



## UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Cultivating a Culture of Respect and Belonging

### FYI - EDI

Did you know that Employees who are struggling with anxiety, feeling overwhelmed or a reduced sense of wellbeing can get support from the [Employee Assistance Service](#) in UCD. The service is also open to the spouse, civil partner or dependents (over 18) of UCD staff.

#### UCD EDI Carers Coffee Morning 2025

Join colleagues who are balancing caregiving with work for coffee and conversation, 9. June, 10:30am. Meet members of UCD EDI Carers Working Group and find out about UCD Carers Support Framework. UCD CAREWELL will screen a short video 'A day in the life of a working family carer' to raise awareness about balancing work and caregiving. For more information and to register see this [link](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Dr Alex Doran for his recent promotion to the Senior Technical Officer grade.

Many congratulations to Alex on this well-deserved recognition.

# Dublin Chemistry Third Year Talks 2025

UCD School of Chemistry was delighted to host the Dublin Chemistry PhD 3rd Year Talks on Wednesday 21st of May 2025. This year 35 PhD students from UCD School of Chemistry and TCD School of Chemistry each made a presentation about their research and took questions. You can read about the event on the School of Chemistry [website](#).

The UCD School of Chemistry students who spoke were:

Rúairí Bannon  
Bodhayan Biswas  
Ruairi Crawford  
Davin Cronly  
Aoibhinn Downes  
Celine Erkey  
Daniel Graczyk  
Guohui Huang

Philip Jamieson  
Oisín McCorry  
Ashwini Mishra  
Daniel Molloy  
Shane O'Neill  
Sarah Smoni Varghese  
Marcin Szydło  
Eleanor Windle.



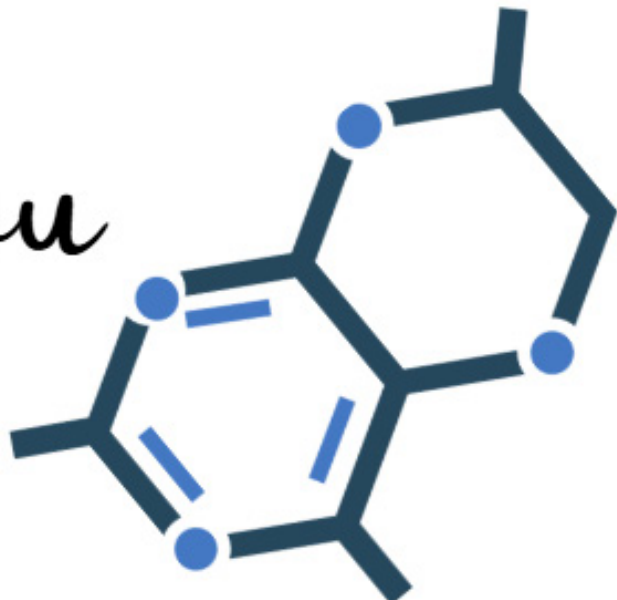
Rúairí Bannon and James Sullivan



Celine Erkey and James Sullivan

Two UCD students received prizes for the best speakers, Rúairí Bannon [UCD Baumann Research Group](#) and Celine Erkey of the [UCD Rubini Research Group](#).

# thank you



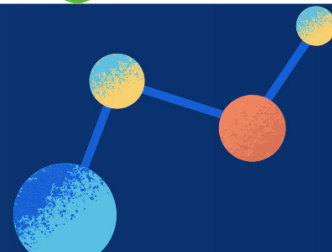
As this was the final time that Professor Declan Gilheany organised the Dublin Chemistry 3rd Year Talks, James Sullivan presented Declan with a small token of our appreciation to mark the occasion.



# UCD



## SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SUMMER SCHOOL



The Organic Chemistry Summer School 2025 will commence on Monday 16th June with a busy timetable for 8 weeks of lectures, labs, tutorials, tests, exams, workshops and excursions.

We are expecting a group of 72 students coming from a number of US universities, namely Pennsylvania State University, University of Boulder Colorado, University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of California Santa Cruz, University of California Los Angeles, University of California Santa Barbara, University of California Davis & University of California San Diego.

OChem students will stay in on campus accommodation for the 8 weeks and be around the Science Hub, East and South buildings Monday to Friday with lab classes scheduled to take place in both the 2nd and 3rd floor undergraduate teaching labs.

