Head of School News

Dear All,

It is a great pleasure to introduce the third Newsletter in relation to the School of Chemistry. We can reflect back with a sense of great achievement on a most unusual academic year which was arguably more difficult that the preceding one. Right across the School, everyone has pulled together magnificently and our teaching and research have continued with many notable successes in both. There has even been a major (virtual) and highly successful conference held - ViCEPHEC21 - which is a credit to our colleagues involved in its organisation and which really puts the teaching practice and related scholarship in both Chemistry and Physics at Glasgow on the map.

As detailed elsewhere within this Newsletter, it is really great to see that colleagues have been recognised with professional service, teaching and impact related awards. The number of babies born to colleagues is also fabulous!

I hope that you will find the content of the Newsletter interesting. I would like to thank both Indira and Lynn for putting it together - please do not forget to let them know of any items for inclusion in the next edition.

I wish all of you well as we approach this new academic year which, whilst more normal, will still be unusual.

With very best wishes, as always,

Justin

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Recent Appointments

Valentin Fell — technician (covering Holly Yu’s post while she is on maternity leave)
Calum Walker — technician

We said goodbye to

Bee Hardy
Emma Gibson
Susan Lumgair

Professional Services Excellence Awards

Well done to Finlay Smith and Karen McLachlan, the winners of the 2021 Professional Services Excellence Team Award, along with David Truesdale and Iain Telfer.

It is absolutely great to see that the substantial contributions of Finlay and Karen in keeping the School, and the wider University, running throughout the pandemic and at every other time have been recognised as part of a thoroughly well-deserved award made to the Science Hub Stores Team.
We continue introducing colleagues who have joined Chemistry recently

Valentin Fell
Valentin has started as a technician on 7th June and is currently completing a PhD in Chemistry in Pete Skabara’s research group about organic semiconductors. Mainly, his research is focused on their synthesis and characterisation, and then processed the molecules to devices, here, transistors and OLEDs.

Emily Draper and Dave Adams welcomed baby Ffion into the world in June. Bronwen seems happy with her little sister.

Congratulations to Mark Symes and his wife on a the safe arrival of their baby son Daniel in July.
Congratulations to the colleagues who have been promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st August:

David France, Linnea Soler and Ciorsaidh Watts.

Teaching Excellence Awards

Frances Docherty has been awarded a University Teaching Excellence Award (Early Career), and

Hans Senn has been awarded a College Teaching Excellence Award (Individual Excellence).

ISIS Impact Award

David Lennon has won the 2021 ISIS Impact Award - Economy. Further details can be found at:

https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/ISIS-Neutron-and-Muon-Source-Impact-Awards-Winners-2021.aspx and

https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/The-2021-ISIS-Impact-Award---Economy.aspx,

where you will also see that our former colleague Serena Corr has been awarded the 2021 ISIS Impact Award - Science.
Well done to Chemistry!

EPSRC recognised School’s ranking in the top 6% of College members for carrying out peer review last year. 6 out of 12 of the people listed in the letter are from Chemistry:

Dave Adams
Graeme Cooke
David France
Justin Hargreaves
David Lennon
Peter Skabara

In its letter to College, EPSRC acknowledged the huge challenges in managing peer review during the pandemic.

NSS 2021

Chemistry scores have improved dramatically from last year: **92.1%** in overall satisfaction (an increase by 20.4%) which is the highest within the College and one of the highest in the University.

Other markers are:
Teaching 84.2% (+7.2%) → above target 80%
Learning opportunities 75.4% (+2.9%)
Assessment and Feedback 73% (+ 16.6%)
Academic support 78.5% (+5.6%)
Learning resources 75.7% (-4.7%)
Academic support 78.5% (+5.6%)
Learning community 79% (+12.5%)
Student voice 66.7% (+11.4%)
Congratulations to Robbie Ireland on winning the Theoretical Chemistry Section prize of the 35th Hungarian National Student Scientific Conference (OTKD) with his placement year work on 'lower bound the-

Nicki Fairbairn appeared on University Challenge as part of the University of Glasgow team against Kings' College London, aired on BBC Two on 12th July.

Unfortunately, Glasgow lost right in the last minute of the game but it was a really great experience to go down to Manchester's MediaCity to film it!
Dr Who?

Well done to the following students who recently qualified with PhDs:

Andrea Zachariou
Alexander Thom
Christopher David Kelly
Cameron Gilroy
Tianyu Hu
Daniel Andrew Mills
Matthew Craven

Katy Barber shared the Msci Class of 2020 (fake) graduation photo shoot on Twitter: “Thankyou Professor Justin Har-greaves for coming along and making everyone’s day!”
**School of Chemistry working with Welsh STEM Ambassador Hub**

Frances Docherty and Beth Paschke have been invited by Aileen Hamilton (National Partnerships Manager – SSERC Limited) to represent STEM Ambassadors in Scotland as guest speakers at two meetings of the Welsh Ambassador Hub; on 21 July and 20 September.

