As the newest member of department, and incoming Head of Department, I’d like to start by saying how much I look forward to meeting everyone in the department and working with you over the coming years. After fourteen years in Sheffield I felt that it was time for a change and was very pleased when this opportunity appeared; the department has an outstanding reputation in both research and teaching with an almost embarrassingly large collection of research leaders. My immediate priority is to find my way around - not just the geography of the building, but the university and its processes - and also to get to know everyone who is involved, in their different ways, in making the department so successful. So please go easy on me until, say, Christmas... at which point I can reasonably be expected to know what I am doing!

We have some obvious challenges coming up for 2017/18: preparation for the REF of course; department-level preparation for the new Teaching Excellence Framework, which will put teaching quality and organisation under the microscope; admissions and grant income are perennial problems; and we will be searching for and hopefully appointing some new staff. On that note, we wish Rachel O’Reilly and Andrew Dove the best of success for their new venture in Birmingham - their contributions to the department over the last decade have been immense.

I’m trying to meet the staff at the rate my diary allows: if we have not yet met, please do drop in and say hello, you will be very welcome. As long as I am in my office my door will be open.

**Awards and achievements**

Many congratulations to Professor Tom Davis who has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

Tom is part of the successful Warwick-Monash Alliance Polymer Science team, and he is also the director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Bio-Nano Science.

**Prestigious new role for Andy**

From 1 September, Professor Andy Clark will step down from his Director of UG Studies role in Chemistry to take up the appointment of University Academic Director for Education (Undergraduate). He will become part of the new University Education Executive Team (with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education).

In his new role, Andy will provide direction and coordination across key institutional priorities in education and the student learning experience. He will lead on championing undergraduate studies across the University, help to strengthen and innovate programmes, and work to support joint and interdisciplinary degrees.

He will also be working in partnership with academic departments, faculties, central service teams and the Students’ Union, thus ensuring that Warwick programmes remain distinctive and at the forefront of excellence in national and international education agendas. This includes key areas such as the follow-up of the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR) outcomes, new academic systems and quality assurance, innovation and learning experience developments, and response to external drivers such as the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

**RSC Prizewinner**

Professor Greg Challis has won this year’s Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Prize. Greg’s work focuses on the discovery of antibiotics and other useful natural molecules produced by microorganisms, with the ultimate goal being to create new medicinal and agricultural products to tackle global challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and sustainable agriculture. On receiving the £5,000 prize, Greg said:

“It is a great honour for me to receive this prize in recognition of the highly interdisciplinary research conducted by the exceptionally talented team of chemists, biologists, mathematicians, physicists and engineers working under my supervision. Their passion for, and dedication to, our shared vision of developing new ways to discover, understand and improve natural products for the benefit of humankind is a source of constant inspiration.”

The Interdisciplinary Prize is awarded for work at the interface between chemistry and other disciplines.

**Promotions**

In the recent promotions process, Vas Stavros was promoted to Professor, and Andy Clark has been promoted to Professorial Teaching Fellow.

Congratulations to both.

The Department of Chemistry has once again achieved an Athena SWAN Silver Award which is a considerable achievement. Particular thanks go to Paolo Coppo, Alison Rodger, Peter Scott and Dianne Walsh for their contributions.
Many congratulations to all of our Graduands and Prizewinners this summer:

BSc
Oluwapelumi AJILORE, Jivan Singh BADHAN, Nancy Cathryn BASS, William BROWN, Marcus Oliver BURGhes, Shivon Marie BURRIDGE, Amy Louise BUTLER, Hon Jie Zachary CHU, Katherine Louise CORNISH, Leon Francis CROSSLEY, Dilip Dhanjal, Luke DUKINFIELD, Zahra Maria FAKHRI, Piers Alexander FISHER, Jessica Alice HALL, Lucy HANDFORD, Jodie May HARRIS, Matthew HARRISON, Solene Marie Andree Nicole JAMBU-MERLIN, Faye JUBBER, Sarandeep JUDGE, Aqeel KHALID, Sonal KUCHHADIA, Alina KUZMiCH, Martin LEA, Alexander Yaoqi LEE, William LEIGH, Ka-Yan LY, Jack MCCANN, James MCMiLLAN, Oliver O’NEiLL, Malika OYEBOLA, Joanna Helen PARK, Nirav PATEL, Catherine PAWLEY, Helen Rose PRICE, Jacob PUNTER, Michael (Harry) RADLEY, Sebastian Hayden RICHARDS, Shreya Rajendra SHAH, Bowen (Celeste) SHANG, Abu-Bakkar SOHAiL, Wycliffe SSERUNKUUMA, Emily STEEN, Si Yi TAY, Ghirmal TESFAi, Izaak TYSON-HIRST, Heather Louise WAINWRIGHT, Harley WAN, Xinzhu WANG, Savia WEIDINGER, Jennifer Susan WHEELER, Ruojing YANG

