



UCD SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY

NEWSLETTER

July 2025



UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Cultivating a Culture of Respect and Belonging

FYI - EDI

UCD's New Hybrid Working Policy

The President announced UCD's new Hybrid Working Policy in May, which will come into effect on 1st September 2025. This is to supplement UCD's already established [Flexible Working Options](#). These currently include the Core Meeting Hours, Shorter Working Year, Job Sharing and Career Break policies.

The [Hybrid Working Policy](#) recognises that there is no 'one size fits all' solution and individuals can discuss their needs with their Head of School or Unit. Possible solutions can include, but are not limited to:

- Specific **rostered days on-campus** each week.
- On-campus days to be determined on a **week-to-week basis**, depending on the role/team activity.
- A blend between **roster/anchor day** and flexibility to attend on-campus as and when required by the role/team activity.
- **Off-peak hybrid working** for services where full on-campus presence is required only at certain times of the year.
- Cross cover as required to ensure delivery of on-campus services.

Applications for hybrid working can be submitted beginning **1st July** via Infohub.

Our School and the EDI Committee are committed to supporting these policies and our staff. Feedback from our Athena Swan Focus Groups showed that PMS and PDRA staff would like greater flexible working options. Actions put forward in our Silver AS application include:

Continued adherence to the [Core Meeting Hours Policy](#)

Identify opportunities for more flexible working for PMS staff

Offer flexible working to PDRA's

To promote flexible working to all staff through our newsletter

If you would like to become a member of the EDI/AS Committee please email kristy.stanley@ucd.ie by **15th August**.

Minister James Lawless TD Recognises 13 UCD Labs for Sustainable Research Practices

Thirteen UCD laboratories have been recognised by Minister of State for Research and Innovation, James Lawless TD, for leading the way in sustainable research practices. Four of these labs are from the UCD School of Chemistry – a fantastic achievement for the School!

Congratulations to A3.01 Lab (McGarrigle, Palma, Gilheany, & Nikitin groups), A2.01 Lab (Joseph Byrne, Hooper & Philips groups), CSCB2.12 (Peter Byrne group) and Baumann group on these sustainable laboratory certifications awarded by MyGreenLabs under a Research Ireland-led initiative. The labs are now sharing best practice with the rest of the school as we all work towards the goal of being a more sustainable school. You can read more [here](#)



Talks in External Institutions



Dr. Fun Man Fung with Host, Prof Glenn Hurst at University of York, UK.

In May 2025, Dr. Fung gave his research seminar at the University of York, hosted by Professor Glenn Hurst.



Dr. Fung gave one keynote lecture, one invited lecture (Professional and Responsible Practices In Chemistry Including Responsible Care - IUPAC Guiding Principles for the Responsible Practice of Chemistry) and participated in a Younger Chemists panel organized by the International Younger Chemists Network-Malaysia Younger Chemists Network Young Chemist Programme. He was the session chair for Education & Public Understanding.

Publications from staff and students in the School

Publications from the Baumann Research Group

Generation and Use of Reactive Intermediates Exploiting Flow Technology

(Philip Jamieson, Davin Cronly and Marcus Baumann)

Philip Jamieson, Davin Cronly and Marcus Baumann published a review titled "Generation and Use of Reactive Intermediates Exploiting Flow Technology" in CHIMIA.

Read more at the DOI is <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2025.396> and reference (in text) – CHIMIA 2025, 79, No. 6

Continuous flow chemistry for molecular synthesis

(Sarah E. Raby-Buck, Jonathan Devlin, Prachi Gupta, Claudio Battilocchio, Marcus Baumann, Anastasios Polyzos, Anna G. Slater & Duncan L. Browne)

The Baumann Research Group, as part of a multinational collaboration with academics from University College London, University of Liverpool, University of Melbourne, Syngenta, and CSIRO Manufacturing, has published a primer in nature reviews methods primer covering "Continuous flow chemistry for molecular synthesis".

