

Chemistry Update

Newsletter 301, 28 September 2018

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Calendar of Events

K M Stott Prize Winners' Seminar
Speakers: Alexandra Males, Conor
Rankine, Stuart Grange, Anna
Zhenova, University of York
Date: Wednesday 3 October
Time: 2pm—4pm
Location: C/A/101
Inorganic Seminar
Speaker: Dr Mark Crimmin,
Imperial College London
Date: Wednesday 10 October
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: C/B/101
Nanoscience Lecture
Speaker: Prof Molly Stevens,
Imperial College London
Date: Thursday 11 October
Time: 6.30pm—7.30pm
Location: SLB/118
Seminar - RSC Environment,
Sustainability and Energy Division
Early Career Award 2017
Speaker: Dr Ning Yan, National
University of Singapore
Date: Friday 12 October
Time: 1pm—2pm
Location: C/B/101

UCAS Visits Dates: 16, 18, 22, 25 & 29 October

Organic Seminar

Speaker: Dr Pauline Drouhin, Sygnature Discovery Date: Wednesday 17 October Time: 1pm—1.45pm Location: C/B/101

Organic Seminar

Speaker: Dr Jiri Vana, University of Pardubice and Prof Kilian Muziz, ICIQ Date: Friday 19 October Time: 1pm—2pm Location: C/B/101

Departmental Seminar

Speakers: Dr Aneurin Kennerley, Dr Lianne Willems, Dr Jamie Blaza, University of York Date: Wednesday 24 October Time: 1pm—3pm Location: C/B/101

Inorganic Seminar

Speaker: Dr Mike Ingleson, University of Manchester Date: Wednesday 31 October Time: 1pm—2pm Location: C/B/101

> Date of Next Issue: 25 October 2018

Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship Success

Dr Alyssa-Jennifer Avestro has been awarded a Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship and will join the new Molecular Materials research grouping in York.



Dr Alyssa-Jennifer Avestro will be assuming her role as a Royal Society – GCRF Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow in the Department from January 2019.

Dr Avestro will lead a multidisciplinary research programme to develop robust organic molecular materials and assemblies with highly efficient photophysical and (spectro) electrochemical properties. The structures of her 2D and 3D organic materials will be controlled by covalent fixing into shape-persistent geometries and also through non-

covalent bonding. Novel materials generated by the Avestro Group at York will be analysed using advanced spectroscopies, imaging microscopy, diffraction and computational modelling. They will also be investigated as candidate materials for energy harvesting, conversion and storage device applications.

The <u>Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship</u> provides five years of full-time salary and research funding. As a Research Fellow of the Royal Society, Dr Avestro is exclusively eligible to apply for enhanced research support provided through the UK Government's <u>Investment in Research Talent</u> programme.

In contrast to many other independent research fellowships, the Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship requires candidates to have a current need for flexible working patterns as a result of carer, health, parental, or other personal circumstances for which the Royal Society provides opportunities to request additional financial support and claim back any time deferred on the Fellowship.

This year, two of the fourteen awards, one of them being Dr Avestro's, were jointly funded by the Global Research Challenges Fund recognising the potential for the proposed research programme to impact upon high-priority research areas and benefit UK-led progress, partnership and innovation in developing countries. Currently, Dr Avestro engages in active collaborations in China (Tsinghua University), Malaysia (University of Malaya) and India (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS).

In the coming 12 months, Dr Avestro will be recruiting funded PhD students to contribute to her research projects in supramolecular energy materials.

Interested candidates are invited to get in touch with her directly at <u>alyssa-jennifer.avestro@york.ac.uk</u>.

Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Dr Glenn Hurst has been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education (THE) 'Most Innovative Teacher of the Year' award based on his work using social media in new ways to enhance student engagement, understanding and communication.



By making use of various social media platforms, <u>Dr</u> <u>Glenn Hurst</u> has enabled students to contextualise chemistry taught in class to everyday life and demonstrate key lab skills. This approach also provides an outlet for students to enhance their communication skills and acts as an additional mechanism for Glenn to share feedback. Glenn also uses social media interfaces to complement mobile applications developed in York for game-based learning.

By working as part of our internationally leading Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence (GCCE), Glenn gives students a birds-eye view of research being conducted at York. For example, Glenn shared his research into designing green chemistry experiments for the teaching lab while in the Amazon rainforest – research that students then later completed as part of their own undergraduate studies.