MChem
Elizabeth ADSETT, Rhiannon Estelle ALFLATT, Ben ASHLEY, Alexander Neil BAKER, Lucinda Charlotte BALSHAW, Matthew BEVAN, Conor Michael BLACK, Andrew BROOKES, Emily BUGG, Patrick David CAPEL, Thomas William CHAMBERLAIN, Rajan CHAUHAN, Daniel James CHENEY, Emma COLLINGE, Christopher COUSiNS, Charlotte FOOTMAN, Claudia FRYER, Alexander HARRIS, George William HAWKER-BOND, Andrew HEARD, Isobel Ruth HOLDEN, Faaria IqBAL, Vanessa KAVUMA, Andrew KENDEiDY, Yasmin KHANOM, Yongguang Li, Neil Alexander MACQUARRiE, Eleanor Elizabeth MARKS, Samuel MARTIN, Joshua MILLINGTON, Alice MORTiBOy, Gabrielle NEWSon, Priyanka PARMAR, Barnabas POZNANSKi, Alexander Ian PRiCE, Daniel PUGH, Christian RAIMONDo, Teena RAJAN, Annie RANKiN, Joseph REED, Robert Andrew Ennis RICHARDS, Jacob Richard SARGEANT, KathryiN SELLARS, Huda SHAiKH, Helen SMiTH, Gregory SULLEY, Samuel David TROUTON, Nicholas VAIL, Matthew WADDINGTON, Christopher WRAY, Rebecca Mary WRELTON, Charlie YORKE-STaRKEy

PhD
Dr David BURNETT, Mr Rong CHEN, Dr Jennifer COLLiNS, Dr Pei E, Mr Sam FORSHAW (Masters by Research in Chemistry), Dr Guillaume HEDIR, Dr Alice HILL, Dr Nathanael HSUEH, Dr Chung Man IP, Dr Amira KSiBE, Mr Samuel LOWE, Dr Lingcong MENG, Dr Anish MISTRY, Dr Russell NEEDHAM, Dr Elizabeth OSELAND (PhD in Chemistry with Industrial Collaboration), Dr Ruth PATCHETT, Dr Tania READ, Dr Marianne ROLPH, Miss Sze-Yin TAN, Dr Anthony THOMAS, Dr Matthew TILLING, Dr Martin TYLER, Dr Dawn WOOD, Dr Gokhan YILMAZ, Dr Guohui ZHANG, Dr Shanshan ZHOU, Mr Chongyu ZHU, Dr Zoe AYRES (PhD in Physics)

MOAC PhD
Dr Joseph JONES, Dr Amy O’REiLLY, Dr Christopher SMiTH, Professor Pat UnWIN, Dr Alan WEMYSS

2017 Awards and Prizewinners

Dr Russ Kitson: The Andrew McCamley Award for Excellence in Teaching

Jennifer Wheeler (BSc Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry finalist): The University’s 2017 Outstanding Student Contribution Awards (OSCAs)

Max Saller: WATE PGR Award 2017 Commendee

Andrew Heard, Rebecca Wrelton, Charlotte Footman: The Andrew McCamley Prize for Outstanding Performance in MChem Project (Year 4)
Andrew Heard: The Infineum Prize for Outstanding Performance in MChem (Year 4)
Andrew Heard, Lucy Balshaw: The Enterprise Prize for Outstanding Performance in Year 3 2015/16 (for Year 4 MChem Industrial Training or Professional Experience student)

Emmanuella Ajilore: The BSc Prize for Outstanding Overall Performance (Year 3)
Si Yi Tay: The Lubrizol Laboratory Performance Prize (for BSc finalists) (Year 3)
Georgia Thornton: The Bruker Prize for Outstanding Performance in Year 3

Caitlin Heffernan: The David Hutchinson Memorial Prize for Outstanding Performance in Year 2
John-Paul Tyrrell: The Chemistry (Kotterman) Prize for Outstanding Laboratory Carousel Performance in Year 2
Angéline Hooper: The Oxford University Press Prize for Most Improved Performance (Year 2)

Mohammed Khimiji: The Department of Chemistry Prize for Outstanding Performance in Year 1
Rhian Colton: The Chemistry (Kotterman) Prize for Outstanding Laboratory Performance in Year 1
Congratulations to all our 2017 University Awards Winners and Highly Commended Nominees!

