

Chemistry Update

Newsletter 278, 26th October 2016

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Calendar of Events

Research Seminar

Speaker: Prof. Paul Dyson,
EPFL, Switzerland
Date: Wednesday 26 October
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: A101

UCAS Days

Date: 27 & 31 October; 3, 8,
10, 14, 17, 21 & 24 Nov
Time: 12.30pm—4pm

Anniversary Lecture

Speaker: Prof. Paul Dyson,
EPFL, Switzerland
Date: Thursday 27 October
Time: 6.15pm—7.30pm
Location: A101

Research Seminar

Speaker: Dr Robin Bon,
University of Leeds
Date: Wednesday 2 November
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: A122

YSBL Seminar

Speaker: Dr Michael Galperin,
NCBI, National Institutes of
Health, USA
Date: Monday 7 November
Time: 12pm—1pm
Location: B/M/023

Research Seminar

Speaker: Dr Arend Dijkstra,
University of Leeds
Date: Wednesday 16 November
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: B101

Research Seminar

Speaker: Prof. Thorfinnur
Gunnlaugsson, Trinity College
Dublin
Date: Wednesday 23 November
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: A122

Research Seminar

Speaker: Dr Thomas
Chamberlain
Date: Wednesday 30 November
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: A122

Date of Next Issue:
25th November 2016

£1M Donation to Support Chemistry at York



The University of York's Department of Chemistry is to benefit from a £1million gift from alumnus Dr Anthony H Wild.

Dr Wild, a leading businessman and philanthropist, has been a long-time supporter of chemistry at York.

Along with the £1m donation, Dr Wild has pledged a further £1.37m against funds raised by the Department of Chemistry and the University over the next five years.

The gift will support world-leading research and infrastructure projects across atmospheric chemistry and chemical and structural biology.

His donation will also help to support future generations of students through the creation of a new teaching facility.

The University of York's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Koen Lamberts said: "The support from Dr Wild really does transform what we do here at the University of York. It helps us to raise our aspirations and unlock other sources of funding for our research and teaching.

"The Department of Chemistry's success in both teaching and research has been enhanced significantly through Dr Wild's support."

Professor Duncan Bruce, Head of the Department of Chemistry, said: "We are one of the UK's leading departments - recognised internationally for our teaching and research.

"Through Dr Wild's support we aim to develop yet further and enhance our outstanding facilities and research opportunities for students and academics."

Through the [Wild Scholarship programme](#), Dr Wild has enabled more than 67 international postgraduate students to study chemistry at York.

He was instrumental in establishing the internationally recognised [Wolfson Atmospheric Chemistry Laboratories](#), and in 2015 encouraged more than 120 alumni and friends of the Department of Chemistry to support the Department's 50th anniversary in aid of undergraduate internships and postdoctoral fellowships.

In all, Dr Wild's support over the past eight years has helped leverage more than £30million in external funding for the University in priority areas.

Student Madeline Hartley received funding through the Wild Scholarships programme.

She said: “This award allowed me to study at York without having to worry as much about finances. It was also a huge confidence boost – proving to me that someone believed I was good enough and that has been really important.”

Wild Scholar Olga Semenova added: “Dr Wild’s support allowed me to study at an outstandingly high-level university. Without this generous award this dream wouldn’t have been possible.”

Silver and Sand – Just What the Chemists Ordered

York's organic chemists have discovered a cheap and efficient way to make lots of new compounds with great potential in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries.

This new method uses just catalytic amounts of silver salts together with cheap silica gel and transforms easily available starting materials into products with unusual 3D-shapes:



Silver nitrate is the least expensive salt of silver metal and it is widely used to make photographic film. Silica gel, often used as a drying agent, is made from silicon dioxide, one of the most abundant materials on earth and readily obtained from sand.



One of the great advantages of this new procedure is that the silver salt on silica gel can be easily removed from the reaction and used over and over again. Another big plus is that the whole process can be automated with the starting material being pumped through the silver salt on silica gel and the product collected at the end meaning the chemist can be having coffee while the reaction progresses.

