



UCD School of Chemistry News November 2022

Welcome to New Staff and Students

A warm welcome to Ms Elaine Mackey, who joins the School as a School Office Administrator. Please drop by the School office and welcome her. Welcome to Ester Canepa, Zixu Zhao and Maryam Kiai, who have recently joined Kenneth Dawson's group.

ChemSoc Halloween Party

The annual ChemSoc Halloween Dress-Up party was held on the 28 October in the UCD Clubhouse. The night was great fun and the standard of costumes this year was impressive. Characters from Toy Story, Alice in Wonderland and Shrek made an appearance alongside WWE Wrestlers, Ducks and Schrodinger's cat, to name but a few! A big congratulations to the "Heavy Metal Band" for best group costume, and to the Queen of Hearts for best individual costume a special thank you to Alex Doran for taking photos and helping with the photobooth!



Movember Bake Sale

A group of 10 from UCD Chemistry are carrying out a fundraiser in aid of Movember. ChemSoc held a bake sale to help the group to raise money for the UCD Chemistry Movember fundraiser, and they have currently raised over €850. Well done!!



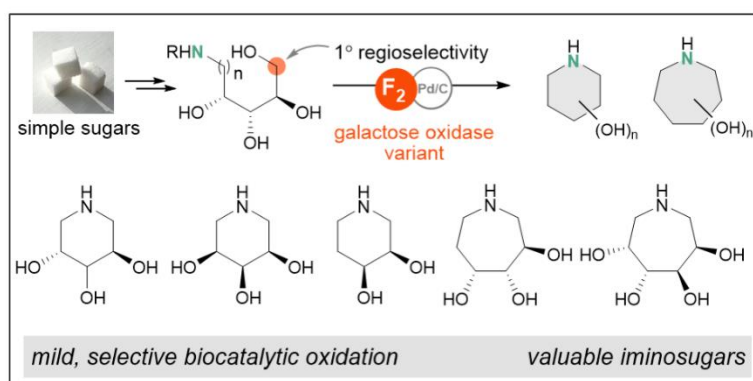
Annual Christmas Lecture

The annual Christmas lecture was given by Dr. Aoife Morrin from DCU and was titled "Odour and Disease: An Intriguing Relationship". Following the talk, the annual Christmas dinner and charity raffle in aid of Dublin Simon Community took place. The raffle raised over €250 for charity. This is the first time the dinner and in-person Christmas lecture has taken place since the start of the Covid pandemic, so we are delighted to see it happening again!



Recent Publications from the School

- Congratulation to the team in the Baumann group who recently published their work entitled "Consecutive photochemical reactions enabled by a dual flow reactor coil strategy" in *Chemical Communications*. The work highlights how photoflow chemistry can synthesise like drug-like molecules via a new dual coil photoreactor to perform consecutive photochemical reactions in flow mode. **Ruairi Crawford, Mara Di Filippo, Duncan Guthrie and Marcus Baumann, *Consecutive photochemical reactions enabled by a dual flow reactor coil strategy, Chem. Commun., 2022* (Advance Article: DOI:10.1039/D2CC05601A).**
- Congratulation to members of the McGarrigle group for this collaborative piece of work with TCD. ***Accessing unsymmetrical Ru(II) bipyridine complexes: a versatile synthetic mechanism for fine tuning photophysical properties.* L. Hallen, A. Horan, B. Twamley, E. M. McGarrigle, S. M. Draper, *Chem Commun, 2022* (Advance Article: DOI: 10.1039/D2CC04910D).**
- Many congratulations to Kathryn and Marianne from the O'Reilly research group and to Jimmy Muldoon for publishing their work on the biocatalytic conversion of aminopolyols to iminosugars. This work was funded by an SFI Frontiers for the Future Grant. Congratulations to Marianne on her first corresponding author paper!! **Kathryn Yeow, Marianne B. Haarr, Jimmy Muldoon and Elaine O'Reilly, *Preparation of iminosugars from aminopolyols via selective oxidation using galactose oxidase, Chem. Commun., 2022* (Advance Article: DOI: 10.1039/D2CC04989A).**