All nominated staff were invited to an Awards Evening at the Butterworth Hall on Friday 12 May. With 295 individual and 108 team nominations made across the University, we’d like to say a huge thank you to all those staff and students who took the time to make nominations to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of staff from right across the Warwick community.

Highly Commended: Warwick Antimicrobial Interdisciplinary Centre (School of Life Sciences / Engineering / Chemistry)

“The Warwick AMR team has been creating exciting outreach activities to enthuse members of the public about STEM at the University to tackle antibiotic resistance. These include schools workshops, public lectures, radio play, social media contests, multidisciplinary interactive demonstrations, lab tours and citizen science. The team has reached members of the general public including pupils, teachers, adults, teenagers and families. This has helped to raise awareness of Antibiotic Resistance and of the vital role of research carried out at the University. The activities have been interactive, allowing attendees to ask questions, challenge themselves with contests, visit laboratories and take part in demonstrations.”

The team includes: Professor Matt Keeling, Professor Christopher Dowson, Dr Elizabeth Fullam, Professor Elizabeth Wellington, Dr James Covington, Dr Freya Harrison, Dr Antonia Sagona, Professor Kevin Moffat, Dr Robert Spooner, Christopher Thoroughgood, Anna York, Cathy Rowland, Dr Leanne Williams, Dr David Roper, Dr Chandrika Nair and Branagh Crealock-Ashurst.

Annual Postgraduate Research Symposium

With over 200 students, staff and researchers in attendance, the Annual Postgraduate Research Symposium comprising of talks and posters from PhD Students took place on Wednesday 31 May. Congratulations to the following prize winners:

Sam Lawton 1st place; Caroline Bray runner-up (Materials and Polymers Session)
Joe Healey 1st place; Hualong Song runner-up (Chemical Biology and Synthesis Session)
Dan Warr 1st place; Lewis Baker runner-up (Physical and Theoretical & Computational Chemistry Session)
Julia Rho 1st place; Caroline Storey, Abiodun Aderibigbe runners-up (Posters)
Nikolaos Engellis 2016 Publication Prize
Rhiann Andrew and David Perry (joint) 2017 Thesis Prize (administered by the Faculty of Science) were presented with certificates at the Science Faculty event on 13 July.

Prizes for Pat

Professor Pat Unwin has been awarded the 2017 International Society of Electrochemistry - Elsevier Prize for Experimental Electrochemistry. Pat will receive the prize at the ISE’s Annual Meeting in Bologna, Italy in September 2018, where he will give an invited lecture.

Pat has also been selected by the Society of Electroanalytical Chemistry to receive the 2018 Charles N. Reilley Award. The Award recognizes outstanding research contributions in electroanalytical chemistry and will be presented at a special symposium at Pittcon in Orlando in February next year.

Pat will be the 35th winner of the Award and the first person from the UK to receive it. The Award is given in memory of the renowned US analytical chemist Charles N. Reilley and celebrates scientists whose work advances fundamental understanding in electroanalytical science over empiricism.

Pat’s group has made spectacular advances in instrumental electrochemistry in the past few years, developing innovative electrochemical imaging probes to visualise interfacial dynamic processes of wide applicability, from electrocatalysts to living cells.

Gibson, Scott and Fox Groups in JACS

Collaborative work between the Gibson, Scott and Fox groups has been published in the American Chemical Societies flagship journal, JACS. In this work, organometallic helices made in the Scott group were found to be potent ice growth inhibitors; there are very few reports of materials which can slow ice crystal growth, normally based on synthetic polymers. However, in this work, the team were inspired by the size, shape and amphipathicity of antifreeze proteins, AFPs. AFPs are produced by extremophiles in response to cold temperatures to help them survive icy environments.

