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Date of Next Issue: 25th May 2012

Calendar of Events

RSC Accreditation Visit
Date: Tuesday 8th May
Time: 8am—5.30pm
Location: Department

Departmental Symposium—RSC Award Lecture
Date: Wednesday 16th May
Time: 2pm—4pm
Location: A101

Cantor Lecture 2012
Free tickets will be available from the University Events Office.
Date: Friday 25th May
Time: 5.30pm
Location: Physics P/X001
RSC Organic Division NE Regional Meeting

The RSC Organic Division NE Regional Meeting took place in the Department of Chemistry, University of York on 28th March 2012. The meeting was well attended with over 160 registered delegates from 7 universities and several local companies. In addition to the two award lectures by Dr. John Clough (Creativity in Industry) and Prof. Lew Mander (Robert Robinson), there were 8 supporting lectures given by chemists from regional universities and companies. The diversity of the speakers can be highlighted by the lectures given by John Cooksey a postdoctoral researcher at Leeds, Clare Mahon a PhD student at Newcastle, David Whitehead an industrial chemist from Covance, as well as a number of lectures given by established 'younger' academics. In addition to the lecture programme a vibrant poster session was held with about 50 postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers presenting posters. Three prizes were awarded to the posters judged the best by a committee of the RSC award winners and the Organic Division representative.
Nepic and the BOC Primary School Environmental Award

This year, I was part of the panel to co-ordinate and judge one of the North East of England Process Industry Cluster (Nepic) awards, the BOC Primary School’s Environmental Award. This award is well established in the north east region, with a prize fund of £2000. It encourages environmental awareness/action by the pupils by asking them to suggest a deliverable environmentally themed idea. This year, there were over 20 entries, all of an extremely high standard. Nine schools were shortlisted in the top scoring category of applications and received a special Highly Commended certificate to mark this achievement. The winning school was Wilton Primary School, Redcar, who plan to develop a wildlife area in their school grounds to include a mini beast sanctuary.

The award was formally presented to Head Teacher, Alison Hill, on the evening of 20th January 2012 at the annual Nepic Awards dinner.

By Nicky Waller, Advisory Teacher for the North East

Kriss Akabusi, CEO of The Akabusi Company (delivering high energy, motivational presentations and coaching), Nicky Waller, Advisory Teacher for the North East and Dave Lockyer from BOC.
Chemistry Does It Again!

Last year the Chemistry Admissions team were shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards in the "Outstanding Student Admissions Team" category - and attended a glittering prize dinner on Park Lane with Julian Clary as the compere (above).

Now, the Chemistry Admin Team have been shortlisted in the “Outstanding Departmental Administration Team” category. The gala dinner is on June 21 at the Grosvenor Hotel in London.

The list of short-listed categories and teams can be found at: http://www.thelmawards.co.uk/thelma2012/shortlist

Top 7 Position for Chemistry@York

The Department of Chemistry achieved an overall score of 92.8% (ranked 7th) for Chemistry in the Complete University Guide 2013. The league table highlighted the excellent performance of The Department of Chemistry in various areas including student satisfaction and research assessment.

The University of York was ranked 12th overall and it was noted that York has the highest average score for teaching quality in the British university sector. Students in every department - both undergraduate and postgraduate, are taught and advised by leaders in their field.

Other strengths mentioned included the completion of the £20 million refurbishment of the Library, the new £9 million sports village, and a £29 million redevelopment of the Department of Chemistry. The strong tradition of student volunteering is also highlighted as is York being the UK’s first 'Science City' with a knowledge-driven economy.
Interview with Dr Jacqui Hamilton

We are hoping to make interviews with members of staff from all categories a regular feature of Chemistry Update so if you are willing to interview someone or have suggestions for who you would like interviewed then please let Luiza or Katy know.