This research is published in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/anie.201608263/pdf>

See here for the full story on the University of York website:

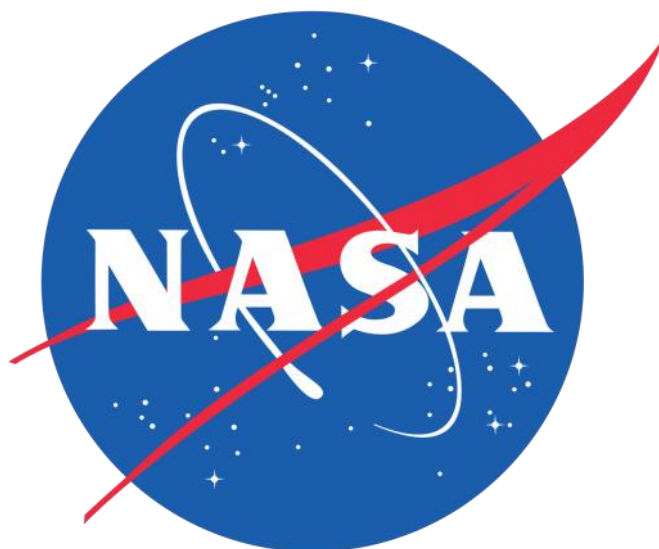
<https://www.york.ac.uk/research/themes/3d-molecules/>

Clarke Group News

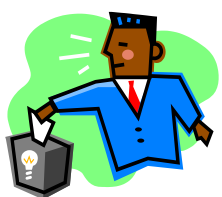
We welcome Chris Maddocks and Kirsten Hawkins who have joined the group as first year PhD students. Chris will be working on the stereodivergent and stereoselective synthesis of piperidines, while Kirsten, who is a joint student with Prof. Dave Smith, will be investigating the role of protocell-like structures in protometabolic systems. Researchers in D-block will have noticed that Sam Griggs (and his yellow tracky bottoms) has returned from his CASE placement at GSK. Welcome home Sam!

The group bids farewell to Yuxiong Zhao, who has finished his MSc (Research) and is now studying business and management at York, as well as Josh Smith and Nadiah Mad Nasir who have both submitted their theses and are awaiting their vivas. Good luck!

Dr Paul Clarke has started the new academic year with a trip to Roche in Basel, Switzerland to see how our MChem (Industry) students are settling in and strengthen links between Roche, the Clarke group and the Department. He then flew onto Phoenix, Arizona, USA to sit on the NASA Exobiology (Prebiotic chemistry) Program Grant Award panel between 2-7th October. While he was there he got to make some good contacts both with NASA and with other academic researchers in the field. This has led to him being invited to the International Conference on the Origins of Life in San Diego next year.



Suggestion Box



Reminder: There is an online anonymous suggestion box for staff under the Equality and Diversity section of the intranet: <http://www.york.ac.uk/chemistry/internal/> and a physical suggestion box located outside Room K167 for YSBL staff. Suggestions from staff are most welcome. All suggestions are discussed by the appropriate departmental committee.

Royal Society Athena Prize Runner-Up

Professor Paul Walton has been awarded a Royal Society Athena Runner Up Prize.



Professor Walton has received the award for making an impact through promoting evidence-based thinking in equality and as a prominent spokesperson for equality in academia. Paul has delivered lectures on gender equality in many different countries.

The award will be presented in a ceremony at the Royal Society's annual diversity conference on Monday 31st October 2016 at which Professor Walton will be invited to talk about his project.

The inaugural Royal Society Athena Prize celebrates individuals and organisations who have contributed most, in their community, to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The Royal Society Athena Prize was established in 2016 and is provided by a gift to the Society.

For the full list of runner up prizes, visit https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/awards/athena-prize/?utm_source=social_media&utm_medium=hootsuite&utm_campaign=standard

New Starters

Chengliang Dai, PDRA WACL (working with PME)

Room: G116; Extension: 4755; Email: chengliang.dai@york.ac.uk

Dr Maria Turkenburg, CIEC PDRA (working with JP and GP)

Room: B016; Email: maria.turkenburg@york.ac.uk

Dr Pam Hanley, CIEC PDRA (working with JP and GP)

Room: B016; Email: pam.hanley@york.ac.uk

Jamie Minaeian, PDRA WACL (working with ACL)