The team showed that certain helices were capable of dramatically slowing ice growth, at very low concentrations, and this was attributed to their ‘patchy’ amphipathicity, which can disrupt the local water/ice interface.

Such compounds may find application in fundamental studies of ice/water (ice is one the most complex materials known) or as cryoprotectants for cell/tissue storage.

Read the full paper here.

In the photo are also Professor Feng Wang (with whom the Sadler group has established a collaboration) and a colleague, standing in front of the A&E department. The patients attending A&E must have been puzzled by the headline!
Welcome to Adam Richard Kermode who was born on 6 June, weighing 7lb 12 oz. Congratulations to Selina and James.

Congratulations to Eleni Bitziou who gave birth to Lydia Sophie Arafa on 9 July weighing 8lb 6½ oz.

Many congratulations to Russ Kitson: after several false-starts, Dom gave birth to a little girl, Olivie Anežka Amy Kitsonová (Liv/Livy for short) on 31 July weighing 8 lbs 3 oz.

And finally, Donna Corcoran gave birth to Pearl Rosie Finnegan on Wednesday 9 August, weighing 7lb 15oz.

Huge congratulations to everyone on this happy news!

**Baby Congratulations!**

**Year 12 experience Sunscreens and Glowsticks!**

Thirty-three Year 12 students attended the “Experience Warwick Year 12 Summer School” event on 13 July, with Neil Cole-Filipiak, Nat Das-Neves Rodrigues and Richard Knighton hosting the chemistry session. Nat delivered a talk which was followed by a laboratory workshop designed by the group based upon research carried out in the Stavros group. This allowed students to learn about current research taking place at Warwick and apply it in a laboratory setting (with thanks to Nick Barker for supervising).

The students were able to extract, prepare and test samples for fluorescent properties under UV lamps. They also used TLC to identify the fluorophore present in the samples. The session proved to be one of the most popular of the visit, which was reflected by the wonderful feedback from the students.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in future Widening Participation events or to be involved in Spectroscopy in a Suitcase school visits, please contact Ruth Patchett (RSC Education Coordinator) on R.Patchett.1@warwick.ac.uk.

“**My favourite session was the chemistry lab session. It was very hands-on and I enjoyed using different types of equipment. The team was very friendly and engaging.”**

“**The chemistry session was incredible. Interactive and engaging. It was interesting to learn the chemistry behind glow sticks which made me appreciate them even more!”**

“**Chemistry was really good. It was my favourite session of the whole summer school!”**

“**Working in the lab was the highlight of this summer school for me and I now want to come to study at Warwick.”**

**Annual Rounders Match – Thursday 13 July**

Rounders results

Habershon’s Heavy Hitters! bt Ship Chap
West Bromwich Stallions bt Wills group and Total Borons
The Undesirable Byproducts bt Strep up to the plate
Raining Champs bt Habershon’s Heavy Hitters!
Strep up to the plate bt Wills group and Total Borons
The A Team drew Ship Chap
The Undesirable Byproducts bt The A Team
Raining Champs vs West Bromwich Stallions

So, two wins: Raining Champs, The Undesirable Byproducts
One win: Habershon’s Heavy Hitters!, West Bromwich Stallions, Strep up to the plate
One draw: The A Team, Ship Chap
No wins or draws: Wills group and Total Borons

In the final play-off between Raining Champs and The Undesirable Byproducts resulted in a narrow win for the Raining Champs.

Well done everyone and thanks to Jon Rourke, Donna Corcoran and Wendy Brown for organising the event.

**Seminar Programme 17/18**

The RSC Thursday seminars will now be known as the ‘Department of Chemistry Seminar Programme.’

The seminars will continue to take place every Thursday at 4pm in PLT, unless otherwise stated.

The initial ‘Presidential Lecture’ will be on Thursday 5 October at 4pm in PLT.

Please check here for regular updates.

**What’s happening?**

For an update of all future Chemistry events, please see here.

