

Welcome OChem Summer School 2025!



On Monday, 16th June 2025, the Organic Chemistry Summer School officially began, welcoming 71 students from universities across the United States. This year's cohort includes students from the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Pennsylvania State University, and University of California campuses—UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, and UC San Diego.

The Summer School is an intensive eight-week programme, delivered through the collaborative efforts of a large team of academics, technical officers, demonstrators, tutors and administrators. You can read more about the Organic Chemistry Summer School [here](#).

The students arrived to a typical Irish summer day—unpredictable weather and all—but were fortunate to enjoy some sunshine for their very first excursion to Glendalough. It was a perfect way to begin their time here and experience the natural beauty the country has to offer.

Thank



We would like to thank Vitaly Buckin for his teaching, research and administrative service to the School since he arrived in 1996. Vitaly will take up the role of Emeritus Professor for the coming time. So he will still be around the school. Thank you, Vitaly!



Elaine O'Reilly is stepping down as the chair of the EDI committee, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Elaine for her dedication and the significant effort she put into preparing the Athena Swan Silver Application. We also want to acknowledge the hard work of the EDI committee over the years since receiving the previous bronze award.



You



Kristy Stanley will step into this new role as chair of the EDI committee (with Serena Cussen chairing the Athena Swan SAT). We would like to thank Kristy and Serena for taking this on.



Kristy Stanley



Serena Cussen



Conferring of Graduate Degrees - Monday 23rd June 2025

On Monday 23rd June we were delighted to have ten PhD and two Taught MSc degrees conferred and we celebrated this conferring with a school reception.

It was lovely to have so many able to make it in person with their families and we took the opportunity to get some photos.

Those conferred were

James Dudley MSc (Taught) in Chemistry by Negotiated Learning
Aoife Tyrell MSc (Taught) in Synthetic Chemistry for the Pharmaceutical and Fine Chemicals Industry

Dr. Ioanna Bampouri (Buckin Research Group)
Dr. Arlene Bonner (Baumann Research Group)
Dr. Dara Curran (P. Byrne Research Group)
Dr. Rosa Fernandez Pison (Phillips Research Group)
Dr. Nathan Feely (Lee Research Group)
Dr. David McLaughlin (Morgan Research Group)
Dr. Fionn McNeill (Guiry Research Group)
Dr. Rachel Ann O'Sullivan (Guiry Research Group)
Dr. Robert Redmond (Evans Research Group)
Dr. Qiwei Wang (Dawson Research Group)

We wish each and every one of you all the best for the future.
Please do keep in touch.



Back Row from L to R: Grace Morgan, Andrew Phillips, James Dudley, Peter Byrne, Fun Man Fung, Marcus Baumann, Tony Keene, Pat Guiry
Front Row from L to R: Ioanna Bampouri, Arlene Bonner, Rosa Fernandez Pison, Fionn McNeill, Qiwei Wang, Rachel Ann O'Sullivan, David McLaughlin, Nathan Feely, Robert Redmond



From L to R: Liam Casey, Aoibheann Smyth, Niamh Lehane, Fionn McNeill, Pat Guiry, Rachel Ann O'Sullivan, Zoe Byrne, Ava Rogers, Jordan Smyth, Eoghan Courtney



From L to R: Adam Cruise, Davin Cronly, Rana Chatterjee, Parth Naik, Ruairi Crawford, Ruairi Bannon, Arlene Bonner, Philip Jamieson, Marcus Baumann, Jonathan Devlin, Kathryn Yeow, Niamh Disney.



