It was a pleasure to welcome our new students at the beginning of term and to welcome back those who had dispersed all over the world for the summer. The achievement of recent weeks seems to be that we have managed to keep going despite a nasty version of ‘freshers’ flu’ that came to us with our returning students and spread more quickly than usual. In and around that we have some good news to celebrate. Julie Macpherson has been named on the 2016 Top 50 Women in Analytical Science Power List.

As I write this, our undergraduates, Hayden Tobin, Isobel Holden, Lorna Flintham and Robert Richardson, in the iGEM 2016 competition are hopefully having a great time in Boston. By the time you read this I guess they will know the outcome. I wish you all a great term – hopefully without another round of illness!

**Professor Alison Rodger, Head of Department**

---

**Awards and congratulations**

**Dr Joanna Collingwood** has recently been awarded a £418k grant at the September 2016 EPSRC Physical Sciences Panel.

The three-year project includes **Prof Peter Sadler** and **Prof Pete O’Connor** as co-investigators. The award is made alongside an award of £338k to collaborator and Principal Investigator Dr Neil Telling at Keele University, for the joint project “Nanoscale metallocones and mineralization: advanced spectromicroscopy determination of the role of iron and calcium in Alzheimer’s disease”. This project area became especially topical in the autumn when new research suggested that air pollution may cause the accumulation of iron oxide nanoparticles in the human brain, a question which made front-page news internationally, and on which Drs Collingwood and Telling were invited to comment (see [here](#)).

The EPSRC project grant will increase the impact that the team can deliver in this field: it ensures that Dr James Everett (currently a postdoctoral researcher in Dr Collingwood’s group in the School of Engineering) can continue making a significant contribution in this specialist area, and it will also support recruitment of an additional experienced postdoctoral researcher to the collaborator team. A summary of the project is available [here](#).

Further congratulations to **Dr Vas Stavros** (left) who has been awarded a Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship. This one year fellowship will provide Vas with focused time to build up research and experimental techniques within Warwick Centre for Ultrafast Spectroscopy that may have the potential to impact societal challenges such as Energy and Healthcare. For more information, see [here](#).

**Dr Andy Clark** (right) and **Dr Russ Kitson** (far right) have both been awarded 3 years Fellowships of the Warwick International Higher Education Academy (WIHEA). The Academy comprises of fellows and members who each have a demonstrable commitment to Learning and Teaching and collectively represent the global and interdisciplinary staff and student body at Warwick. Fellows are expected to be actively involved in governance, WIHEA projects, development activities, networks and think tanks that set the tone and develop the direction of learning and teaching at Warwick.
Sadler Prizes

At the 8th International Symposium on Bioorganometallic Chemistry held in Moscow from 4 – 8 September, Prof Elena Milaeva of Moscow State University presented Prof Peter Sadler (left) with the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry Award for “Outstanding Achievements in Bioorganometallic Chemistry”.

At the same meeting, Prof Alexey Nazarov presented Peng (Joey) Chen (right) from the Sadler lab with a prize for the best poster.

RSC teachers’ spectroscopy visit

At the end of June, 13 teachers from secondary schools and colleges around the region visited the chemistry department to see our mass spec and NMR facilities. The teachers had all previously had a visit to their school as part of the RSC Spectroscopy in a Suitcase programme which uses a Bruker Alpha FT-IR to enhance A-level teaching of spectroscopy. The teachers were all keen to see the much larger and extensive spectroscopy facilities in the department. Of particular interest were our time of flight mass spectrometers, as this technology has recently been added to the A-level syllabus.

The visit was organised by Selina Kermode, Royal Society of Chemistry Education Coordinator for the Midlands. Dr Ivan Prokes and Phil Aston showed the teachers the equipment and explained the techniques. Dr Maria van Agthoven from Prof Pete O’Connor’s group was also on hand to answer questions.

Painkiller patches - update

Medherant Ltd, a University of Warwick spin-out developing a novel transdermal drug delivery patch technology, has completed a funding round worth £1.5M, including a direct investment of £650,000 from Mercia Technologies PLC.

