



Member Networks Annual Report Form
Reporting events held in 2017 and those planned for 2018

In line with the rules for member networks and to enable us to better support our networks and their activities all member networks (Local Sections, Interest Groups and Analytical Division Regions) are asked to complete this form and return it to networks@rsc.org or by post to; Networks Team, Royal Society of Chemistry, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 0WF.

Deadlines

Deadline for receipt of Financial Accounts by RSC Finance Team: **9th February 2018**

Deadline for receipt of Annual Report by Networks Team: **26th February 2018**

If there is any reason that your committee will **not** be able to meet either or both of these deadlines please inform networks@rsc.org as soon as possible.

This report will be uploaded to your web page to share with the members of your network. Staff will also share a digest of all member networks activities taken solely from these annual reports with appropriate staff and governance boards and committees including Division Councils with similar interests.

Committee	Heterocyclic and Synthesis Group
Completed by	Sharon Rossiter
Date	20 th February 2018

Please list below the dates of all of your planned committee meetings and, if held, AGM.

Annual General Meeting (if being held)

Date:	12/01/18
Venue:	Institute of Cancer Research, 237 Fulham Road, London SW3 6JB

Proposed Committee Meetings Dates

Date	Venue
11 th January 2018	London pre-AGM meeting
12 th January 2018	AGM – ICR, London
Spring 2018 tbc	Teleconference
September 2018	Postgraduate meeting venue
Ad hoc as needed	Teleconference



2017 Events

Please append electronic copies of any meeting reports, newsletters or relevant materials to this report.

Please report below on activities undertaken in the past year. If you have more detailed information about any particularly successful events, or advice to share please use a separate sheet. For more events continue as necessary.

EVENT KEY:

- Education Event (including outreach activities for school students or the general public)
- Public Lecture
- Retired Members Event
- Scientific Conference - 1 day
- Scientific Conference - multi day
- Social Event
- Training/workshop
- Award Lecture
- Other

Event Name	January Meeting and AGM, 6 th January 2017
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day
Comments	6 th January 2017 at the Institute of Cancer Research. Six speakers: Professor Jan-E. Bäckvall (University of Stockholm), Professor Rainer Herges (Kiel University), Professor Steve Marsden (University of Leeds) and Professor Helen Osborn (University of Reading), with excellent supporting talks from Dr Stephen Thomas (University of Edinburgh) and Dr Will Unsworth (University of York). The Group AGM was held in the lunch break

Event Name	4 th National Retrosynthesis Competition, 10 th March 2017
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day
Comments	This event was jointly organised by members of the RSC's Heterocyclic and Synthesis Group and the Fine Chemicals Group and Young Chemists Panel of the SCI. Around 40 teams entered the preliminary round in December 2016. Ten were selected for the final, held at SCI Headquarters, and presented their synthetic strategies for the natural product, eucalrobosone D. The winning team was "SnaAZzy Synthesisers" from AstraZeneca.

Event Name	23 rd Lakeland Symposium, Grasmere, 4 th -8 th May 2017
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference – multi-day

Comments	<p>Our flagship meeting, held every 2 years. The meeting attracted 118 scientific delegates, together with 16 accompanying persons. The programme comprised a mixture of plenary sessions and supporting lectures from academic and industrial delegates, together with a number of early career researcher short talks and the Friday evening poster session. Scientific activities were supported by social activities in the afternoons and evenings. Plenary lectures were delivered by Professor Ed Anderson (Oxford, the Young Heterocyclic Chemist Lecture), Professor Neil Garg (UCLA, RSC Merck Award winner 2016), Professor Nuno Maulide (Vienna), Professor John Murphy (Strathclyde, the Charles Rees Award winner 2016), Professor Ei-ichi Negishi (Purdue, 2010 Nobel Laureate), Professor Franziska Schoenebeck (RWTH Aachen) and Professor Paul Wender (Stanford).</p>
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Event Name	32nd Postgraduate Meeting and 50 th Anniversary Celebration, Burlington House
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day
Comments	<p>Our regular meeting, usually held at an industry location, was held at Burlington House in this very special year of the 50th Anniversary of the Group's foundation and first meeting. There were 9 excellent postgraduate talks, selected from a very competitive field, plus a flash presentation session and poster session. In total, 45 early career researchers presented their work. Plenary lectures were delivered by Professor Alison Hulme (University of Edinburgh), and Dr David Rees (Astex). The prize winners were: Best talk: Jessica Hill (University of Bristol); best flash presentation: Sahra St John-Campbell (Imperial College London); best poster, prize sponsored by Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry: Fahima Idiris (Queen Mary University of London). There was also a poster display about the history of the Group and the day ended with a celebration wine reception to mark the occasion of the Group's 50th Anniversary. Several former Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Group were able to join us in our celebrations. (See <i>attached article</i>).</p>



Awards and Bursaries

Please list any awards or bursaries presented by your committee in the past 12 months and indicate any which will be open for nomination/application in the next calendar year.

Please ensure that all members of your network are notified of any awards or bursaries for general application.

2016 Charles Rees Award – Professor John Murphy gave his award lecture at the May 2017 Grasmere meeting and was presented with his award by the Chair of the Group, Professor Chris Willis.