Dr Jacqui Hamilton was appointed as lecturer in the Department in 2008

Jacqui was interviewed by Lucy Carpenter on her maternity leave – 5th Apr

Jacqui returned from 9 months maternity leave in Sept 2011, and now works 3 days a week whilst her son Max (now nearly 18 months old) goes to nursery. In the last 2 months before her baby was due, Jacqui worked very hard to finalise papers and grant submissions. She was an applicant on 3 grant applications during this time, of which 2 were subsequently funded. She even submitted a grant as co-I whilst on maternity leave, having written the text beforehand! The only downside to this was handling referee reports from the submitted papers a couple of months down the line with a young baby to look after…However, the substantial effort put in has certainly paid off, although coping with research, teaching and numerous hospital visits in the last few weeks of pregnancy was no mean feat.
Whilst away, Jacqui benefitted from colleagues within the Atmospheric Chemistry group to keep an eye on research activities, with Ally Lewis managing her PhD students. Jacqui notes that one of the challenges of coming back to academic work is catching up with the rapidly changing research arena. Another concerns the nature of part-time working, in that it is very hard to schedule un-timetabled teaching activities (e.g. tutorials) with limited flexibility on timing. In order to give her more time to fit in her numerous responsibilities, Jacqui will start working 4 days a week from June this year. Despite the challenges, Jacqui is successfully combining parenthood and academia.

The tricks? Become (even) more efficient and organised, get used to little sleep, write grant applications at strange times, and make the most of the flexibility of academic work!

Jacqui is currently benefitting from a term’s leave from admin and teaching responsibilities after being encouraged and supported by the Department to apply for funding from the University Development Fund for Early Career Researchers.

**Caption Competition Winner**

Thank you to all who entered last issue’s Caption Competition.

Congratulations to Phil Helliwell who is this month’s winner of a bottle of wine!

This is his caption:

“With the Smart board out of action, Teaching Lab staff revert to the old 'analogue' system to direct students around the labs”.

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Christopher Windle Presents Poster at House of Commons

Third year graduate student Christopher Windle of Professor Robin Perutz's research group was selected from students throughout the country to present a poster for SET for Britain poster at the house of commons.

Chris said of the day “It was a really interesting and fun day at the house of commons. Presenting your own research is always enjoyable. The contrast of discussing my work with experts in the field and MPs without a science background kept me on my toes. It was a great opportunity to network and see what other students are up to. Discussing the joys of PhD life over tea and pink profiteroles beneath Big Ben is an experience I'll never forget!”

Use of Smart Boards

As you may be aware, over the Easter vacation Smart Boards were installed in A107, A130, A132 and A140. These boards may be used in a variety of ways:

1. as a Smart Board using the pens and eraser provided, the resulting pages may be stored on a USB drive for future use.

2. with a computer as a data projector, the Smart Board features mentioned in 1 may be used. There is dedicated software available, which is not essential for this use, but will enhance the features available. The departmental laptops will have this software installed.

3. with a video device - camera, DVD etc.

Further instructions including how to get the Smart Board software are available on the Audio visual and computer equipment website at: http://www.york.ac.uk/chemistry/internal/workchem/av/smartbrd/
Peter O’Brien Group News

Peter gave a research seminar at The University of Nottingham on 29th February.

Xiao Wu, Dave Burns, Peter Rayner, Giacomo Gelardi and James Firth all presented posters at the RSC Organic Division North East Meeting held in York on 28th March. Peter Rayner won one of the poster prizes for his work on “Chiral Carbanions in a Bottle”.

At RSC Organic Division North East Meeting meeting, Peter gave a lecture, entitled “Seeing is Believing”, on his group’s recent work using in situ React IR spectroscopy to monitor lithiation reactions.

On 12th April, the O’Brien group headed off to Leeds to support Dave Burns and Philip Sellars who were giving talks at the 23rd SCI Regional Graduate Symposium on Novel Organic Chemistry. Both gave excellent talks that were very well-received.