Updated committee membership and meeting dates for 2017/18 are available on ChemIntra (for staff view only).
Arrivals .....  
We extend a warm welcome to the following:

Staff  
Dr Stephen Argent – Senior Research Fellow  
Dr Zoe Ayres – Research Fellow  
Ms Shamima Begum – HR Assistant  
Mrs Wendy Brown – Departmental Secretary (maternity cover)  
Mr Matthew Capener – Tutor (Laboratory)  
Dr Jeffrey Foster – Research Fellow  
Mrs Louise Hockenhull – PGCTSS Administrator  
Dr Reinhard Maurer – Assistant Professor Computational Chemistry  
Dr Binural Menon – WBIS Career Fellow  
Dr Agnieszka Mierek-Adamska – Marie Curie Research Fellow  
Ms Danielle Pearson – Tutor (Laboratory)  
Mr Keith Phillips – Stores Technician  
Mr Robert Smith – Tutor (Laboratory)  
Dr Qiao Song – Research Fellow  
Dr Gabriele Sosso – Assistant Professor Computational Chemistry  
Professor Mike Ward – Head of Department  
Dr Josh Worch – Marie Curie Research Fellow  
Dr Jie Yang – Marie Curie Research Fellow  

Visitors  
Professor Tao Chen  
Dr Gemma-Louise Davies  
Mr Juan Pablo Arenas Diaz  
Professor Keylller Bastos-Borges  
Dr Paul Kerby  
Dr Helen Playford  
Dr Isolda Romero Canelon  
Jian Zhang – Associate Professor

Careers contact  
Are you interested in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning?  
Chemistry PhDs (particularly those who use Matlab) are being targeted for these roles. Charlie is planning to hold an event in September with employers from this field – look out for further details.  
For an informal chat about the next step in your career, contact Charlie Cunningham, Senior Careers Consultant, on c.cunningham@warwick.ac.uk.

.... and Departures  
We say thank you and goodbye to:  
Mrs Nicola Cross – HR Assistant (on secondment)  
Professor Geraldo De Lima – Visiting Professor  
Dr Yun Geng – Visiting Associate Professor  
Mrs Julie Hage – Departmental Secretary  
Dr Matthias Hartlieb – Research Fellow  
Dr Myeong Lee – Research Fellow  
Dr Joleen Masschelein – Research Fellow  
Mrs Annie Morton – Administrative Co-ordinator  
Mrs Olvi Luur – Finance Assistant  
Dr Daniele Padula – Research Fellow  
Ms Tanuja Rawat – Finance Assistant  
Mrs Sam Roberts – Finance Manager on secondment  
Dr Alejandro Santana Bonilla – Research Fellow  
Ms Gemma Turner – Stores Technician  
Ms Sally Wallace – PGCTSS Administrator  
Mr Xiaoyou Xie – Visiting Fellow  
Dr Baolei Zhu – Research Fellow

HOLD THE DATE: 27/09/17  
Pete Scott will be organising the first Chemistry Open Mic night at The Graduate on Wednesday 27 September, early evening.

Further details to follow.

SMOKEFREE  
Summer is a great time to take a break outside, especially if you’re working hard in the lab or office. Some people like to take this chance to smoke or vape. Please be aware of others if you do so and try not to stand close to buildings, particularly where windows are open.

Perhaps there are alternatives you might consider - did you know you can enjoy a game of outdoor table tennis at the nearby WBS building or the Arts Centre or use the pop-up tennis set that the Sports Centre can provide? If there are other things the University might help with if you chose not to smoke on Campus, please let us know: the Library bring pets in for study breaks for example, or maybe there are other feel-good incentives you might suggest?

If you do want to quit, you are four times more likely to be successful using a stop smoking service such as the NHS approved one. Sometimes if a group of people decide to do something different together, good things can happen, so get in touch with HR or Department Health and Safety team and lets see what we can do!

Gallery C521  
To celebrate the installation of Warwick's Art Collection in the Chemistry Common Room, an evening of drinks and nibbles was arranged by Pete Scott on 7 July. We also began the process of co-creation of some descriptive labels for the new artworks.

The Curator of the University Art Collection, Dr Sarah Shalgosky, introduced the work of the Art Collection who are responsible for acquisition and installation of all University-owned art works including the Warwick icon White Koan and Everything - the spectacular paint drip installation in Maths. Sarah encouraged us to get started in adding our own text describing the works. The four in our custody, by Peter Sedgley and Allen Barker, provoked a range of comments from light-hearted to highbrow. Comments are still encouraged; stick a Post-It on the wall or visit the google doc. The more we get involved, the more likely we are to be able to host new pieces.