From L to R: Wanyujin Wang, Sophie Kavanagh, Rosa Fernandez Pison, Ronan Brennan, Christine Coffey, Animesh Hajari



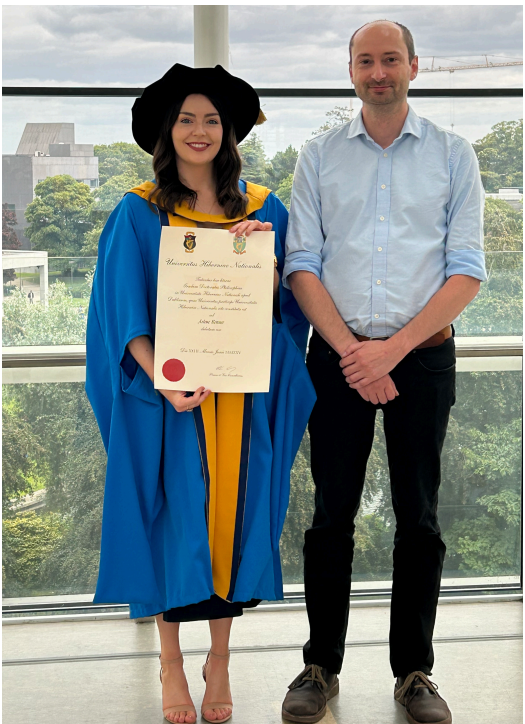
Robert Redmond and Paul Evans



Ioanna Bampouri



James Dudley



Arlene Bonner and Marcus Baumann

Publications from staff and students in the School

News from the Elghobashi–Meinhardt Research Group

Teaming up with structural biologists at UT Southwestern Medical Center, we used simulations to understand structure–function relationships in TRPML2, cation channels located in the endolysosomal membrane. Read more here:

Schmiege, P., Jašlan, D., Fine, M. et al. TRPML2 in distinct states reveals the activation and modulation principles of the TRPML family. *Nat Commun* 16, 5325 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-60710-8>

News from the Loh Research Group

Emerging Capabilities of Nonclassical Noncovalent Interactions and Asymmetric Catalysis in Stereoselective Glycosylations and Carbohydrate Functionalizations

The Loh Research Group lately published a compilation of our group's 9-year work in both the σ -hole catalyzed glycosylation strategy as well as the usage of asymmetric catalysis in site-selective carbohydrate functionalization in *Accounts of Chemical Research*.

Read more at *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2025**, DOI: [doi/10.1021/acs.accounts.5c00289](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.accounts.5c00289)

congratulations

UCD Student Awards

Students Recognized for Outstanding Academic
and/or Extracurricular Achievements

Congratulations to the prize winners from the UCD School of Chemistry at the 76th Irish Research Chemistry Colloquium, held in Maynooth on the 16th and 17th June.

Oral Presentation Prizes were awarded to:

Liam Jowett (Brougham Research Group);
Aoife Martin (O'Reilly Research Group);
Vanessa Becker (McGarrigle Research Group).

Poster Prize was awarded to:

Liam Casey (Guiry Research Group).



Congratulations Liam, Aoife, Vanessa and Liam!



What was on in UCD?



Hands-On Chemistry

This year at the UCD Festival 2025 PhD students registered to the Outreach module ran the Hands-on Chemistry stand. Showcasing fun (messy!), interactive and educational chemistry experiments.

They also designed their own easy-to-follow leaflets which were handed out to festival goers so they could have a go at home!

Non-Newtonian Liquid Demonstrated by Aisling, Bodhayan and Gawain

Video



[Click here to watch the video](#)

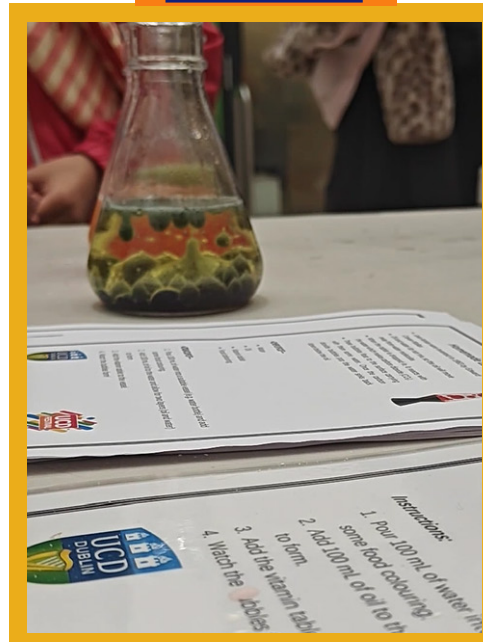
Casein Plastic Demonstrated by Aoibheann and Max