Finally, the group published a key paper recently (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2012, 134, 5300), which highlights the potential of combining synthetic organolithium chemistry with in situ React IR spectroscopy, in situ NMR spectroscopy and DFT calculations. This work resulted from a collaboration with Professor Iain Coldham at The University of Sheffield and the differences between a five-membered ring and a six-membered ring were remarkable and totally unexpected.

New Extension for Telephony

Telephony have created a new extension number for moves and changes (changing extension numbers and trunk access) and faults.

If you could inform your staff to dial extension 1015 for moves and changes and faults, this will speed up the process in the future!

To get the latest information on faults/upgrades/changes on the telephone system sign up to Telephony twitter feed @UoY_Telephony.

Peter Jarvis, Information Centre Services Manager
Vitae Yorkshire & North East Hub Public Engagement Competition—Research Students & Research Staff

Do you have a passion for your research?
Would you like to have a real opportunity to engage others in your research?

The Vitae Yorkshire and North East Hub will be hosting a Public Engagement Competition. The Competition will be included as part of a Public Engagement Conference on the 8th May in York. The day will include academic keynote speakers and interactive workshops to help researchers gain a better understanding of how to communicate the key message of their research to the public.

The competition will take the following form:

8 May Conference, Royal York Hotel - Open to all PGR students and Research staff form the Yorkshire and North East region.

24 winners from the competition on the 8th May will get the opportunity to engage children and adults alike with their research in a truly public arena, the Sheffield Winter Gardens as part of the Sheffield Children’s festival on the 7th July 2012. They will also receive bespoke public engagement training from the ‘Training Group’ a specialist public engagement training consultancy on one of the following dates: University of Leeds: Tuesday 29 May 2012, University of Newcastle: Friday 1 June 2012

(Please note to apply to the competition you need to be available on one of the training dates above and also on the 7th July in case you are chosen to exhibit your work in Sheffield)

In order to enter the competition you will be asked to bring with you an A3 sized poster of your research, plus a 200 word description of how you would engage the people in the Sheffield Winter Gardens if you got the opportunity. The poster and description will be displayed and judged on the 8th May and the 24 winners announced on the same day. If entering the competition you must be available for the dates highlighted below:

- Booking for the conference closes on 1st May
- Public engagement conference 8th May 2012 York
- Bespoke training session 29th May 2012 Leeds or 1st June in Newcastle
- Public Engagement showcase 7th July Sheffield
The competition guidelines can be accessed [here](http://www.vitae.ac.uk:80/YNE_PEC2012_bookingform) or by clicking on the link on the right hand side.

To book a place please follow this link: [http://www.vitae.ac.uk:80/YNE_PEC2012_bookingform](http://www.vitae.ac.uk:80/YNE_PEC2012_bookingform)

For more info, visit the [website](http://www.vitae.ac.uk:80/YNE_PEC2012_bookingform)

### Staff Discounted Unibus Tickets

All the Unibus staff discounted ticket sales are now being sold directly from our Unibus provider Transdev not the University of York Information Centre. The information centre will cease to sell Unibus tickets from 10 April 2012. Tickets will be available through the on-line shop [https://buytickets.yorkbus.co.uk/UniBusOnlineSales_17.html](https://buytickets.yorkbus.co.uk/UniBusOnlineSales_17.html)

The decision to change the sale location has been for the following reasons:

The ease to purchase tickets from your desk – and then sent to your home address

You can purchase your tickets when you want rather than only when the information centre is open and no queues!

First to know about new tickets, information about bus routes…

Allows more discounts for staff as the administrative burden for the information centre has been taken away, which has provided cost savings to be ploughed back into the tickets for example the annual bus ticket has been reduced by £100!

If you have any questions with any of the above please contact Fiona Macey ([fiona.macey@york.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.macey@york.ac.uk))

### Links to Nanjing University

Brian Fulton is visiting Nanjing University on 20 and 21 May for their 110th Anniversary Celebrations and has asked if there are any links which Chemistry staff have with Nanjing which Brian can help with.