Room: G116; Extension: 4758; Email: jamie.minaeian@york.ac.uk

Julia Sarju, Associate Lecturer (working with VC)

Room: DS/107; Extension: 5896; Email: julia.sarju@york.ac.uk

Kim Trujillo, Temp in the Graduate Office

Room: A142; Extension: 4544; Email: k.trujillo@york.ac.uk



James Clark Receives Honorary Doctorate from SLU



The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) has awarded Professor James Clark with an honorary doctorate at a ceremony in Uppsala including a splendid dinner in the Castle where the Archbishop, among others, spoke warmly about Green Chemistry! The ceremony was preceded by the honorary doctors' lectures on 7th October.

The citation included reference to the collaboration between York and the SLU team based in Umeå:

“Together with his research team in the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence (GCCE), James has collaborated with the Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology (SBT) at SLU in Umeå for many years, both in teaching and research, and he has been a unique source of inspiration.”



KMS Seminar and Graduate Poster Competition Winners

The KMS Prize Winners' seminar took place on 5th October and was very well attended by students and staff. The three winners of the KMS competition delivered excellent talks on their research and were presented with certificates by Professor Tony Wilkinson who sat on the KMS panel. Winners and their talk titles were:

Hope Adamson (AP & RNP): How to wire up a hydrogenase for hydrogen production or oxidation

Naomi Farren (JFH & ACL) : Recent measurements of organic nitrogen in atmospheric aerosol using comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography–nitrogen chemiluminescence detection (GC×GC-NCD)

Michael James (RJKT & PAOB): Multiple Products from a Single Precursor through Catalyst Selective Synthesis

The event was combined with a poster session for PhD students entering their second year. The session provides an opportunity for students to share their research with the rest of the department and 29 posters were on display. The poster session was really well attended, with lots of discussion taking place. People were asked to vote for their favourite poster and the winners were:

Paul Jones (PAOB/REH) for his poster:

“Design and Synthesis of 3-Dimensional Fragments to Explore New Areas of Pharmaceutical Space”

and

Adam Saint (LJC/ACL) for his poster:

“Atmospheric chemistry at the ocean surface: using microfluidics to investigate surface ocean ozonolysis”



Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone involved including the KMS panel and all those who attended the seminar.

Left: KMS Winners left to right: Naomi Farren, Michael James, Hope Adamson, with Professor Tony Wilkinson

Postdoc Update

Poster Competition Winners Seminar

Friday 21st October saw us complete the inaugural JEOL Postdoc Poster Competition by hearing short talks from the three prize winners. There was a very good attendance at the talks and at the drinks reception afterwards.



2016 Postdoc Poster prize winners (from left to right): Rachel Dunmore, Pete Richardson, and John Liddon

The aim is to make this an annual event. The hope is to hold the poster competition in June next year (before the end of the Summer term). Watch this space for the date.

Industry / Commercialisation Training

One of the outcomes from the last researcher CROS survey was that postdocs wanted more in the way of commercialisation training. The Industrial Engagement training workshop detailed below provides exactly that:

Industry Communication Training – TARGeTED

16th November 2016, 9:15-12:25

The Treehouse, B/S 104 Berrick Saul Building, University of York, YO10 5DD

The programme includes the following:

- Working with industry – the rough and the smooth and why you might want to do it?
- What do industry want to hear?
- Interacting with industry
- The legal bit...

The deadline for booking is Monday 31st October. Booking should be made via Eventbrite:
<https://industry-communication-training.eventbrite.co.uk>

Postdoc Representation on Departmental Committees

Representing the Postdoc body on a Departmental Committee is an excellent way to demonstrate your commitment to sharing in the administrative roles in the Department. Being able to demonstrate this on your CV is equally important for jobs outside of academia and in any future Fellowship or Lectureship applications.

It needn't be a particularly time-consuming job and can give an insight into the running of the Department as well as a way of giving back to the Department through your skills and knowledge.

The Departmental Safety Management Group is currently looking for a postdoc to attend their meetings and put forward thoughts about Health & Safety in the Department on behalf of the postdoc community. The Management Group meets every couple of months to consider safety matters and then advises the Head of Department. It might also meet at short notice in the event of a serious incident in the Department.