Thanks to the big team who will together deliver the summer school (from academics, technical officers, school office administrators to the postgrads working as senior demonstrators and tutors).

We're still looking for a couple of tutors and senior demos if anyone is interested in a couple of hours work a week split between contact tutorial hour and marking homework time. Contact Susan Wilson or Marcus Baumann for more info.



# Publications from staff and students in the School

## News from the Fung Research Group

Dr. Fun Man Fung published a paper with his collaborator *Using Prequestioning as a Hands-On Activity to Support Undergraduate Student Learning*. Authors: SC Pan, JY Han, and FM Fung, *J. Chem. Educ.* 2025, 102, 5, 2197–2204

**Read more at:** <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jchemed.4c01405>

Fun Man received the ACS Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS) for his effort as the Founding Chair of the ACS Singapore Chapter, serving ACS members in the Southeast Asian city state.

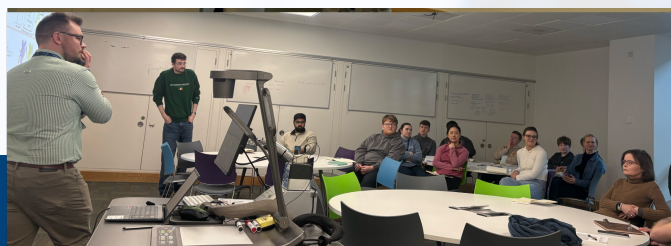
**Read more at:** <https://cen.acs.org/acs-news/ACS-names-2025-Outreach-Volunteers/103/web/2025/03>

## News from the Elghobashi–Meinhardt Research Group

The Elghobashi–Meinhardt Research group is proud of the ongoing collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center. The latest joint publication "Molecular insights into human phosphatidylserine synthase 2 and its regulation of SREBP pathways" appeared in PNAS last week:

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2501177122>

Nadia would like to personally thank all speakers, chairs, organizers, and PIs who have contributed to Lessons in Chemistry this past trimester. We were not sure of the resonance that the series would strike when we began several months ago, so the enthusiasm and participation have been inspiring. To the speakers: your talks and leadership showcase the research of the School and have created an engaging forum for discussions that cross section barriers. Your time, effort, and energy have shaped a valuable School event, and you have laid the foundation for a seminar series that will influence our work and spark future collaborations. Thank you!!





# Publications from staff and students in the School

## News from the Cussen Research Group

A publication has appeared in [Chemistry of Materials](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemmater.4c03322), detailing a collaboration between the Cussen group at UCD and Hayward group at Oxford on understanding the role of stabilising substituents in the energy storage performance of sustainable iron-based cathodes for Li-ion batteries:

<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemmater.4c03322>

In early April, the Cussen Research Group traveled to Jan Evangelista Purkyně University (UJEP) in the Czech Republic for the first progress meeting of the Horizon EU project INERRANT. Dr Innes McClelland and Dr Chris Thomas presented their research on new cathode materials for Li-ion batteries, with the team contributing to discussions on upscaling approaches to battery electrodes. More information on the INERRANT project may be found here:

<https://www.inerrant-batteries.eu/>

Professor Serena Cussen was featured in the recent [RSC Nanoscale](#) Horizons 10th Anniversary 'Community Spotlight', to discuss recent publications and the future of nanoscale chemistry.



*Cussen Research Group in the Czech Republic for the first progress meeting of the Horizon EU project INERRANT*

**Read more at:**

[https://blogs.rsc.org/nh/2025/05/13/nanoscale-horizons-10th-anniversary-community-spotlight-meeting-our-community-and-advisory-boards/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1747918019.1651489734649658203125](https://blogs.rsc.org/nh/2025/05/13/nanoscale-horizons-10th-anniversary-community-spotlight-meeting-our-community-and-advisory-boards/?doing_wp_cron=1747918019.1651489734649658203125)

## News from the McGarrigle Research Group

Congratulations to Oana Popa from the McGarrigle group who won a Poster Prize at the RSC Ireland Organic Division Meeting in Belfast on 6th May.