Homemade Lava Lamps Demonstrated by Joseph and Niall



Video



[Click here to watch the video](#)

Lemon Batteries Demonstrated by Amelia and Hend



Hydrogen Powered Cars Demonstrated by Caoimhe, Patrick and Demetra



Talks in External Institutions

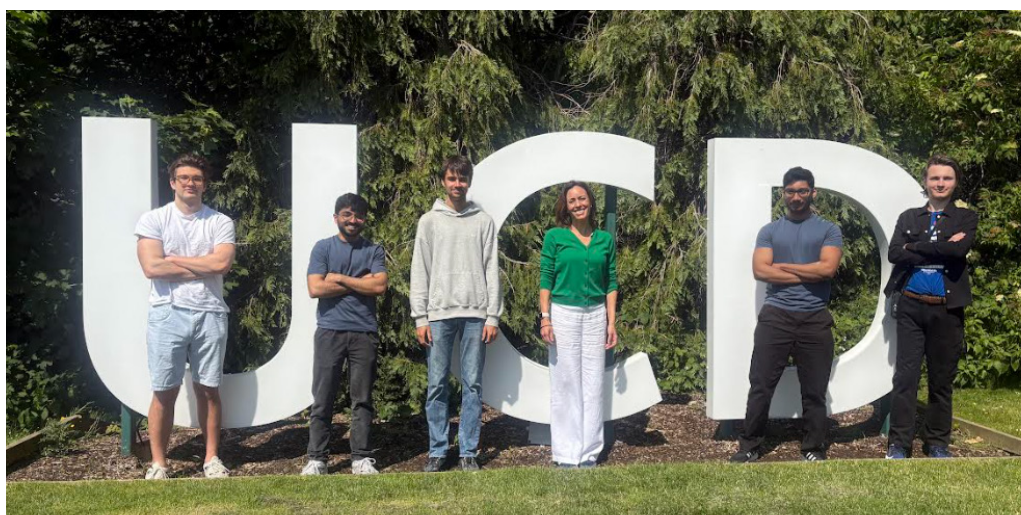
Charles was lately invited as a keynote speaker to the Carbohydrates Gordon Research Conference at the Holderness School in New Hampshire, U.S.A (15-20 th June 2025) to present our contributions in the exploitation of non-classical non-covalent interactions (halogen bonding and chalcogen bonding) in carbohydrate synthesis. An excellent and refreshing platform to discuss high quality science with leading glycoscience researchers internationally! Find out more here: <https://www.grc.org/carbohydrates-conference/2025/>



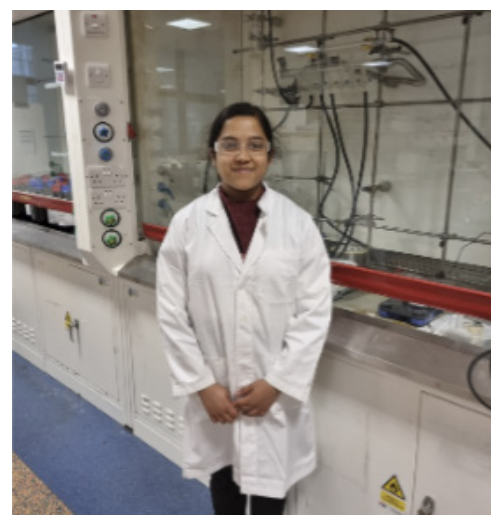
Charles pictured with Prof. Geert-Jan Boons at the Carbohydrates GRC Catalyzing Global Health through Glycoscience Knowledge (Holderness School, New Hampshire).