If any postdoc is interested in being considered for this position, please send an email to Derek Wann (derek.wann@york.ac.uk) by 31st October. In just one or two sentences state why you think you'd be good in this position. In the event that several people would like to be considered Derek Wann will choose a suitable person in advance of the next Management Group meeting on 23rd November.

What do you want to see happen?

Since taking on the role of Postdoc Champion earlier in the year I have talked to a lot of people about the changes we could make in the Department to make it an even better place for postdocs to work.

If you have thoughts about what we should be doing please let me know via email. If you want to feedback anonymously you can always leave a note in my pigeonhole.

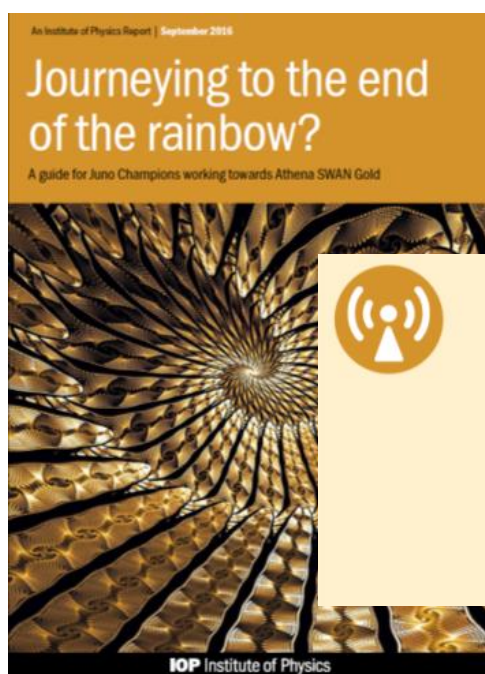
Derek Wann, Postdoc Champion

Chemistry Department Featured in Equality Good Practice Guide

The Department of Chemistry has been featured in the Institute of Physics (IOP) good practice guide for Juno Champions working towards Athena SWAN Gold, '*Journeying to the end of the rainbow?*'.

The IOP's Project Juno supports physics departments at all stages of their journey to gender equality, including supporting those wishing to achieve Athena SWAN Gold. The guide features tips, advice and a number of beacon activities, highlighting good practice from successful Athena SWAN Gold departments. The York case study focuses on our part-time working assurance. Information on flexible working can be found here:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/chemistry/internal/staffinfo/hrinfo/flexwork/>



You can download a copy of the guide from the IOP website at: http://www.iop.org/policy/diversity/initiatives/juno/documentation/file_68338.pdf



Beacon activity: Part-time working

All applications for part-time working have been approved by the department, including those where an increase in hours is requested following on from a previous decrease to allow for family commitments (part-time working assurance). Our assurance states that subject to available finances and role availability, the department expects to approve all reasonable requests from full-time staff to move to part-time working and vice versa. (We have disseminated information on the assurance both internally and externally to the university.) It's encouraging to see that the number of academic staff, including males, working part-time has increased at all grades (since 2012, the number of requests for a change in hours is 11 (one male, 10 female) for research staff and eight (two male, six female) for academic staff).

Department of Chemistry, University of York

Chemistry Christmas Party

When: Wednesday 7th December at 7pm

Where: Monkbar Best Western

Dress Code: Formal attire

Tickets: £27

The Chemistry Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 7th December at the Best Western Monkbar Hotel. Tickets to this event are limited and priced at £27 pp and includes a 3 course dinner and dance until 12am.

We will be selling tickets in the D-Block coffee room everyday during weeks 7 and 8 between 12 and 2pm. The menu is below so please try and have your food choices ready when you come to collect your tickets!

If you have any dietary requirements or any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emma at es1202@york.ac.uk.

The Christmas Party is open to **all** members of staff (research, teaching, academic, and support) and postgraduate students. It is an excellent opportunity for the department to have a fantastic evening together so we hope to see you all there!