# Publications from staff and students in the School

## Publication from the Negahdar Research Group

Congratulations to Stage 4 student Emilia Kazek and PhD student Rocco Villano for publishing their work with the Negahdar group. The publication focuses on the changes in catalytic activity and mechanism as the iron-to-nickel ratio is altered in oxygen evolution reaction (OER) catalysts for green hydrogen production. Coauthors on the paper include Dr. Veronica Sofianos and Dr. Jeannie Ziang Yie Tan, academics from UCD and Heriot-Watt University, respectively.

**Read more at:** Catal. Sci. Technol., 2025, Advance Article, <https://doi.org/10.1039/D5CY00392J>

## Publication from the Guiry Research Group

Catalytic enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha$ -allyl- $\alpha$ -aryl 1-indanones via palladium-catalysed decarboxylative asymmetric allylic alkylation

(Cian Kingston, Fiach B. Meany, Yannick Ortin and Patrick J. Guiry)

Recent publication from the Guiry Research Group.

**Read more at:**

[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040402025002698?utm\\_campaign=STMJ\\_219742\\_AUTH\\_SERV\\_PA&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_acid=84839844&SIS\\_ID=&dgcid=STMJ\\_219742\\_AUTH\\_SERV\\_PA&CMX\\_ID=&utm\\_in=DM567183&utm\\_source=AC\\_](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040402025002698?utm_campaign=STMJ_219742_AUTH_SERV_PA&utm_medium=email&utm_acid=84839844&SIS_ID=&dgcid=STMJ_219742_AUTH_SERV_PA&CMX_ID=&utm_in=DM567183&utm_source=AC_)

## Publication from the O'Reilly Research Group

A Biocatalytic Cascade for the Valorisation of Sugars

(Kathryn Yeow, Aoife Martin, Jimmy Muldoon, Marianne Bore Haarr and Elaine O'Reilly)

Congratulations to Dr Kathryn Yeow for the latest publication of her PhD work with coauthors Marianne, Aoife, Jimmy and Elaine. We have developed a one-pot, three-step biocatalytic cascade to synthesize trihydroxypiperidine and azepane iminosugars directly from monosaccharides, employing transaminase and galactose oxidase (GOase) enzymes. We also developed an in situ LC/MS method for monitoring the key reaction intermediates that have never been observed.

**Read more at** ChemCatChem: 08 April 2025 <https://doi.org/10.1002/cctc.202500110>



# Professor David Feakins Obituary

The School of Chemistry was saddened to hear of the passing of Professor David Feakins on 30th of April 2025 in London. See more [here](#).

David was Professor of Physical Chemistry at UCD from 1969 until his retirement in 1986, however he continued to publish right up to 2016. Read more on our [website](#).

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a anam.

## Talks in External Institutions



*Photo Credit: Barack Shrama*

In April–May 2025, Fun Man gave research seminars at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Shanghai Normal University (Online), NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and University of York, UK.

Fun Man was a finalist at the Falling Walls Lab held in Berkeley, California in April 2025. This San Francisco Bay Area edition of the competition was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany San Francisco.

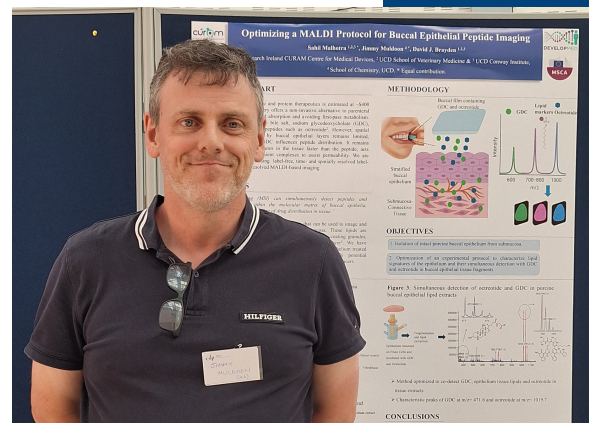


# Conferences/Events Attended

## Irish Mass Spectrometry Society Symposium

Sahil Malhotra, Jimmy Muldoon, David J. Brayden had a poster on the 21st of May at the Irish Mass Spectrometry Society Symposium in UCD entitled **Optimizing a MALDI Protocol for Buccal Epithelial Peptide Imaging**.

The Irish Mass Spectrometry Society ([IMSS](#)) is a voluntary society with the aim of providing a forum for practitioners of Mass Spectrometry in Ireland. The IMSS annual meeting is held in the O'Brien Centre, and includes representatives from Irish and international academia and industry.