Read more at Nat. Rev. Methods Primers 5, 44 (2025). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43586-025-00414-x>

Publications from the Fung Research Group

Fung, F. M., & Goncalves, R. A. (2025). Science Diplomacy as the Engine for Future Foods. ACS Food Science & Technology

Read more at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsfoodscitech.5c00545>

Widyanoro, C., Han, J. Y., Ong, J. S. H., Goh, K. H., & Fung, F. M. (2025). Teaching sustainability through green chemistry: An experiential learning approach. Journal of Chemical Education.

Read more at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.jchemed.4c01476>

Aslam, S., Han, J. Y., Chang, C. Y., & Fung, F. M. (2025). Development and Evaluation of a Free-to-Use 3D Mobile Application for a Virtual Chemistry Laboratory.

Read more at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.jchemed.5c00039>

Publication from Hans Eckhardt following a collaboration with researchers in SBFE

Marine and freshwater Nannochloropsis for the bioremediation of brewery wastewater, CO₂ capture, and CO-production of omega-3 lipids

(Felix J. Brooke, Hans-Georg Eckhardt, Ronald Halim)

Another paper with an on going collaboration from the School of Biosystems and Food Engineering/Conway Institute looking at waste water from the brewing and fermenting industry to try and reduce waste and increase yields.

Read more at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211926425003054?via%3Dihub>

Publication from the J Byrne Research Group

Antiadhesive glycoconjugate metal complexes targeting pathogens Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Candida albicans

The Byrne Research Group reports a series of glycoconjugate metal complexes and their activity against two pathogens. Anti-biofilm and anti-adhesion activity is dramatically changed by coordination to selected metal ions. Karolina led this collaborative research project between UCD, University of Galway, Maynooth, TU Dublin, University of Manchester and Université Grenoble Alpes, which is now published as an Advance Article in Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry. **Read more at** <https://doi.org/10.1039/D5OB00970G>.

Conferences/Events Attended

News from the Fung Research Group

EuroVariety 2025 in Poland

Dr. Fung delivered the opening plenary keynote speaker at the 11th EuroVariety 2025, held at Kraków, Poland July 2nd – 4th, 2025. This conference was organized by the Division of Chemical Education of EuChemS. He gave a second research presentation on Virtual Reality in Laboratory Education.



A group photo of the staff of ACS Publications and Journal Board Members at the ACS Reception for Editors. (Credit: Karen Yeo)

American Chemical Society Editors Reception 2025 in Singapore

On 22nd July, Dr. Fung was invited guest at this ACS Reception for members who serve on ACS Publications Journals as editorial advisory board members. Dr. Fung serves on the Journal of Chemical Education and JACS Au, and is the founding chair of the ACS Professional Chapter in Singapore.

Conference – IUPAC 2025 in Malaysia

Senpai Learning, the Chemistry Education Research Group at UCD Chemistry, participated in the 53rd International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) General Assembly and [IUPAC World Congress 2025](https://www.riao.ie/2025/07/10/dr-fun-man-fung-to-represent-ireland-at-the-53rd-iupac-general-assembly/) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Two students under Dr. Fun Man Fung's mentorship debuted at their first international IUPAC scientific conference, presented their research works (oral presentations).

In addition, Dr. Fung represented Ireland at the 53rd IUPAC General Assembly, appointed by the Royal Irish Academy.

<https://www.riao.ie/2025/07/10/dr-fun-man-fung-to-represent-ireland-at-the-53rd-iupac-general-assembly/>



L–R: Mr Eslam Hamed, PhD student (NUS Chemistry), Dr. Fung (UCD Chemistry), Jamie Khoo, undergraduate researcher (NUS Chemistry) at IUPAC 2025.



A photo of the IUPAC Delegates from Ireland and India, at the IUPAC 2025 Council Meeting.

Conferences/Events Attended



At IUPAC 2025, Fun Man shared a moment with UCD School of Chemistry Wheeler Lectureship 2023 Recipient Prof. Paul Anastas (Yale University)



Fun Man with Prof. Nakamura, Plenary speaker at IUPAC 2025.

At the conference, Dr. Fung acted as chaperone and hosted [Professor Eiichi Nakamura](#), ForMemRS (University of Tokyo & Nankai University) for social events.

