[OD Regional Meetings](#)

[Retrosynthesis Competiton](#)

[Forthcoming Meetings](#)

- *25th International Symposium: Synthesis in Organic Chemistry*
- *OD Regional Meeting Ireland*
- *RSC-NOST Symposium on Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry*
- *J-NOST Conference for Research Scholars*
- *OD Poster Symposium*
- *11th BMCS Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Symposium for Postgraduates*

## Prize and Award Winners

An impressive array of Organic Chemistry Awardees and Prize winners was announced last month, as part of the [RSC Prizes and Awards programme](#), some of whom will feature as keynote speakers in the forthcoming round of OD regional meetings in the New Year.

Several of the 2016 winners received their awards at various organic chemistry meetings this year. Two of these were Neil Garg ([2016 Merck Award](#)) and John Murphy ([2016 Charles Rees Award](#)) who were presented with their awards at the [23rd Lakeland Symposium on Heterocyclic Chemistry](#) in Grasmere. Chris Willis made the presentations on behalf of OD Council.

## OD Regional Meetings

Award winners featured as keynote speakers at a number of our regional meetings this year. These meetings also provide a great opportunity for early career scientists to present their work.

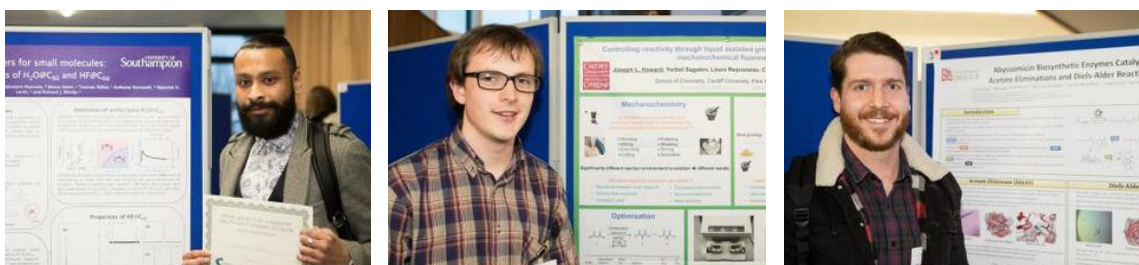
The first regional meeting of the year, the Perkin meeting, took place in Dundee on 11th January and featured Tom Heightman from Astex Pharmaceuticals as the keynote speaker. The First Prize Poster winner was SD Alexander pictured with meeting organiser Ian Gilbert below.



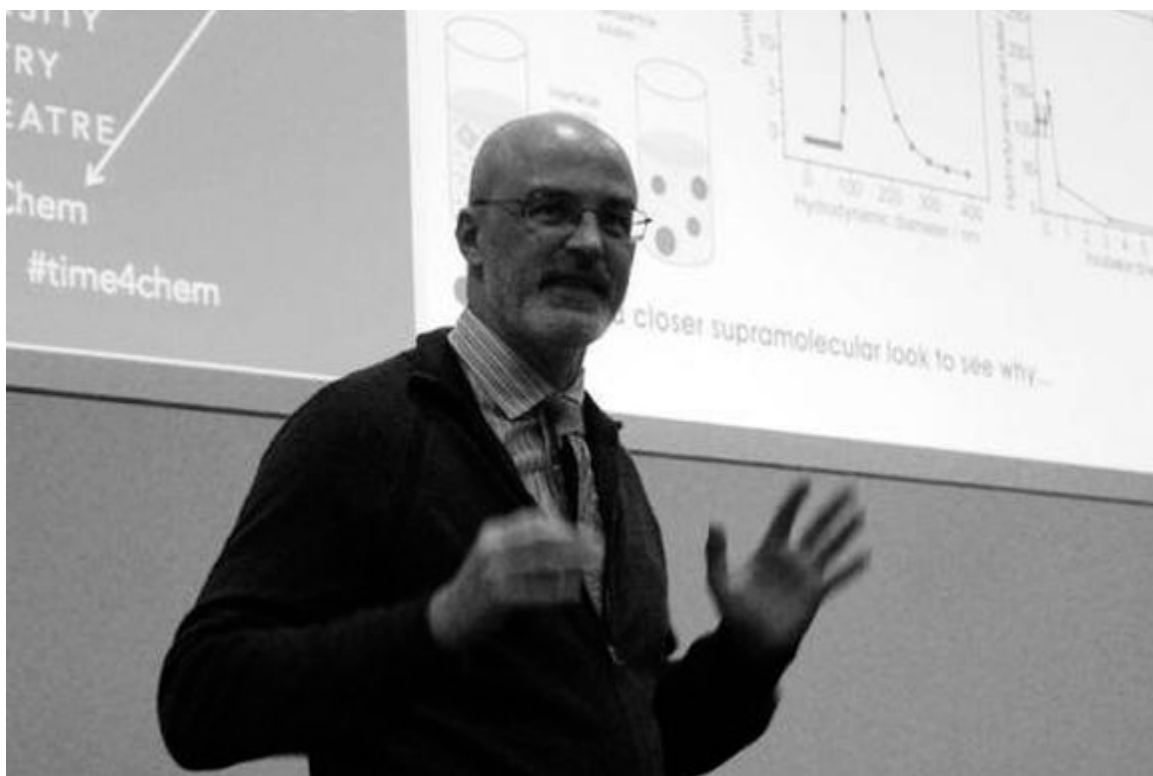
The South and West regional meeting took place on 1st February in Bath and featured Thomas Wirth ([2016 Bader Award](#)) from the University of Cardiff. Chris Willis presented him with his award on behalf of OD Council. Both are shown below with other speakers and organisers.