Please can you let Helen ([helen.coombs@york.ac.uk](mailto:helen.coombs@york.ac.uk)) know the details of any links you have to pass onto Brian.
Dr. Paul Clarke Standing for Election to the Position of President of the RSC’s Organic Division

Dear Colleagues,

I am standing for the position of RSC Organic Division President and my official campaign statement will be circulated by the RSC shortly and can be found at http://shearlunacy.blogspot.co.uk/2011/12/campaign-for-rsc-organic-division.html. However, I wished to write to you to specifically on the topic of engaging with Government and EPSRC in order to reverse the current policies which downgrade the importance of our subject and threaten the ability to do fundamental ‘blue skies’ chemistry research in the UK.

Most of you will be aware that over the last 12 months I, along with several others, have campaigned tirelessly to raise the profile of Organic Chemistry within Government, and to highlight the damaging nature of the EPSRC’s current policies. Indeed, many of you have supported this campaign by signing the letters I have sent to David Willetts, the Minister for Science and Universities and to David Delpy, the Chief Executive of EPSRC. Many of you have also signed the letters sent by Prof. Tony Barrett to the Prime Minister on these substantive issues. Through hard work and engaging with the media our campaigning has attracted much attention and our concerns have been raised in both the scientific and national press. Those of us involved in the campaign thought that it was imperative that the new RSC Organic Division President was someone who would keep the profile of Organic Chemistry high and our concerns on the agenda. As such I agreed to stand for the position of RSC Organic Division President and I have received the supporting nominations of a large number of figures within the Organic Chemistry community. Soon you will have the choice of voting for one of three candidates. However, I am the only candidate who is actively involved in the campaign to reverse the ‘downgrading’ of Organic Chemistry by EPSRC and I am the only candidate who has a frequent dialogue with the relevant Government minister.

The RSC is a membership driven organisation and it should campaign for the interests of all of its members. Many of us feel let down by the low profile which the RSC and the Organic Division has had in challenging the EPSRC’s policy. If elected Organic Division President, I will strive to ensure that both the Organic Division and the RSC have a higher profile on these issues and challenge policy decisions which undermine Organic Chemistry as an essential contributor to society. If you share my desire to raise awareness in Government and the research councils of the benefits that Organic Chemistry brings to the UK, then I would ask you to vote for me when your ballot paper arrives.

Thank You

Paul Clarke
EPSRC Call for Proposals

NC3Rs / EPSRC Mathematical modelling in toxicology

Invitation for proposals: The NC3Rs is seeking high-quality research proposals to address genuine mathematical challenges which develop new, or apply existing mathematical models to toxicology research and safety testing.

Closing Date: 16-05-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/mathematicalmodelling.aspx

Bright IDEAS Awards - The Big Pitch: Quantum Physics for New Quantum Technologies

Invitation for outlines: EPSRC invite Pre-Pitch Applications for exceptionally pioneering, potentially transformative research projects that work towards the Physics Grand Challenge of Quantum Physics for New Quantum Technologies.

Closing Date: 23-05-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ funding/calls/open/Pages/ bigpitchquantum.aspx

Student Futures: Sustainability at the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Interface

Expression of interest: An opportunity for EPSRC-sponsored doctoral students to undertake a residential training workshop focused on tool and techniques to enhance creative problem solving and idea generation.

Closing Date: 25-05-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/studentfutures.aspx

EPSRC Healthcare Technology Challenges for Engineering

Expression of interest: EPSRC invites proposals for research projects of up to three years in length, for novel and creative engineering research to tackle challenges within healthcare.

Closing Date: 28-05-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/healthcaretechchallengesforeng.aspx
Sustainable Society: Achieving work-life balance in a digitally dependent world

Expression of interest: The Research Councils' Digital Economy Theme invites expressions of interest from eligible individuals to attend a virtual workshop (a Creativity Greenhouse) on the challenge area of 'Sustainable Society'.