Medherant’s first-in-class drug delivery platform, known as the TEPI Patch®, is designed to address many of the failings of previous transdermal drug delivery patches. The benefits of TEPI Patch® include increased drug loading capabilities and a significantly expanded library of drugs available for patch delivery, potentially including drugs that had previously failed clinical trials because of their unsuitability for oral administration. Medherant will use the new funding to advance pre-clinical studies of the TEPI Patch®, in preparation for moving into clinical studies in 2017.

For the full article, see here.

‘Why I love Warwick Chemistry’

“It has been a year now since I started here at Warwick, and one of the best things about the Department of Chemistry is the friendliness of staff and students alike. Academic and research staff are always helpful and knowledgeable, as are the support staff and admin teams as well! Everyone seems to gel together, and this has a positive effect, in my opinion, on the quality of research achieved.

I have been hugely impressed by the calibre of the facilities showcased in the department, especially the mass spectrometry, NMR and X-ray crystallography services that are provided here! The research labs have ample space to conduct research, and a chemical store is present onsite too, that has an excellent stock of reagents and items which makes the day-to-day running of a group hassle free.

For these reasons, it’s why I have personally enjoyed my time here at Warwick so far!”

Dr David Day

Materials GRP is holding a Photography Competition with the theme of “Materials Views”. The competition is open to all staff and students, from all departments; the winner will be awarded £50 of Amazon vouchers and their work will be displayed as part of the poster exhibition to be held in Materials Week in February 2017.

Full details of how to submit your entry can be found here.
**Lions Club visit**

Members of the **Lions Club of Coventry Godiva** visited Warwick Cancer Research Centre on Tuesday 27 September. **Prof Peter Sadler** and **Isolda Romero-Canelon** explained to them about research in Chemistry on new metal-based anticancer compounds.

*(Photos credit to Matt Wenzel)*

---

**Prof Peter O’Connor** and **Dr Maria van Agthoven**, in cooperation with Shum Prakash from Warwick Ventures, recently filed a patent application for two-dimensional mass spectrometry on a linear ion trap. This technique enables tandem mass spectrometry without isolation, which makes structural analysis of complex samples much easier. This project builds on previous work in two-dimensional mass spectrometry on an FT-ICR mass spectrometer. Linear ion traps are smaller and cheaper than FT-ICR mass spectrometers. Two-dimensional mass spectrometry is predicted to be much faster on a linear ion trap than on an FT-ICR. This may make two-dimensional mass spectrometry compatible with chromatography, which may exponentially increase the amount of structural information available from chromatography runs.

The first part of this project, based on computer modelling, was funded thanks to the Warwick Impact Fund Proof of Concept Award. Now, thanks to the Warwick Impact Fund Strategic Impact Award, Peter and Maria will be able to apply two-dimensional mass spectrometry on a physical linear ion trap in order to strengthen their patent application.

---

**SMASH prizewinner**

Congratulations to **Azzedine Dabo**, one of our AS:MIT students, who recently won a very prestigious prize.

In September, he presented his work at the ‘SMASH’ NMR conference in San Diego, California and not only won a book raffle, but also the best **poster** presentation (there were only 3 winners out of 72).

---

**Au revoir, Mary!**

“Thank-you Chemistry! What an adventure these last ten months... It's been fabulous. Highlights have been random chats, seeing the world transformed in microscopic images - and of course those sexy machines! Great to see people creating in the art workshops - and to see the creations of research magnified as chem-art on the big screen in the new Oculus.

Pat Unwin and Electrochemistry - a great collaboration... you made it happen, Charlie Cunningham, Peter Sadler and Alison Rodger... took the chance that started things off. Thanks to each and all who made this unique experience so enjoyable and memorable.

It’s over, but not quite. The animation film “A Being Objective” is out Nov 17th, and the chem-art film, “Planet Biscuit: Into the Micronosphere” in early December. Hope you get to see them. And if you see someone that looks like me around campus next year, it could well be - nothing in writing yet, but it looks like I’m to be the Oculus artist for the Uni. Can you ever predict what comes out of Chemistry?!”

*Mary Courtney*

---

**RSC Thursday Lectures**

The Autumn/Winter term schedule continues as follows (4 pm start in PLT unless otherwise stated):

**Week 7:** 17 November
**Week 8:** 24 November
**Week 9:** 1 December (4.30pm start)
**Week 10:** 8 December

Please check [here](#) for updates.