In 2017, Glenn was recognised as one of the <u>top 10 UK social media superstars</u> by Jisc (formerly the Joint Information Systems Committee) in a competition celebrating excellent social media work in higher education.

Earlier this year, Glenn published a <u>paper in the leading *Journal of Chemical Education*</u>, outlining some of the ways he uses Snapchat with students. The THE Awards 2018 will take place in London on the 29 November, when the award winners will be announced.

Reflecting on his nomination, Glenn said:

'I am delighted to have been shortlisted for such a special award. I would like to dedicate this to the marvellous students at York together with my inspirational and supportive colleagues. It is a great privilege to work with so many talented students and to see them reach their potential.'

Professor Duncan Bruce, Head of Department, said:

'It is wonderful to see Glenn shortlisted for this award. Here in the Department we pride ourselves in providing a top-quality teaching and learning environment – the dedication and innovation of our talented academic staff, as exemplified by Glenn, is crucial in allowing us to achieve this.'

The <u>Times Higher Education Awards</u> are widely recognised as the Oscars of the higher education sector, attracting hundreds of entries that exemplify the talent, dedication and innovation of individuals and teams across all aspects of university life.

New Insights into Insulin Physiology and Insect-Transmitted Diseases

An international research team, led by Professor Marek Brzozowski, has fully characterised the insulin binding protein from the fruit fly. This provides new insight into human physiology and potential new routes to interfere with insect-transmitted diseases such as malaria and yellow fever.

The insulin binding protein helps to control animal physiology, including both insects and humans, and the pathways of insulin-based hormonal signalling pathways are highly conserved between species. As such, fully understanding a key component in this pathway, the insulin binding protein, is of vital relevance in both insect and human physiology.



Structure of Insulin Binding Protein (Imp-L2).

The availability of insulin growth factors (IGFs) is controlled by both IGF-Binding Proteins and Insulin Binding Proteins (IBPs). Importantly, in the new work, <u>Professor</u> <u>Brzozowski</u> and his research team have demonstrated that these two groups of proteins are very different. The newly characterised insulin binding proteins therefore represent a new strategy to regulate the bioavailability of insulin-like hormones.

The researchers, based here in York, as well as at companies and universities in Denmark, Australia and Belgium, showed that insulin binding proteins bind both human insulin and insulin growth factors with high affinities, and deciphered in detail the 3D structures of such complexes.

Understanding these proteins may help shed light on insulin-dependent process of human neurodegeneration and ageing. These fruit fly-like IBPs are also present in insects involved in transmitting diseases, such as malaria,

dengue and yellow fever, and the findings of this research will therefore help suggest new ways to interfere with these insect-transmitted diseases, and may open up new possibilities for therapies.

Commenting on the research, Professor Marek Brzozowski said:

"We believe that the impact of our results will result from interests of many different research groups working towards better and more ethical animal models of human neurodegeneration, metabolic disorders and aging, and will open new venues for tackling insect-transmitted diseases. We already initiated some work here in York with current collaborators and colleagues from the Department of Biology."

This research is published in *Nature Communications*.

Prof Gideon Davies Awarded Haworth Memorial Lectureship

Professor Gideon Davies FRS has been awarded the Haworth Memorial Lectureship for his vital contributions to carbohydrate chemistry, and investigations of their biological roles.



<u>Professor Gideon Davies</u> has been awarded the <u>2018 Haworth</u> <u>Memorial Lectureship</u> from the <u>RSC Carbohydrate Group</u>, in recognition for his structural and chemical investigations of the biological roles of carbohydrates, dissection of enzyme reaction coordinates and the application of ligands for cellular insight.

The <u>Haworth Memorial Lectureship</u> was founded in 1969 in commemoration of Sir Norman Haworth (President of the Chemical Society 1944-46). It is awarded in recognition of sustained, internationally recognized contributions to carbohydrate chemistry. Previous awardees include Nobel Prize winners and some of the world's leading glycoscientists.

Professor Gideon Davies has been recognised as one of the world's foremost carbohydrate chemists. In particular, his name is synonymous with the field of polysaccharide degradation, whether that be in the medical aspects of glycobiology, understanding the human microbiota or in the context of developing industrial biofuels.

