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Analytical Matters

News from the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Division, June 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to *Analytical Matters*, the first edition of our new electronic news and events roundup from the Analytical Division (AD) of the Royal Society of Chemistry. *Analytical Matters* will appear three times a year, after each of our AD Council meetings, and will aim to cover items of interest to the membership of the Division and far beyond. For this very first issue we have not had chance to request content from all relevant analytical groups within the Royal Society of Chemistry before going live. However, we hope everyone will find something of interest in this first issue and we look forward to receiving content for the next issue from groups not featured this time.

Analytical Matters will strive to contain items from relevant analytical interest groups, AD regions, the Analytical Methods Committee, other groups and individual members as well as AD Council as appropriate. We will aim to showcase the wide range of analytical science activities being run across the Royal Society of Chemistry by the various analytical member groups.

We hope this information will encourage even greater involvement by our members in the activities across the Division to the benefit of analytical science, themselves and others.

We would welcome any feedback you may have on this publication and its content. Please contact the [Editor](#) with any comments. Please send any items for the next issue by 28th September.

With my very best wishes,

Melissa Hanna-Brown FRSC
President of the Analytical Division

Deadlines

12th June – [ARF 2015](#) registration deadline

8th June at noon – Royal Society of Chemistry 2015 elections including [elections to AD Council](#)

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Analytical Awards

The Manchester Institute of Biotechnology hosted the Analytical Division Awards Symposium on Monday 20th April. Thanks to the sterling efforts of AD Council member Professor Perdita Barran and her team an excellent event was held with an audience of approximately 70 people who heard talks from the 2014 Theobald Redwood awardee, Evan Williams from UC Berkeley, 2014 Joseph Black awardee Shabaz Mohammed from Oxford and Ronald Belcher awardee Sarah McAughtrie from Strathclyde among others. The picture below shows some of the award winners with AD Council members.



AD President, Melissa Hanna-Brown, led the presentations to the awardees and made a moving tribute to Dr John Green, recipient of the 2014 Anne Bennett award, who very sadly passed away before receiving his award. John's family attended the event and received the award on his behalf.

Further information on this event and the Analytical Awards in general can be found [here](#).

AD Strategy – an overview

The AD aims to promote and support analytical chemistry at all levels from public outreach and school education to the most innovative and cutting edge research in academia and industry.

With this in mind AD Council have identified 5 strategic priorities for the period 2013 – 2017. Each priority is being taken forward by a group of AD Council members and others and future newsletters will include updates on various aspects of AD Strategy. There's lots more information about AD Strategy, including updates on the work of the five groups [here](#).

Professional Development for Analytical Scientists

A meeting of industrial analytical chemists was held at Burlington House, London on 22nd January to discuss professional development for analytical chemists. The meeting started with presentations from AD Council members (Mark Powell and Steve Lancaster) on the activities of the Analytical Division's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Working Group, after which Julie Franklin and Simon McKeating set out the Royal Society of Chemistry's current policy on CPD and presented the results of a survey on analytical CPD provision.



The meeting then discussed the professional development of analytical chemists and the analytical content of UK chemistry degree courses. There was general agreement that CPD should be defined more broadly than attendance at formal training courses, conferences or seminars. For example, mentoring is a professional development tool both for those being mentored and those doing the mentoring. Action was proposed to develop resources for CPD, and to improve the engagement of employers, for example by helping companies to develop and accredit in-house training courses.

Those present at the meeting expressed the opinion that the coverage of analytical chemistry in some RSC-accredited or recognised degree programmes is not well aligned with the needs of employers. The current QAA benchmark statement for chemistry stresses the importance of metrology, and recent graduate destination data suggest that approximately 22 % of chemistry graduates find employment as analytical chemists.

The following actions were agreed:

1. Explore ways in which the teaching of chemical metrology could be improved in UK chemistry departments.
2. Help the RSC to develop CPD guidance for analytical chemists.
3. Consider ways in which analytical CPD programmes could be developed and promoted to all those undertaking chemical measurements.

Analytical Workshop in Ghana

AD, together with the Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN) and Foundation for Analytical Science & Technology in Africa (FASTA), ran a very successful GC-MS workshop in Ghana in March 2015 delivered at the Kwame Nkrumah National University of Science & Technology (KNUST). AD Council member Steve Lancaster in collaboration with Professor Anthony Gachanja from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology in Kenya helped deliver a very successful course to over 20 delegates from Ghana and Nigeria. This activity forms an ongoing part of the international strand of the [AD Strategy](#). In the picture below are some of the participants at the workshop.



Elections to AD Council

Elections are open now for AD Council (2 vacancies) as well as other positions on other Royal Society of Chemistry committees. The voting period closes at noon (GMT) on 8th June. View the candidates and cast your vote [here](#).