News from the Elghobashi-Meinhardt Research Group

Nadia Elghobashi-Meinhardt was proud to represent UCD Chemistry at the 13th Triennial Congress of the World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists (WATOC) in Oslo, Norway last month! The conference brings together about one thousand theoretical and computational chemists from around the world and showcases the latest developments in a wide range of topics including electronic-structure theory, catalysis, machine learning, computing and software, quantum computing, teaching and education.



Conferences/Events Attended

Joint News from the Byrne, Loh, McGarrigle and Zhu Research Groups

UCD researchers at European Carbohydrate Symposium in Gdansk

Delegates from Loh, J Byrne, McGarrigle, Baumann and Zhu Research Groups made up a big part of the Irish contingent at EuroCarb-22 in Gdansk this July. The week-long conference featured talks from Charles (who also chaired a session), Joe, Eoghan, Zoe Beato (Zhu group), Oana Popa (McGarrigle group), Alessandro Petronilli (McGarrigle & Baumann groups), and also posters from Zoe, Oana, Alessandro and Max O'Neill (McGarrigle group).



All the Irish delegates at EuroCarb-22



Charles Loh



Eoghan McGarrigle



Joe Byrne



Alessandro Petronilli



Oana Popa



Zoe Beato

Congratulations

News from the Johnson Research Group

The Johnson Research Group wishes to congratulate PhD student Dominik Duleba, who has won the Sheelagh Campbell Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry, which recognises outstanding individuals studying for a PhD in a UK or Irish university or research institute, in the broad area of electrochemical science.

Welcome

News from the J Byrne Research Group

Byrne group farewell to summer students



The Byrne group were happy to host Catherine Chaita, an undergraduate from TU Dublin, as part of the 2nd year of the RISE programme. She spent two week, under Thomas' supervision, contributing to synthesis and analysis for one of our on-going projects. We also bid farewell to Jacqueline Engdahl from Penn State, who finished her research internship at the end of July. We wish them all the best back in their home universities.

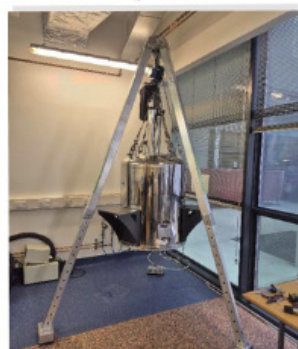


School Of Chemistry Notice Board

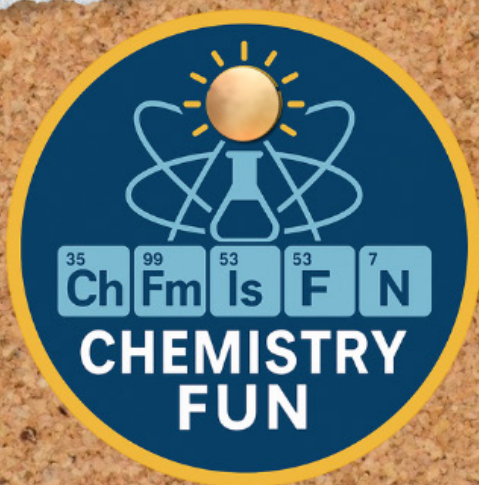
Retirement Announcement

On July 9th, a JEOL engineer decommissioned the Varian VnmrS 400 MHz system which was installed in 2005. The console has been kept for parts for the 2 Agilent systems present in the school of chemistry. The 400 MHz Oxford magnet has been run down, warmed up and then collected on July 16th for a second life at Oxford. Goodbye to this 20 years old instrument which has delivered up to 15000 experiments per year!!!!

Farewell to Varian VnmrS 400 MHz System (2005-2025)



Summer Chemistry Fun



What Do You Call a Fish Made of Two Sodium Atoms?

Answer: 2Na



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Seminar: Professor Yi-Hsin Liu, NTU, Taiwan

Mon 25th August 2025 – G-08 Ag

See details of upcoming seminars at <https://www.ucd.ie/chem/newsevents/schoolofchemistryseminarseries/>

Conferring: College of Science Postgraduates

Wed, 3rd September at 11:30 am

Wheeler Lecture

Thursday, 9th October –

Further info will be provided in due course.