



Chemistry Update

Newsletter 347, 26 August 2022

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Calendar of Events

Open Days

Date: 17-18 September

Time: 9am—4pm

Astex Careers Visit

Organiser: Will Unsworth

Date: Thursday 22 September

Time: 1pm—5pm

Location: C/B/101 & C/B/102

Symposium: Pathways to Equity in Research

Date: Friday 23 September

Time: 11am—16.30pm

Location: National STEM Learning Centre

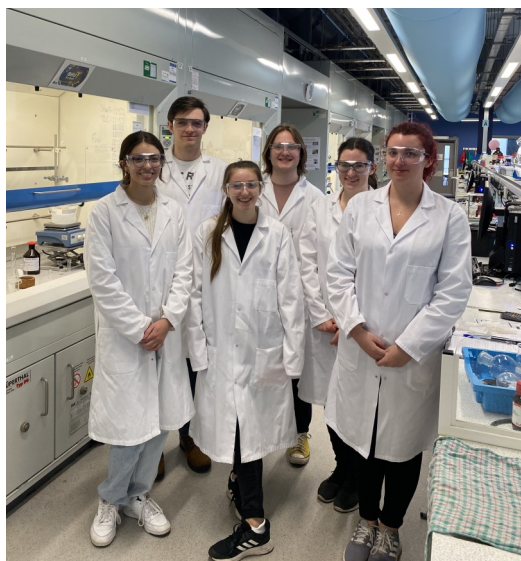


Date of Next Issue:

30 September 2022

Undergraduates help to develop teaching lab experiments

A team of six second and third year undergraduate students have been hard at work over summer developing 15 new practicals for the upcoming academic year.



Luke Connell, Victoria Maguire, Jacob Peatfield-Muter, Clare Scott, Megan Smith and Emily Tyson spent three weeks working with Drs Sam Furfari, David Pugh and Peter Rayner to design new experiments that teach key practical skills to our undergraduate cohorts.

Over the past few years, a combination of the pandemic, increased student numbers, limited equipment availability and reclassification of reagent hazards have meant that a number of experiments were no longer suitable to be delivered. Many staple reagents such as NaBH_4 (H360), benzophenone (H350) and ferrocene (H360) have all had to be replaced with safer alternatives. This had left a large number of gaps in the curriculum for the forthcoming year.

Fortunately, through a mix of talent and endeavour, the students developed a wide range of experiments that are ready to be deployed this year. Some examples include an Appel reaction to teach purification using column chromatography, synthesis of Cu(I) NHC complexes under inert conditions, greener methods for reduction and cross-coupling and the analysis of polyphenol content in drinks!

We look forward to seeing these experiments in action next year!



Online Department suggestion box



The online Equality and Diversity suggestion box has been extended to be a suggestion box for the whole Department. You can submit your thoughts/suggestions/ideas for general Departmental matters as well as matters relating to Equality and Diversity. You can find the Google form at this [link](#).

Summer prize winners



Erin Holdsworth (MChem Whinfield Medal) and Tom Riley (Margaret Bishop Prize) with HoD

The graduation event in July provided the annual opportunity to celebrate the achievements of all our new graduates along with their friends and families. In addition to the award of their degrees, the Department also marks the achievement of three students annually to receive the two Whinfield Medals (top graduating MChem and BSc students) and the Margaret Bishop Prize (top MChem project in York).

This year we had the opportunity for our Head of Department, Professor Caroline Dessent, to hand over medals and certificates in person to Erin Holdsworth (MChem Whinfield Medal) and Tom Riley (Margaret Bishop Prize) at the reception back in Chemistry (pictured). Unfortunately, the BSc Whinfield Medal winner was not able to attend graduation but we extend our congratulations on an outstanding level of achievement to Thomas Bradford in addition to Erin and Tom. All receive cash prizes in addition to their medals/certificates.

Away from graduation, Caroline was also able to catch up with our two Year 2 Astra Zeneca Prize winners this year (pictured). These prizes go to the top performing student in Year 2 exams (Matthew Warnes) and the top performing student in Year 2 practical assessment (Lucy Gregg). Both took a break from their summer placement projects in the Department long enough to receive their awards in person.

The Department naturally congratulates all its graduates this year on receiving the prize of a Chemistry degree from York!