Analytical Research Forum (ARF)

This year's ARF ([ARF15](#)) will take place at the Royal Society of Chemistry in Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. The one day event for early career analytical scientists will include invited talks by **Professor Dermot Diamond** from DCU and **Dr Eleanor Schofield** from the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth, among several others.

It's not too late to register. The meeting will include 30 minutes of flash poster presentations during the meeting along with extended networking into the evening with guest evening speaker and science communicator, Jamie Gallagher. Check out the [website](#) to register and for information regarding student bursaries.

Analytical Methods Committee in focus

The Analytical Methods Committee (AMC) handles matters of technical importance to members of the AD and the analytical science community in general. The AMC participates in national and international efforts to establish a quality framework in chemical measurement and to keep the analytical community informed on developments. One way it does this is through the publication of technical briefs published both on the [AMC website](#) and in the journal [Analytical Methods](#). More information can be found [here](#).

Process Analytics 2014

The East Anglia Region of the Analytical Division (EARAD), like other AD regions, organise a variety of events for AD members in their region. As an example, EARAD held a Process Analytics event at the Johnson Matthey conference centre in Royston on 18th November 2014. The event focussed on the ever evolving need for generating solutions for fast, accurate measurement response, imperative to creating efficient, cost effective, sustainable processes. The event brought together 40 delegates including both process analytics suppliers and users, (industrial and academic) to discuss process measurement challenges and solutions. Invited speakers presented on a multitude of measurement techniques from truly inline spectroscopy to electrical tomography. A networking lunch allowed delegates time to exchange ideas and chat to a select group of suppliers.



This was the first time this event was run and had very good feedback from all concerned. The committee hope to run the event within the next two years. The slide decks for all talks are available on MyRSC. This event was part of a busy programme for 2014/15 - there are no signs of slowing down in the coming year. For more information on East Anglia Regional events navigate to our homepage [here](#) and more information about the AD regions in general can be found [here](#).

News from the Separation Science Group

The Separation Science Group (SSG) is a very active interest group, regularly organising meetings, sponsoring summer studentships, and awarding the Extech prize plus travel grants for attendance at chromatography-related meetings. It also helps to organise the biennial International meeting of Hyphenated Techniques in Chromatography (HTC) in Belgium. The SSG works closely with sister societies, The Chromatographic Society and The British Mass Spectrometry Society, with other Interest Groups and regularly supports the EAP meeting through student bursaries and by sponsoring a member of the group to attend as a speaker. For further information on our meetings please see the [website](#)

In 2010 we launched the Knox Medal; this is awarded by the SSG for individuals deserving special recognition of their innovation or influential work in the field of Separation Science.



Recipients of the Knox Medal have been Professor Pat Sandra (2010), Dr Chang Kee Lim (2011), Professor Ian Wilson (2012) and Professor Peter Schoenmakers (2014). Nominations for the latest round of submissions are open until the end of May and any nominations will be considered over the following weeks and if an appropriate nomination is submitted and agreed the next Knox Medal will be announced at HTC-14 in Ghent in 27-29 January 2016.

We welcome suggestions for meeting topics and/or new venues so please [contact us](#) if you have any ideas or comments. More information about analytical interest groups in general can be found [here](#).

Emerging Analytical Professionals (EAP) 2015

EAP is the flagship event organised by the Analytical Science Network (ASN). Now in its 20th year and still going strong, this event is aimed at early career professionals from industry and academia, providing an encouraging and relaxed environment to present their work. For many this is the first time they will have presented. We are also lucky to attract esteemed speakers from across all Analytical Science disciplines, giving early career attendees a chance to network with and see what great work is being done by professionals across the Analytical Sciences.

This year's EAP featured an introductory talk from Laura West, giving an overview of spectroscopy and light and also included two exceptional keynote talks: David Birch on Fluorescence – A Healthy Glow; and Self Assembly of Plasmonic Substrates for Trace Analyte Detection by Joshua Edel.

The two pictures below show delegates participating in an ice-breaking hooping workshop at the start of this year's EAP. For more information about the ASN and its activities please contact ASN Chair, [Charlie Davis](#).



Forthcoming Analytical Events

A listing of forthcoming analytical events can be viewed [here](#).

Tom West Analytical Fellowship

The [Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund \(ACTF\)](#) helps to support the strategic activities of the Analytical Division. One of our ACTF-funded programmes is the [Tom West Analytical Fellowship](#) which aims to assist early career analytical chemists within 5 years of their first full-time junior academic appointment at a UK or Irish Higher Education Institution to establish their own independent analytical science research identity. More information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Grants

[Travel Grants](#) to facilitate conference attendance by early career AD members
[Small Grants](#) to help AD members run meetings and other activities



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