## NextGenBiocat 2025, Milan

In their fourth year attending the NextGenBiocat Symposium –this time in sunny Milan– the O'Reilly Research Group was joined by Phil Jamieson and Ruairi Bannon from the Baumann Research Group for two packed days of exciting science and networking. The symposium brings together young researchers, including PhD students, postdocs, and early-career principal investigators, to showcase their work in the field of biocatalysis. The team had a great time catching up with old chemistry friends and making new, valuable connections. Amber and Phil brilliantly presented their PhD work on enzyme cascades and enzyme immobilisation in flow, respectively. Ruairi, Aoife, Craig, and Marianne enjoyed discussing their research at the poster sessions.



Past and present members of the O'Reilly and the Baumann Research Groups.



# Conferences/Events Attended

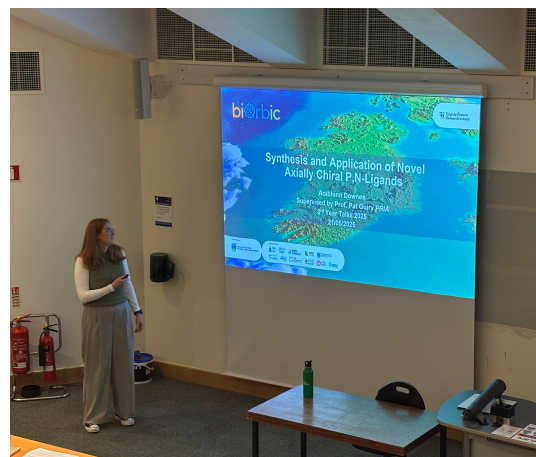
## News from the Guiry Research Group



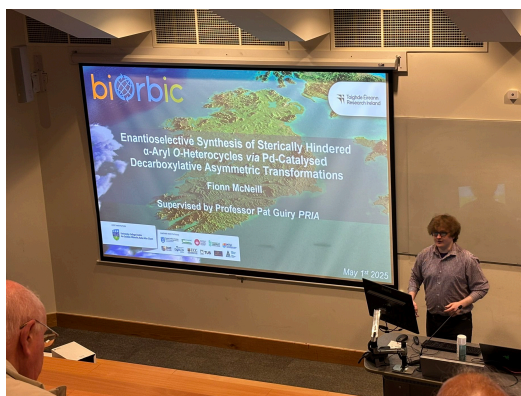
The Guiry research group attended the 22nd Bristol Synthesis Meeting in April for a day of fantastic talks.



Congratulations to PhD student Eoghan Courtney who was awarded the Best Poster Prize at Irish Catalysis Conference 2025 which took place on the 28th of April at UCD.



Congratulations to Aoibhinn and Sarah for giving excellent talks at this year's Dublin Chemistry PhD 3rd Year Talks event.



Congratulations to Fionn for receiving the Dervilla Donnelly Postgraduate Award for his PhD project at this year's ICI award ceremony



# Conferences/Events Attended



Congratulations to Leila for presenting the SATLE project at the UCD Teaching and Learning Symposium: Innovative Futures – Engaging Learners on 7th May. The SATLE award supported the development of sustainable chemistry practices in undergraduate teaching laboratories. Led by Dr. Leila Negahdar, the project team included Mr. Hans-Georg Eckhardt, Dr. Demetra Achilleos, Dr. Marcus Baumann, and Prof. James Sullivan.



UCD SATLE Funding – group photo

The poster, with figures and data developed by Hans-Georg Eckhardt, was presented at the symposium by Leila Negahdar.



## Irish Catalysis Conference 2025 – 28th April at UCD

The Irish Catalysis Conference, held on 28th April at University College Dublin (UCD), was a great success. Sincere thanks to the organisers:

Dr. Leila Negahdar and Prof. James Sullivan (UCD School of Chemistry),  
Dr. Veronica Sofianou (UCD School of Chemical Engineering),  
and Dr. Bar Moshevitzy-Lis (University of Limerick).







# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

76th Irish Universities Chemistry Research Colloquium  
Mon 16th and Tue 17th June 2025  
at Maynooth University

## **UCD Conferring:**

College of Science Graduate Research Degrees

Mon 23rd June | 11 am