L-R Prof. Chris Frost (Head of Department of Chemistry, Bath), Claire M Wilson, Akane Kawamura, Lewis Hart, Sean Goggins, Eddie Myers, David Harrowven, Davide Bonifazi, Thomas Wirth, Chris Willis, Simon Lewis. Poster prize winners were Shamim Alom, Joseph L. Howard, and Nick Lees (L-R below).



The North East Regional meeting took place in Durham on 29th March and featured Vince Rotello ([2016 Bioorganic Chemistry Award](#)).



There were also presentations of poster prizes, with 1st prize going to David Turnbull, in addition to a networking prize which went to Kiri Thornally (photos below).



The Midlands Regional meeting took place at the University of Leicester on the 5th April. Andrew Wilson was presented with the [2016 Norman Heatley Award](#) by Paul Davies on behalf of the Organic Division. Other speakers included Alan Jones (Birmingham), Matt Jenner (Warwick), Christoph Loenarz (Nottingham), Ben Partridge (Sheffield), James Hodgkinson (Leicester), and Paul Roach (Loughborough). Georgina Girt won first prize in the poster competition, followed by Elsa Martinez Arce (2nd place) and Daniel Leng (3rd place).

The South East regional meeting took place at UCL on 10th April and featured Michel Gagné ([2016 Catalysis in Organic Chemistry Award](#)) and Jieping Zhu ([2016 Natural Product Award](#)). Matt Fuchter presented the awards on behalf of the Organic Division. Other speakers included Matthew Powner (UCL), Laure Benhamou (UCL), Sarah Barry (Kings College), Chris Jones (Queen Mary University of London), and Emily Flashman (Oxford).



The most recent meeting was the North West Regional Meeting which took place in Manchester on 24th May and featured Helma Wennemers ([2016 Pedler Award](#)) as the keynote speaker.



Poster prizes were awarded to Chiara Colletto, Charlie McTernan, Huanming Huand and Scott France. Other speakers included Guillaume De Bo, Susannah Coote, Tim Snape, Sam Butterworth, Matilda Bingham and Christophe Aissa

The one remaining regional meeting for the year will take place at the National University of Ireland Galway – date to be confirmed.

Support from a wide range of industry sponsors for all regional meetings is very gratefully acknowledged. For full details of all 2017 regional meetings including meeting reports please see the OD regional meeting [webpage](#).

## Retro(synthesis) is back in fashion

On 10 March 2017, the SCI headquarters hosted the final of the 4th National Retrosynthesis Competition, jointly organised by groups from the RSC and SCI. From the 40 teams who entered the preliminary round in December 2016, ten were selected for the final by the judging panel representing a broad cross-section of chemistry-based organisations, including universities and academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, contract research organisations, and the agrochemicals sector. At the final, teams presented their analysis of the natural product, eucalrobosone D then answered questions from both audience and judges.





The winners were 'SnaAZzy Synthesisers' (photo above) from AstraZeneca with runners up, 'Dysfunctional Group' from the University of St. Andrews and 'We Mean Bismuth' from the University of Oxford. Special commendation was also made to the 'Concept Chapel Team' from Concept Life Sciences (previously Peakdale Molecular). Thanks go to all the teams who entered and supported the competition, with particular thanks to both RSC and SCI for their generous support. The competition again displayed the importance of synthetic organic chemistry in both fundamental and applied research in the UK so planning of the 5th National Retrosynthesis Competition, to be held in early March 2018, is in progress. Further details will be posted on Twitter [@UKRetroComp](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### Forthcoming meetings...

- [25th International Symposium: Synthesis in Organic Chemistry](#) (17-20 July 2017, Oxford)
- OD Regional Meeting, Galway, Date to be confirmed (likely Sep 2017)
- [RSC-NOST Symposium on Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry](#) (3 Oct 2017, Leeds Beckett University, UK)
- XIII J-NOST Conference for Research Scholars to be held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, from 9-12 Nov, 2017. Applications from UK postgraduate students are welcome now. The Selection committee is Ray Jones, Matt Fuchter, Ross Denton, and Joëlle Prunet.
- OD Poster symposium (4 Dec 2017)
- [11th BMCS Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Symposium for Postgraduates](#) This event, organised by the RSC Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector (BMCS), will be held in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge on the 8th December. Please see further details on the website.

Finally, to find out more about OD, its activities and strategy, please visit our [homepage](#).

With best wishes,

Alison Hulme  
President of the Organic Division



[www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org)  
Registered charity number: 207890

**Unsubscribe**

You can [unsubscribe](#) from all future email messages from the Royal Society of Chemistry. See our [Privacy Policy](#).

**Contact us**

The Royal Society of Chemistry is a charity registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Cambridge CB4 0WF, United Kingdom. Registered Charity Number: 207890

© Royal Society of Chemistry 2017. All rights reserved.