Some of his recent work has unveiled the structure of the human O-GlcNAc hydrolase enzyme – inhibitors for which are now in clinical trials to <u>treat neurodegenerative disorders</u>. With Professors Harry Gilbert and Harry Brumer, he has made pioneering strides into understanding the diverse enzymatic syndicates used by gut microbiota to degrade human dietary polysaccharides such as xyloglucans, mannans and pectins. He also has a strong interest in biotechnological aspects of polysaccharide degradation, as exemplified by his pioneering work, with Professor Paul Walton, on the discovery and application of <u>diverse Cu-dependent lytic polysaccharide oxygenases</u> that can break down waste biomatter to yield valuable chemical feedstocks.

Professor Davies is a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) and is the Royal Society Ken Murray Research Professor, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He will be awarded his medal, and deliver the Haworth Lecture at the 2019 Spring meeting of the RSC Carbohydrate group.

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 on the intranet homepage or at this <u>link</u>.

York Atmospheric Chemist Gives British Science Festival Presidential Address

As newly named president of the British Science Association's Chemistry Section, Dr Jacqui Hamilton recently spoke on the UK's dangerously high diesel fuel pollution levels, and the hidden emissions we aren't yet detecting.



Estimate of the underestimation factor of diesel emissions in the UK's Emissions Inventory compared to ambient measurements taken in London during winter. In the address, which marked the start of her year-long presidency, <u>Dr Hamilton</u> focused on research carried out at the Department of Chemistry's <u>Wolfson Atmospheric Chemistry</u> <u>Laboratories</u> into the impact of diesel emissions on air quality, including the "missing emissions", and explored what this means for our health and the planet.

Heart disease and stroke are the two most common causes of premature deaths due to air pollution, with other impacts including increases in respiratory and cardiovascular disease and cancer. By far the most damaging air pollutant to health is particulate matter (PM). The World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe estimated that in 2010, the total damage costs of the health impacts and mortality of air

pollution to the EU was US\$1.6 trillion (WHO, 2015). Ever since the United States Environment Protection Agency issued a Violation Notice of the Clean Air Act to the car manufacturer Volkswagen (VW) in 2015, the emission of harmful pollutants from diesel engines has received considerable public attention. The installation of a defeat device in VW vehicles led the cars to emit levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a toxic pollutant, exceeding current emission regulations. In the UK, the fraction of newly registered vehicles using diesel fuel has risen from less than 10 per cent in 1991 to almost 50 per cent in



2015, but sales dropped by 17 per cent last year as a result of the ongoing fallout from this scandal. There is mounting evidence to suggest that diesel vehicle emissions of NO_x are too high under normal driving conditions. Dr Hamilton's presentation will investigate the role of other "missing" pollutants from diesel vehicles, in particular long chain hydrocarbons, and discuss their impact on air quality.

Dr Hamilton, nominated for presidency of the chemistry section as an individual who has made a significant contribution to their scientific field, said:

"I'm delighted to be presenting this important research to the public at the British Science Festival and hope to stimulate some interesting discussion."

The address, entitled "<u>Missing Emissions</u>", took place at the Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull on Friday 14 September.

<u>The British Science Festival</u> is Europe's longest standing science festival and the largest public showcase for science in the UK. It brings a programme of free events to the public over four or five days, in a different part of the country every year, aiming to connect people with scientists, engineers, technologists and social scientists. It is organised by the <u>British Science Association</u> (BSA), founded in 1831 and incorporated by Royal Charter. The BSA's first meeting was at the Yorkshire Philosophical Society in York. Its mission is to "transform the diversity and inclusivity of science; to reach under-served audiences, and increase the number of people who are actively engaged and involved in science".

Times Good University Guide 2019

The Department of Chemistry has placed 3rd in the latest Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

THE SUNDAY TIMES University Guide 2019

Rising one place from last year, the Department has made its mark as one of the best places to study Chemistry in the UK, reflecting our reputation for teaching and research excellence and dedication to the student experience.

The league table is derived from official data from the <u>Research Excellence Framework 2014</u>, the <u>Higher</u> <u>Education Statistics Agency</u> and this year's <u>National Student Survey</u>, and also takes into account factors such as graduate prospects and social inclusion. This ranking rounds off a brilliant year for the department, making the top ten in all three major UK league tables.

Chemistry is one of nine departments at York to achieve top ten status.

Professional@York Awards

Is there a member of the Chemistry Professional Support team who you feel deserves recognition for excellent or outstanding work? If so please nominate them for one of the **2018 Professional@York awards**.