Astra Zeneca Year 2 prizewinners, Matthew Warnes and Lucy Gregg, with HoD

Symposium: Pathways to Equity in Research - 23 September

National STEM Learning Centre

Friday, 23 September 2022 , 11:00 - 16:30 (includes lunch + optional networking social)

We would like to invite you to a national symposium on research equity taking place this September at the University of York. The Department of Chemistry is hosting a two-part event consisting of a series of focus groups culminating in a one-day [Pathways to Equity in Research Symposium](#) to bring together STEM researchers and key stakeholders from across the UK to explore the future of research funding, publishing, and working culture.

We have an exciting line-up of speakers and panellists for the symposium, including:

- Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser (UKRI)
- Professor Anna Vignoles (Leverhulme Trust)
- Professor James Wilsdon (University of Sheffield)

Speakers Include:

		
Prof Dame Ottoline Leyser UKRI	Prof Anna Vignoles Leverhulme Trust	Prof Andy Dougill University of York

The meeting, featuring talks and panel discussions, will take place on 23 September from 11:00 - 15:30 (networking social to 16:30) at the National STEM Learning Centre on our Heslington campus with a **limit of 150 in-person attendees**, so we recommend signing up early!

Ahead of the event, registered attendees have the option to attend one of four virtual focus groups around specific topics:

- Increasing fairness and transparency in peer review processes
- Improving access to external funding & removing barriers to networking opportunities with external partners
- Addressing challenges for early career academic researchers & levelling the playing field in applications and interviews
- Maintaining momentum mid-career and equitable progression for different career shapes

Registration is free and includes lunch and optional networking session after the formal programme.

Info and Registration:	Organised by:	Sponsored by:
		
tiny.cc/pathwaysyork		

CHyM PhD student publishes children's book aimed at inspiring young girls into STEM



Callum Gater, PhD student in the Centre for Hyperpolarisation in Magnetic Resonance (CHyM), has recently published a children's book called *Carla the Chemist*.

The purpose of the book is to encourage young people, especially girls, to develop an interest in STEM and provide them with an inspirational figure that they can relate to. This story shows us that we can all be scientists in our every day lives and that science can be fun and exciting.

The story allows children to follow Carla on her magical journey discovering different potions and learning how to be a true scientist. Her classmates claim that "girls can't do science" and that she's wasting her time. Watch as she proves them wrong growing up to be a successful scientist showing that we can do anything we put our minds to!

Reviews of the book have been very positive, and include:

"This is a really unique book which will inspire young girls and boys alike to follow their dreams and get into science! Let's hope there are more to follow!"

"A beautiful book written to inspire. Beautifully presented and very inspiring for younger children of all abilities."

Carla the Chemist is [available to buy now from Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk).

Have your say in next year's One Planet Week



One Planet Week (OPW) is held every February at the University of York, with talks, discussions and workshops on sustainability and how we reduce our demand on the world.

One Planet week celebrates and recognizes in our community and wider out research the innovation and knowledge on how we can improve sustainability, treat our land and nature with care, and reduce our demand for resources. In week six of spring term, the week will focus on creating a space for discussion, education and interaction with a variety of speakers and workshops. We would love your input into what you like to see happen in one planet week, and what you believe would be important in the context of our theme: 'Land and Nature'.

[Fill out the form to tell us what should be included in OPW 2023](#)

New starters



Dr Sari Budisulistiorini, Research Associate in Experimental Atmospheric Science (new role)

Room: C/G116; Email: sari.budisulistiorini@york.ac.uk; Tel: 4178

Dr Conor Rankine, Lecturer in Machine Learning and Computational Chemistry

Room: C/D/112; Email: conor.rankine@york.ac.uk; Tel: 8803

Dr Jackie Mosely, Senior Lecturer in Mass Spectrometry

Room: C/D/009; Email: jackie.mosely@york.ac.uk; Tel: 5245

Talha Shafi, Research Associate in Structural Biology of Insect Insulin Receptor

Room: B/K/266; Email: talha.shafi@york.ac.uk

Polly Buxton, HR Administrator

Room: C/A/121; Email: polly.buxton@york.ac.uk; Tel: 5412

Dr Alison Nairn, Daphne Jackson Fellowship

Room: C/E/002; Email: alison.nairn@york.ac.uk

Dr Oliver Bayfield, PDRA (Named Researcher - new role)

Room: C/B/L019; Email: owb500@york.ac.uk; Tel: 8658

Dorothy Edith Diana Pepys Hawkins, PDRA

Email: dorothy.hawkins@york.ac.uk

Neil Scott, PDRA (Named Researcher - new role)

Email: neil.scott@york.ac.uk

Niall Donaldson, Technician (Synthetic) - new role

Email: niall.donaldson@york.ac.uk