Welcome



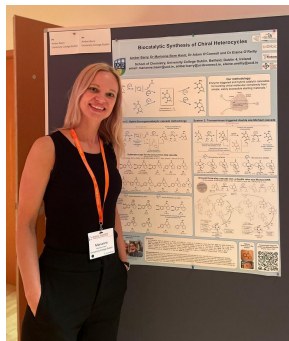
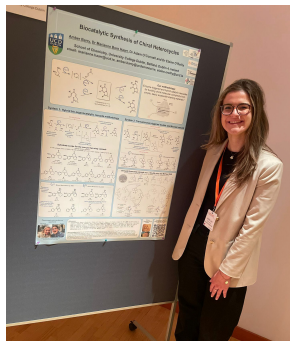
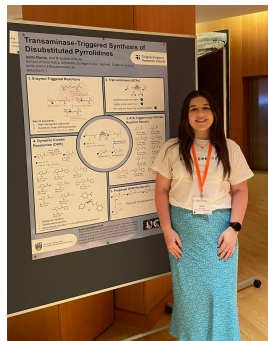
The Elghobashi-Meinhardt Research Group welcomes summer students Hugo Idziak-Matuszczak, Artem Filatov, and Tigrans Kulikovs!



The Loh Research Group welcomes Sejal Maria Babu, who newly joined our laboratory as a Taught MSc thesis student!

Conferences/Events Attended

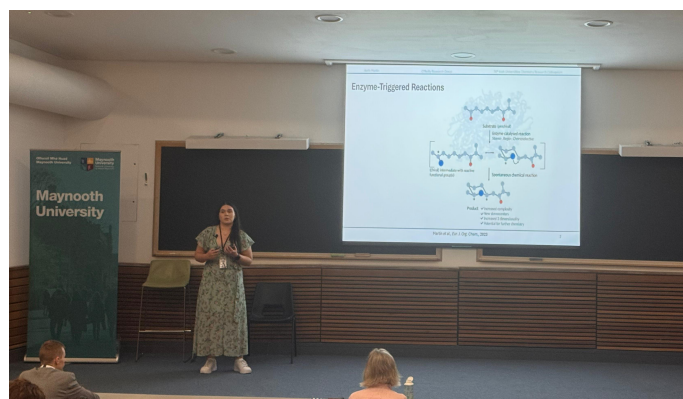
News from the O'Reilly Research Group



Marianne, Amber and Aoife, from the O'Reilly Group, travelled to Basel this month to attend the 3rd Empowering Women in Organic Chemistry (EWOC Europe) Conference. This meeting was held in the impressive Novartis campus, and they were treated to some lab tours in between hearing about some amazing chemistry from inspiring women in both industry and academia.

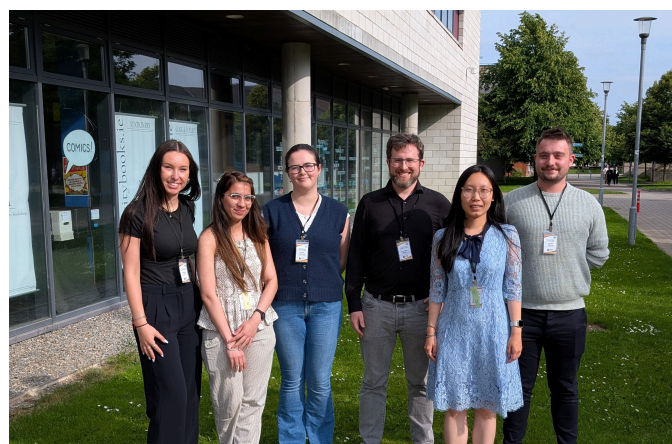


Aoife, Martin, from the O'Reilly Research Group, had the opportunity to present some work from her PhD at the recent 76th ICI Colloquium in Maynooth University. Her talk was entitled "Transaminase-Triggered Synthesis of Disubstituted Pyrrolidines", and she was delighted to win an oral presentation award.