Nominations for the 2016 Professional@York staff awards are open until midnight on 12 October 2018. Winners will be announced at the Professional@York conference on Thursday 13 December.

These awards recognise the excellent work done by our professional support staff, whether that is excellent service provided or outstanding support given.

Any staff member can make a nomination via the online form.

If you have any queries, please email professional@york.ac.uk.

Inspirational New National Teaching Fellow

Professor Andrew Parsons has been awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy in recognition of his inspirational and innovative approaches to teaching.



The National Teaching Fellowships are awarded on an annual basis by the <u>Higher Education</u> <u>Academy</u>. The <u>National Teaching Fellowship</u> (NTF) scheme celebrates and recognises individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in higher education.

<u>Professor Andrew Parson's</u> approach to teaching combines inspiration and innovation with solid and secure student learning. His use of the lecture format is particularly novel, for example

deploying poetry, pop music, printed t-shirts and pre-lecture slideshows to help students remember fundamental principles. This has even attracted students from other departments to attend his lectures!

Working with AstraZeneca, he pioneered the introduction of pilot-scale experiments into the undergraduate programme. Third year students are introduced to the excitement and challenges of process development chemistry as part of a team project to prepare a 'blockbuster' medicine under different conditions, and hence discover the most effective synthetic route.

Andy also introduced 'chemical communication' final year projects into the BSc programme, whereby students can gain academic credit for working in local schools and developing an educational intervention for the pupils they are working with. These projects have proven to be an ideal stepping-stone for students considering a career in teaching Chemistry, as well as providing role models for local school pupils.

A keen advocate of technology enhanced learning; in January 2017, Andy delivered the first ever University of York MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), called '<u>Exploring Everyday Chemistry'</u>.

Following a re-run in July 2018 the course has now attracted over 10000 learners from over 100 countries. It was recognised as 'excellent' following Quality Assurance, and received outstanding learner feedback including:

"Being taught by someone with such passion in what they do makes the learning process an awful lot easier! And fun!"

Andy continues to innovate in his teaching of chemistry and, over the next few years, he is leading a team in an ambitious e-learning project aimed at fourth-year Masters students.

Reflecting on his National Teaching Fellowship award, Andy said:

"I am absolutely delighted! Although an individual award, my efforts to provide innovative, engaging and inspiring teaching and learning experiences has arisen through collaboration – I am very grateful for all

the help and support of colleagues and I have been very fortunate to work with so many talented and highly motivated chemistry students."

The National Teaching Fellowship awards have been running since 2000, with up to 55 individuals from across the whole Higher Education sector being recognised each year. On gaining the award, fellows play an ongoing role in enhancing teaching and learning within their institution, the HE sector and further afield. The Department of Chemistry is unusual in now having two National Teaching Fellows, the other fellowship having been won in 2013 by <u>Professor David Smith</u>.

New Starters

Oliver Bayfield, PDRA with Fred Anston (YSBL) Room: B/L019; Ext: 8658; Email: <u>oliver.bayfield@york.ac.uk</u>



Emily Cope, Teaching Laboratories Demonstrator with Nick Wood Room: C/B103; Ext: TBC; Email: <u>emily.cope@york.ac.uk</u>

Ben Coulson, Research Associate with Richard Douthwaite Room: TBC; Ext: TBC; Email: <u>ben.coulson@york.ac.uk</u>



RSC Central Yorkshire Section "Top of the Firm" Quiz

This ever-popular quiz will this year be held in the Loft at Walmgate Ale House on the evening of Friday 9 November. Those of you who are members of the RSC may have already seen this event advertised in your local section programme card. Many teams from the Department have taken part before, and will hopefully agree that it is a fun evening (with some teams getting very competitive!)

We are limited to registering 12 teams (of four people) for the quiz - strictly on a first-come-first-served basis. Everyone is welcome to form a team from your workplace - an office / lab / research group / student group etc. The quiz is designed to be fun and, although there might be a few chemistry-based questions, there will be many more rounds where an ability to recognise obscure flavours of crisp, identify lower league football stadiums from aerial photographs, build a tower out of spaghetti, or recall the theme tunes from children's television programmes might come in handy!

If you're interested, please could a nominated team captain <u>e-mail Derek Wann</u> a team name and the names of up to four team members. Witty team names are positively encouraged, and may be rewarded with a prize.