Aileen has been working with the STEM Ambassador Hub in Wales alongside the Royal Society of Chemistry as Welsh schools transition to a new curriculum in 2021 which is very similar to Curriculum for Excellence. Frances and Beth have been asked to share their experiences of being STEM ambassadors during curriculum change, to describe how they have delivered support for the Scottish curriculum.

“This session will explore the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Chemistry in Curriculum for Wales: curriculum planning support, including how to best use it. With special guest appearance from a Scotland STEM Ambassador sharing their own experience of working with schools and the curriculum in Scotland. It’s a very open space and we wanted a Scottish connection to give them a feeling of what can be achieved.” (Aileen Hamilton)
Linnea Soler, Beth Paschke and Smita Odedra, members of the CHERPS group, along with colleagues from School of Physics & Astronomy, have successfully organised and ran this year’s Variety in Chemistry Education / Physics Higher Education Conference (ViCEPHEC21).

The conference run over 5 days and attracted over 200 registrants and 113 abstract submissions – making it the biggest ever ViCEPHEC.

The Organising Committee’s vision was to create a fun and truly interactive experience for delegates to connect, share practice and learn. They planned a combination of synchronous and asynchronous elements to maximise engagement and accessibility.

Beth coordinated a brilliant Outreach Workshop which was very well received by the audience. Linnea & Smita worked as a team to manage multiple platforms to all aspects of the conference virtually. As well as designing and building a bespoke virtual conference venue on GatherTown, they also used an innovative blend of Padlet, Youtube, Zoom & Twitter to deliver content and engage with delegates.

Beth, Linnea and Smita would like to say a big thanks to Justin and the School for supporting ViCEPHEC21.
ViCEPHEC21 story—continued

Mentimeter feedback - delegates were asked to describe the conference in 3 words

Feedback from participants:

Alison Voice (Leeds)
HUGE THANKS to all the organising committee of ViCEPHEC21. It has been amazing. The best virtual conference I have attended. Really felt like I was F2F with old friends and new.

Paul Duckmanton (Southampton)
Thanks all. It’s been the first online conference that’s felt like the real thing.

Katherine Haxton (Keele)
The conference has been very well organised – there are considerable complexities in running an online conference, and doing so across Gather, Zoom, Padlet and Indico as well as WordPress and YouTube and Twitter is simultaneously indicative of digital awesomeness and the ingenuity of the organisers to create a great experience.

Wendy Sadler (Cardiff)
Awesome work from @linnea and @smita in constructing the amazing Gather town space. With glamorous roof terrace and working piano. You should sell the layout to other conferences!!

If you would like to view the conference talks or posters, please visit https://vicephec21.wordpress.com/catch-up/
Grant Successes

Prof Malcolm Kadodwala, (Prof Graeme Cooke, Dr Adrian Lapthorn and Engineering Co-Is), EPSRC – internal bid £95,086.

Dr Emily Draper, EPSRC – internal bid, £48,478.

Dr Drew Thomson, (Co-I, Prof Ross Forgan), Leverhulme Trust, £182,840.

Dr Joy Farnaby, EPSRC – internal bid, £9,679.

Dr Emily Draper, UKRI Fellowship, £999,433.

Dr Will Peveler, SFC, £3,000.

Dr Will Peveler (Co-I), Spraying Systems Co., £110,747.

Prof Malcolm Kadodwala (Prof Graeme Cooke, Dr. Adrian Lapthorn Co-Is), EPSRC—internal bid, £35,438

Prof Dave Adams (Co-I, Dr Emily Draper), EPSRC—internal bid, £13,185

All information correct as at 23/8/21 in Agresso and total UoG values are quoted.
Health and Wellbeing

Return to Campus – for the latest advice and information for staff and students please visit the University’s website: https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/coronavirus/

PAM Assist is an external and independent service, based in Glasgow, offered to all staff at the University of Glasgow, who can be contacted on 0800 882 4102. This is a free and confidential service.

Chemistry in the JBB

School Vignettes Series

The second season of vignettes will start on 12th October at the new time of midday. We will then have them every second Tuesday at 12:00 until Christmas, and the format will be tweaked a little to give 10 minute talks and 5-10 minutes of discussion. Names of speakers are to follow.

If you want to volunteer and book your slot, just email Gordon.Hedley@glasgow.ac.uk

Don’t forget to join staff virtual coffee breaks on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am, and 10.30am on Fridays for professional services staff