News from the Byrne Research Group

Joe and the entire Byrne group attended the Irish Universities Research Colloquium in Maynooth this month, including visiting student Jacqueline Engdahl from Penn State and MSc project student Amanpreet Grover. Thomas and Yujin presented posters on their projects. Joe spoke on a panel at the ICI Young Chemists Network lunchtime event "Tales from the Trenches: surviving your PhD viva", alongside Luke Brennan and Wiktoria Brytan.



Conferences/Events Attended

News from the Guiry Research Group

Niamh, Liam, and Ava all gave talks at the Annual BiOrbic Research Day.



Fionn gave his lecture as this year's Dervilla Donnelly Postgraduate Award winner.



Congratulations to Liam who won a poster prize.



They recently got to celebrate the graduation of Rachel and Fionn.



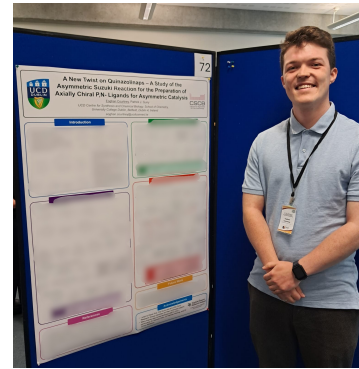
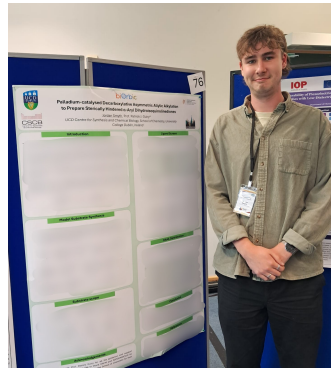
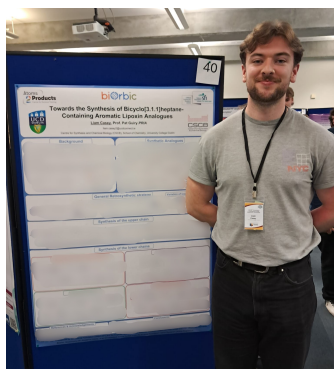
Conferences/Events Attended

News from the Guiry Research Group

Zoe and Niamh gave presentations on their research and Eoghan also gave a flash presentation at the ICI colloquium in Maynooth.



2nd years Liam, Ava, Jordi, and Eoghan gave poster presentations in the evening.



News from the McGarrigle Research Group

Congratulations to Vanessa Becker from McGarrigle Group on winning a prize for her oral presentation at the 76th ICI Irish Universities Research Colloquium in Maynooth.

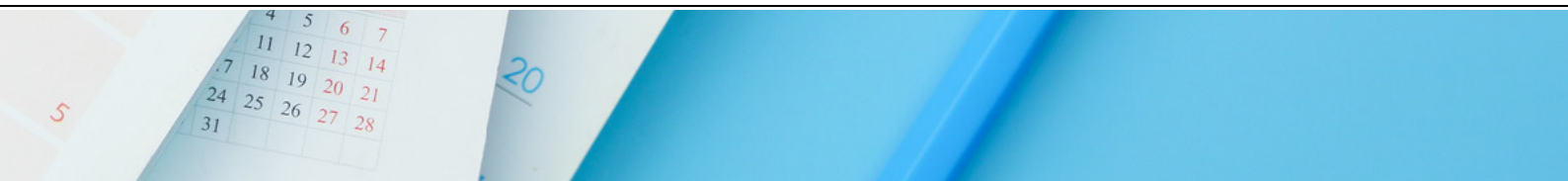


Well done also to Bodhayan and Alessandro on their talks at the annual BiOrbic Research Day and their posters at the 76th ICI Irish Universities Research Colloquium in Maynooth.

FYI - EDI



UCD takes pride in its inclusive culture, which is essential for creating a positive and welcoming experience for you. Information and support for LGBTI+ staff and students can be found at <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/support/lgbtisupports/>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Seminar: Professor Yi-Hsin Liu, NTU, Taiwan
Mon 25th of August 2025 – G-08 Ag

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