2018-19 Seminar Programme

The Departmental Seminar Programme for the Academic Year 2018-19 has been launched. This year's schedule includes RSC award and prize winners, other departmental seminars, inorganic, organic and physical seminars and a number of internal speaker slots. I'm sure you'll agree we have a great programme coming up, from a diverse group of speakers, which will be of interest across disciplinary boundaries. This is unlikely to be an exhaustive list, with *ad hoc* seminars organised at shorter notice.

Highlights this term include the mini-symposium with RSC award winner Jeff Moore from Illinois to help mark the launch of our new molecular materials group, talks from many of our new academic colleagues, and the anniversary public lecture on 11 October given by Molly Stevens. There are many, many more – see the table below for some of this term's seminars and look at the events page on the Departmental website for more information, as well as each edition of Update.

Finally, I'd like to ask that we all make an effort to attend a good proportion of the seminars. Not only is a vibrant seminar programme a great advert for the Department, with good attendance sending our visitors off with a positive impression of York, it also presents us all with a wonderful personal opportunity for learning, networking, career development and - as a colleague recently commented - inspiration. I hope you will enjoy this year's programme.

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Date	Speaker(s)
03/10/18	Alexandra Males; Conor Rankine; Stuart Grange; Anna Zhenova (all University of York)
10/10/18	Mark Crimmin (Imperial College London)
11/10/18	Molly Stevens (Imperial College London)
12/10/18	Ning Yan (National University of Singapore)
17/10/18	Pauline Drouhin (Sygnature Discovery)
19/10/18	Jiri Vana (University of Pardubice); Kilian Muniz (ICIQ)
24/10/18	Aneurin Kennerley; Lianne Willems; Jamie Blaza (all University of York)
31/10/18	Mike Ingleson (University of Manchester)
14/11/18	Steve Christie (Loughborough); Natalie Fey (Bristol); Richard Bourne (Leeds)
21/11/18	Dave Townsend (Heriot-Watt University)
05/12/18	Jenny Clark (University of Sheffield)
10/12/18	Jeff Moore (Illinois); Alyssa-Jennifer Avestro (Durham / York); Chris Spicer (York)
12/12/18	Duncan Wass (University of Bristol)

- Derek Wann

Clarke Group News

Congratulations to Sam Griggs who passed his PhD viva on 6 September. Sam is now doing postdoctoral work in the group of Professor Steve Marsden at the University of Leeds.

Paul visited MChem Industry student Emily Wheeldon, who is carrying out her placement year at F. Hoffmann La Roche in Basel, Switzerland. He also had a bit of time to explore the picturesque town of Lucerne (photos below) and to bring back some of the local delicacy - chocolate!

Paul gave an invited lecture at the Gregynog Synthesis Workshop at Gregynog Hall in Wales. Paul's lecture presented the latest results of the group's 'clip-cyle' synthesis of cyclic amines - the subject of Chris Maddock's PhD research.



Funds Raised for St Leonard's Hospice in Memory of Robin Virgo

St Leonard's Hospice



The Department of Chemistry has raised a total of £240.43 for St Leonard's Hospice in memory of Robin Virgo from donations from both the Christmas quiz and the summer speed-quizzing event. We have also raised £557.70 from the JustGiving page (set up in December 2017 by friends and colleagues of Robin Virgo) giving a **grand total of £798.13**!

Thank you to all who have donated. For anyone who wishes to donate and hasn't already done so, please visit the <u>JustGiving page</u>.

The North Group in Rio (Again)

In August, Professor Michael North and Dr Katie Lamb travelled to Rio de Janeiro as part of a Royal Society funded GCRF project to collaborate with the group of Professor Claudio Mota at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. This was the third time in three years that Professor North has visited Rio de Janeiro to establish a collaboration with a significant GCRF eligible country in South America. This visit was to deliver a one day workshop on green and sustainable chemistry at the Federal University. The workshop was a big success, attracting over 20 delegates. During the morning, there were four presentations (two from York and two from Rio) and in the afternoon, the delegates worked in small groups to analyse recent papers on CO₂ utilisation from a commercial viability perspective.



Attendees at the green and sustainable chemistry workshop

The workshop was arranged to immediately precede the International Conference on Carbon Dioxide Utilization (ICCDU) which was also held in Rio de Janeiro. Professor North was one of the plenary lecturers at the conference this year and Katie Lamb delivered an offered contribution on her PhD work. This year's ICCDU was organised as part of the UK-Brazil Year of International Scientific Collaboration and was sponsored by both the RSC and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, both of whom had delegates at the conference. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office delegate arranged for Professor North to be interviewed on Anglo-Brazilian cooperation and CO₂ chemistry by the Brazilian science magazine *Galileu*. The interview can be read (in Portuguese) on the *Galileu* website.