---

**Mzuzu Aid Cake Sale**

Thank you to everyone who baked and ate cake on Friday 23 September – a total of £130.48 was raised for Mzuzu Aid.

If you want to keep up with Mzuzu Aid’s progress you can do so [here](#).

---

*In November’s ‘Chemistry World’, there was an article on the work of Remzi Becer, who was a Marie Curie Fellow working in collaboration with **Prof Dave Haddleton** and was appointed as a Science City Research Fellow before moving directly to Queen Mary as a Senior Lecturer.*

Remzi started his work at Warwick on copper mediated polymerisation and his latest paper is an excellent example of his work and was indeed carried out by a PhD student, Resat Aksakal, who graduated from the Polymer MSc at Warwick before moving with Remzi to QMUL.*
Arrivals ….

We extend a warm welcome to the following:

Staff
Dr Cameron Bentley – Marie Curie Research Fellow
Ms Jennifer Collins – Research Assistant
Dr Benoît Coutourand – Research Fellow
Mr Thomas Floyd – Research Technician
Ms Vida Giansvile – PG Training Co-ordinator
Ms Sheila Hope – PA to Greg Challis
Ms Maria Giovanna Lizzi – Research Fellow
Dr Edward Mansfield – Research Fellow
Dr Anish Mistry – Research Fellow
Mrs Diana Palacio Lozano – Research Assistant
Dr Maria Perez Madrigal – Marie Curie Research Fellow
Mr David Perry – Research Assistant
Dr Christopher Robertson – Research Fellow
Dr Stefan Roensner – Senior Research Fellow
Dr Edward Spence – Research Fellow
Dr Mathieu Tchau – Research Fellow
Miss Gemma Turner – Stores Technician
Ms Sally Wallace – PGCTSS Administrator
Mr Sam Watson – Clerical and Technical Assistant
Dr Zhen Wei – Marie Curie Research Fellow
Dr Ina Wilkening – Research Fellow

Visitors
Mr Alfred Attah
Miss Emma Brisson
Dr Ren Jonathan Chew
Professor Geraldo De Lima
Dr Yun Geng
Dr Changan Geng
Dr Huaiyi Huang
Dr Irena Khilyas

On Secondment
Ms Samita Bawa – Administrative Officer
Mrs Olvi Luur – Finance Assistant
Ms Tanuja Rawat – Finance Assistant
Mr Ajay Sehijpal – Finance Manager

Career consultations - Wednesdays
Charlie Cunningham, our Careers Consultant, is now based in the Science Bridge Careers Office on Wednesdays from 9.30am – 11.30am (book here.) Alternatively, check in with Charlie from 11.30am – 12 noon in the 5th Floor Common Room.

Borneo expedition
From mid January to the end of April 2017, Joy Montgomery (PA to Mike Shipman) will be participating in a Raleigh International Expedition in Malaysian Borneo, working alongside young volunteers on community and environmental projects. Joy flies out to Kota Kinabalu on 20 January to look after all the administration – “a bit of a busman’s holiday” – supporting the volunteer staff and venturers throughout the expedition.

Joy will be funding all her own expenses so every donation, however small, will go to support Raleigh’s work – please visit her JustGiving page here if you would like to make a donation.

Wedding congratulations
Many congratulations to UG and PGR Administrative Officer Lucy Brickwood (now Johnson) whose wedding was held at Wethele Manor, Weston-under-Wetherley, on Saturday 22 October.

“Many thanks from me and Bill to my colleagues in the Department of Chemistry for their warm wishes and generous gifts.”

Ross Jaggers’ recent interview with the RSC featured as the first article in the October issue of RSC News.

Ross mentioned how support from his peers and colleagues from the department have been during the Role Models project.

Marathon Man
On Sunday 16 October, Adrian Fowle completed the Great Birmingham Run Half Marathon, with a finishing time of one hour and 52 minutes. Together with RIS colleague Chris Moore, who completed in one hour and 31 minutes, they raised over £800 to help support a refugee centre in Italy.

Adrian is already planning his next – full – marathon next year. Well done both!

Please email your items for the January 2017 newsletter to: chem-sec@warwick.ac.uk