2018 Charles Rees Award – nominations closing 15th January 2018. Committee scoring in progress. Winner to give Award Lecture at 2019 Lakeland Symposium, Grasmere.

Other information/comments:



Future Activities

When planning any activities please remember to ensure that all events are logged on our events database and ensure that all contracts are sent to our Legal Team with enough time for amendments and, where necessary, approval by the Board.

Please outline any activities already in planning for the next calendar year.

Event Name	January Meeting and AGM
Comments	12 th January 2018. Institute of Cancer Research, Fulham Road, London. Six speakers (3 plenary, 3 supporting). AGM of the Group to be held in the lunch break

Event Name	5 th National Retrosynthesis Competition
Comments	Once again this competition has been held jointly with the SCI. Finals to be held at SCI Headquarters.

Event Name	33 rd Postgraduate Symposium
Comments	September 2018 at an industry venue, date and location to be confirmed.



Committee

This information will be used to update our membership database and your web page. Please ensure that any changes to the committee are sent to networks@rsc.org as soon as possible.

Position	Name	Dates on committee (20xx – 20xx)
Chair	Professor Peter O'Brien	Jun 2017-Jun 2020
Secretary	Dr Sharon Rossiter	Jun 2015-Jun 2018
Treasurer	Dr Sharon Rossiter	Jun 2015-Jun 2018
Ordinary Members	Dr Nadia Ahmad	2016-2019
	Dr Susannah Coote	2017- 2020 (2 nd term) Secretary/Treasurer elect, term: Jun 2018-Jun 2021
	Dr Richard Grainger	2017-2020 (2 nd term)
	Professor Rob Stockman	2017-2020
	Dr Andrew Williams	2016-2019 (2 nd term)
Chemists' Community Fund Representative (if relevant)		
Co-opted members and their affiliation		



Diversity & Inclusion

Our trustees are aiming to embed diversity and inclusion in all of our activities and networks. Our [online network handbook](#) contains more information to support our networks in achieving this.

Please comment on how your group is showing that it has embraced Diversity and Inclusion within its practices.

The Group holds a small number of meetings each year, designed to be welcoming to all with an interest in heterocyclic and synthetic chemistry. We also send regular e-newsletters to our membership.

All meeting venues are chosen with accessibility in mind; our current January meeting venue has step-free access. Special dietary requirements are catered for at all events. Text-editable, electronic versions of meeting booklets can be made available. One day meetings are timed to begin after 10am (usually 10.30am), finishing no later than 5.30pm.

The Group aims for diversity and balance in its choice of speakers for meetings; in our 2017 meetings we have maintained our efforts. We also feel it is important to ensure that female role models are present as speakers and scientific chairs at meetings, as senior female chemists have been under-represented in the wider community in the past.

We encourage the current and next generations of scientists to present, both at our postgraduate meeting and at the Grasmere conference. At the latter, all delegates are able to present either a talk or a poster. By increasing the number of presentation opportunities we aim to fully represent the diversity of the chemistry community.

In 2017 early career researchers (students/postdocs) presented over 20 short talks and more than 70 posters at our meetings. The Grasmere meeting also had a diverse selection of plenary lectures and supporting talks from industry and academia, with speakers from as far afield as Eastern Russia and Japan.

The Heterocyclic and Synthesis Interest Group celebrated its 50th Anniversary at its annual Autumn Postgraduate Meeting, held at Burlington House on 20th September. This is the 32nd postgraduate meeting and it provided a snapshot of the outstanding organic chemistry being carried out by early career researchers from across the UK. There were two plenary lectures and nine high quality talks from final year postgraduates. The meeting also included 36 posters, with 26 of the poster presenters giving brief but informative flash presentations – a highlight of the day. Congratulations to the three prize winners (photo 1).



Photo caption: The three prize winners, Jessica Hill (University of Bristol), Fahima Idris (Queen Mary University of London) and Sahra St John-Campbell (Imperial College London), flanked by the current Chairman (Professor Peter O'Brien) and Secretary (Dr Sharon Rossiter).

The day ended with a reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Several of the past committee officers were able to attend (photo 2). The Heterocyclic Group was formed in 1967 by a group of heterocyclic chemists. It gained approval from the Chemical Society on 5th April 1967 and held its first scientific half-day meeting in September 1967. The first Chairman was Alan Katritzky (then at UEA) and the first Secretary/Treasurer was Gurnos Jones (Keele). In 2001, the Group voted to change its name to the Heterocyclic and Synthesis Group, to reflect the wider interests of its membership in synthetic organic chemistry.



Photo caption: The Heterocyclic and Synthesis Group celebrates 50 years with a gathering of 15 of the Chairs and Secretaries of the group.

The Group continues to hold two annual one-day meetings; a London meeting in January and the Postgraduate Meeting in September. The Group also holds its flagship conference, the Lakeland Symposium in Grasmere, every two years. More recently, the Group has been involved in cross-group activities and is a co-organiser, with the SCI, of the annual Retrosynthesis Competition.

The Group welcomes new members from industry or academia, with an interest in synthetic organic chemistry. The day was a wonderful occasion and, with such a vibrant postgraduate meeting, it is clear that the future of the group for the next 50 years is in good hands!