The UK had the second largest number of delegates at the conference (behind Brazil) and the British Consul General for Rio de Janeiro held a caipirinha reception for the UK delegates at his penthouse apartment which offered outstanding night time views of both Sugar loaf mountain and Corcovado. In addition to the scientific sessions, the conference included a visit to the Maracanã football stadium (on a rainy Monday afternoon) and there was time for some additional sightseeing between the workshop and conference. Next year's ICCDU will be somewhat closer to home in the German city of Aachen.



Professor North delivering his plenary lecture at the ICCDU



The view of Rio at sunset from sugar loaf mountain

O'Brien Group News

AstraZeneca CASE Conference

Final year PhD students Paul Jones and Tom Downes gave presentations at the AstraZeneca CASE Conference on 6-7 September in Macclesfield. Both talked about their work on the 3-D fragments project. York was very well represented at the meeting (see photo below of Peter, Paul and Tom with other people with York links): ex-York AstraZeneca employees included Darren Stead (PhD in the O'Brien group), Steve Raw (PhD and post-doc in the Taylor group) and James Douglas (York undergraduate); PhD student Jennifer Nelson (currently with Matt Gaunt) was a York undergraduate; Susannah Coote (Lancaster University) (PhD in the O'Brien group) is a supervisor of one of the other PhD student presenters.



EU ITN FRAGNET Meeting

PhD student Hanna Klein and Peter attended the EU ITN FRAGNET Meeting on 10-15 September in Budapest. Hanna was accompanied by Hubbard group PhD students Eleni Makraki and Bas Lamoree and ex-York undergraduate David Hamilton (currently carrying out a PhD in Amsterdam). All the York PhD researchers gave great talks on their recent work. There was also time for socialising and networking, including an evening meal on a river boat on the Danube.



RSC Heterocyclic & Synthesis Group Postgraduate Meeting

Three members of the group, Paul Jones, Tom Downes and Nico Seling, presented posters at a postgraduate meeting organised by the RSC Heterocyclic & Synthesis Group, which was held at GlaxoSmithKline, Stevenage on 20 September. Tom also gave an excellent flash poster advert.





Thank you!

With your help we have managed to raise

£1014.32

at the MacMillan coffee morning 2018



• £246.99 Chemistry coffee room

- £ 707.33 YSBL/Biology atrium
- £ 60 total text donations from both events



CANCER SUPPORT

Many thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated!

Wendy Offen (YSBL) & Helen Burrell (Chemistry)

James Shannon Wins First Place Talk Prize at Syngenta Chemistry Collaborative Research Conference

York PhD Student James Shannon has been awarded best research talk at the Syngenta Chemistry Collaborative Research Conference 2018. James presented his PhD project on the 'Use of carbonaceous materials for the improvement of agricultural resilience' to both peers, academics and senior personnel at Syngenta's International Research Centre at Jealott's Hill. The two day event took place on 13-14 September and hosted seven research talks from PhD students in their final year or now as postdoctoral researchers, and ten poster presentations from Year 1 and 2 PhD students. James excelled amidst intense competition, winning the 1st Place Talk Prize and receiving honours from Dr Steve Smith, Head of Crop Protection, Syngenta.

James works in the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence (GCCE) and is supervised by Dr Avtar S Matharu and Professor James Clark.



James is pictured with his award. L to R: David Burns (Syngenta, Conference Organiser), James Shannon, Martine deHeer (Syngenta, Industrial Sponsor), Avtar S Matharu (PhD Supervisor)

Chemistry Graduation



The Chemistry Graduation ceremony took place on Thursday 26 July followed by a drinks reception in the Department. Graduates and their guests joined staff for drinks and cake to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to all the students who graduated.

Barby, Liz and Olga's 10K Race for Life

Barby Procacci, Olga Semenova and Liz Fear ran the 10K Race for Life as the CHyM runners group on 16 September. They had a great day and there was a fantastic atmosphere during the race with thousands of participants.

They would like to thank those of you who sponsored them and if someone else would like to do so you are still in time! Here is the link!!!

https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/chym-runners

- Barby, Olga and Liz