Menu

Glass of Fizz on Arrival

Starters

Leek and Potato Soup with Watercress Crème Fraiche (V)

Salmon Gravadlax with Beetroot and Horseradish Buttermilk

Yorkshire Ham Hock Terrine with Celeriac Slaw and Ciabatta

Baked Goats Cheese with Cranberry Puree and Parsnip Crisps (V)

Mains

Roast Crown of Turkey with Chestnut Stuffing and Bacon Wrapped Chipolata

Braised Feather Blade of Beef with Roast Onion Ale Gravy

Baked Plaice Fillet with Caper and Cockle Butter

Frittata of Winter Kale with Yorkshire Blue Cheese (V)

Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Cream and Redcurrants

Mulled Wine Poached Pear with Berry Compote and Biscotti

Chocolate Marquise with Vanilla Cream and Dark Cherry Coulis

Chefs Cheese Selection with Traditional Accompaniments

Coffee and Yorkshire Tea

Green Impact

Yellow Trays

These have been set up next to relevant photocopiers (Library, Photocopier room and other select locations). Please put anything printed off on one side in these so that people can reuse for scrap paper.

You can also use the paper to print in the photocopiers:

1. When printing to the photocopier, please select 'print on both sides' = NO or change to "print one sided" and select a particular tray, for example tray 2. Please put the paper in FACE UP i.e. print side up in whichever tray you are using.
2. When photocopying onto scrap paper from the photocopier, please do the same as the above.

Drinking Water

There is drinking water available in the Chemistry Foyer outside A101 and in the Student Common Room in B block.

Dripping Taps



A dripping tap can waste 5,000 litres of water a year!

Staff - please report any dripping taps in the Department or other water wastage on Planon - go to Staff home page > Repairs and Maintenance > Log in > 'Report a problem...' under 'FIX IT'.

Students - please can you email chem-epg@york.ac.uk (the Department's Energy and Performance Group) and / or report it at reception.

Donate Your Used Stamps!



Used stamps are collected and given to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), the charity sells the stamps to generate revenue for their work.

Any and all stamps welcome!

Please hand in any stamps at the Chemistry Reception.

Don't Waste the Waste Video

For those who haven't seen it (and a reminder for those who have!) please see the following waste video as a reminder that we can continue to recycle almost all our rubbish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aQtq1u5Mk>



Switching Off

Reminder to all staff and students

- Monitors - these need to be turned off when you are not using them (they use up to 50% of energy of both monitor and computer combined!)
- Equipment not being used - please switch off any equipment when you finish using it especially before you go home (apart from computers in the computer rooms which are automatically switched off at the end of each day)
- Lights -
 - ask yourself before you use the lights "Do I really need all the lights on?" Use part-lighting where applicable.
 - Please turn off the lights when you have finished using them!
 - If you see an empty room with lights on (and there is nothing in there, please turn the lights off!)
- Heating - turn down where applicable and especially at the end of the day



Phil Helliwell - York to Hull Cycle Ride, October 2016



The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/danwilkinsonfoundation>

Danny Wilkinson loved football and had played for a number of semi-professional clubs, in addition to Hull City and Loughborough University.

He was a model student and had graduated this summer with a good degree, which gained him a position with a top Sheffield accountancy firm. He was 24 and he was my daughter Lauren's boyfriend, they had just settled into their new flat to start their life together in Sheffield. Then, on the 12th September, he went off after work to play in a cup game for Shaw Lane AFC against Brighouse.

He suffered a fatal cardiac arrest on the pitch that night, because of undiagnosed Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC). This condition also affected Fabrice Muamba of BWFC and James Taylor, the cricketer. It can be screened for but routinely is not, even though each week 12 people, often young athletes, die as a result of it.

To honour his memory the club have set up a foundation, to raise awareness among young people of ARVC, to train more volunteers in CPR and to provide defibrillators at grass-roots football clubs. The FA is supporting them in this aim.

I'm going to support this charity by doing a bike ride, from Lauren's home in York to the KC Stadium in Hull at the end of October. It's 45 miles and I'd really welcome your support. After all, I wouldn't like anyone to see me in Lycra for no good cause!

So please sponsor me at the JustGiving page if you can, whatever you can afford. Please donate with the label 'Cycle Ride for Dan & Lauren'. But even if you can't, and I know there are many charities out there needing support, please be aware of ARVC. Because you knowing about, and making sure it does not go unnoticed in a loved one, is just as important to me as you helping the cause. Thank you.