Closing Date: 28-05-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/sustainablesociety.aspx

SUPERGEN Marine challenge call 2 - 2050 research challenges for Marine energy (Wave and Tidal)

Invitation for proposals: The Research Councils Energy Programme invites proposals for fundamental research to address Marine energy challenges for the 2050 time horizon.

Closing Date: 11-06-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ funding/calls/open/Pages/ marineenergy.aspx

Innovative business models around infrastructure interdependencies

Invitation for proposals: EPSRC and ESRC invite proposals for large multidisciplinary centres exploring new business models that might arise when infrastructure is considered as a system of interdependent systems.

Closing Date: 12-06-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ funding/calls/open/Pages/ infrastructureinterdependencies.aspx

Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations (IRCs) in Sensing Systems for Healthcare

Invitation for outlines: EPSRC is making up to £25M available to fund up to 3 IRCs in disruptive sensing systems in Healthcare. Intentions to submit must be submitted by 16 April 2012 and the deadline for outline proposals is 12 June 2012.

Closing Date: 12-06-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/ircsensingsystemsforhealthcare.aspx
UK ICT Pioneers 2012

Expression of interest: This is a unique partnership between EPSRC and key stakeholders that aims to recognise the most exceptional UK PhD students in ICT-related topics who are able to communicate and demonstrate the excellence and exploitation potential of their research.

Closing Date: 13-06-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/ukictpioneers/Pages/default.aspx

EPSRC Fellowships in Manufacturing

Expression of interest: EPSRC is looking, in a follow-up to our Pilot call launched a year ago, to support a number of EPSRC Fellowships in Manufacturing who have the potential to be future research leaders in their field.

Closing Date: 05-09-2012

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/open/Pages/mfrfellowships.aspx

Fellowships

Fellowships are available in a number of priority areas http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellows/Pages/areas.aspx.

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be processed on a rolling basis - further information on the application and peer review process http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellows/Pages/peerreviewprocess.aspx.

If you experience any problems, please contact the EPSRC Webteam: webteam@epsrc.ac.uk

C2D2 Round of Funding

The deadline for the next round of applications to the C2D2 Research and Translational Funding Schemes is 12 noon on Monday 28 May. Awarded funds will need to have been spent by 31 December 2012.

Updated guidance on writing the applications, together with the new application forms, are available on the 'internal funding schemes' http://www.york.ac.uk/c2d2/research/ page of the website. Summaries of previous successful applications are also available there - select the 'pdf' link at the bottom of the page. Website: www.york.ac.uk/c2d2

Email: c2d2@york.ac.uk
**CELT Looking for Host Families**

The Centre for English Language Teaching is looking for caring families to host visiting international students and teachers in July/August, who are attending short term language, culture and professional development courses. The participants need:

- Their own bedroom, with a desk or quiet place to study
- Breakfast and evening meals during the week and full board at weekends
- Collecting from the University on their arrival and returning on their day of departure
- On their first study day, bringing to the University and collecting at the end of the day (walking/bus) - one bus ride away/maximum walking distance 30 minutes

The students are generally aged between 18-25 and stay as a 'family guest' for about four weeks, for which the host is paid a generous allowance. They are looking to experience life as part of a UK family, British culture and customs. Students usually have classes at the University on weekdays between 09.00-15.45 and are free most weekends.

**Stewards Required for Graduation—July 2012**

It's that time of year again and Registry Services are looking for people to help out at Graduation in July.

Please see the attached link if you are interested in helping out or contact Nancy Baines, Graduation Officer, for further details.

http://www.york.ac.uk/chemistry/yorkextra/stewardgrad0712.doc

Also, a reminder that if you are a member of staff wishing to attend the Graduation ceremony on Thursday 12 July at 3.30pm, please let Luiza know by *Wednesday 2 May*.

Don't forget the Degree Day Drinks will take place after the ceremony between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. More details to come soon—all welcome.