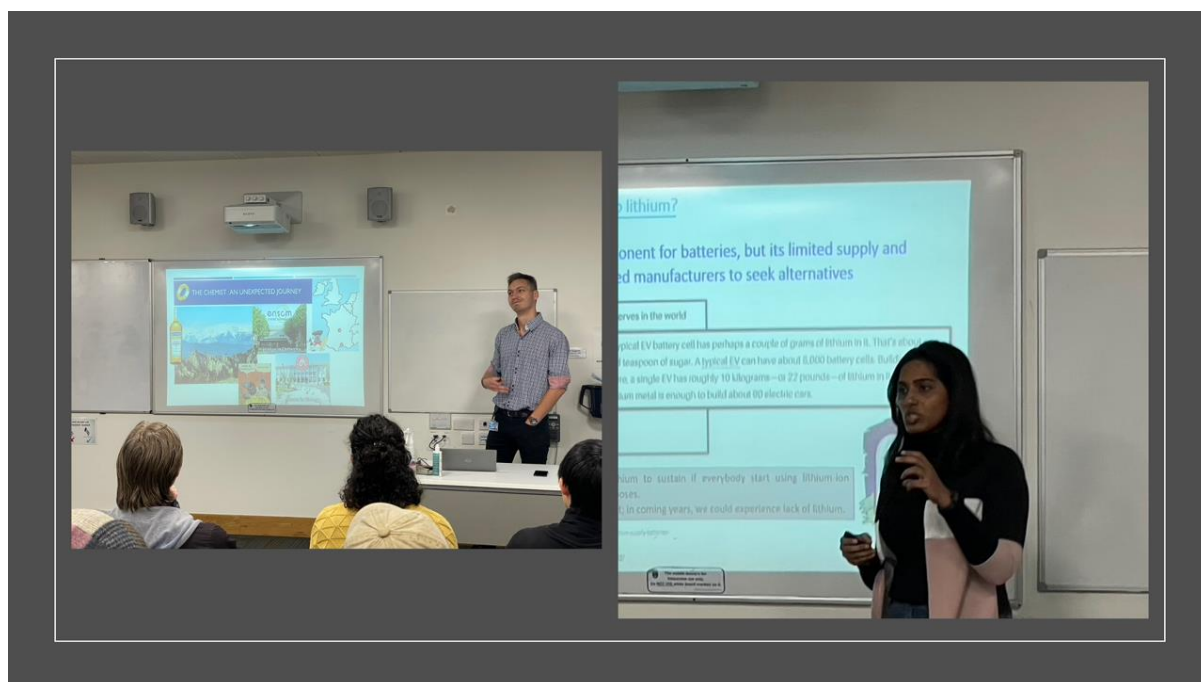


Collaboration Opportunity

James Sullivan has secured a Marie Curie Staff Exchange grant (€165K) - CUPOLA - Carbon-neutral pathways of recycling marine plastic waste. Anyone that wants to be involved is more than welcome to talk to James. Grant partners are in UK (Aston, QUB, Manchester), Poland (AGH UST Krakow), Malaysia (Taylor's University), Hong Kong (HKPU) and China (Nottingham Ningbo, Tsinghua, Shanghai Jiao Tong, Xi'an Jiaotong, Huazhong).

Research Talks and Visits

The **postdoc research seminar** on Nov 16th was a great sweet and salty success! Huge thanks to Dr Louis-Antoine Barel for sharing his experiences with carbohydrate chemistry and to Dr Gita Singh for presenting a very interesting project on sodium-ion batteries. Thanks are also extended to the (well over 60!) staff and students who attended the seminar, meaning there were people standing and sitting on the floor of the small seminar room. Next time we will book a bigger room!! Thanks to everyone who attended the **postdoc forum meeting** (after the seminar), where the postdocs and Head of School got together for a fruitful conversation about the postdoc experience in the school.





The ICI hosted a **Centenary Congress** on November 17th 2022 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street. Susan Quinn and Pat Guiry delivered fantastic research talks, and Grace Morgan delivered her Boyle Higgins Medal Award Lecture “Shaping the Future with Molecular Magnets”. Her gold medal was presented by the current ICI President, Pat Guiry.





Back in May, PhD student **Kathryn Yeow** attended a special event in Brussels organised by **Cefic, the European Chemistry Industry Council**. Cefic was founded in 1972 and is the main association of the chemical industry in Europe, representing almost 29,000 companies. As part of their 50th year anniversary celebrations, a unique day was organised bringing together professors, students and industry CEO's to - as the title of the event implies - 'Honour Science & Celebrate Chemistry'.

The programme involved a group project and the production of a report titled "The Circular Economy of Carbon: Leveraging the potential of bio-based materials" which will be published by Cefic as part of the input for a next Mid-Century Vision.

Student delegates were awarded €10K scholarships for participating, and Kathryn used this scholarship to purchase a Radley Carousel for carrying out her biotransformations. The carousel arrived this November, and Kathryn is pictured here looking very happy with her new toy!!

Sporting Success

Well done to the Technical Officer's "ChemTech" team, made up of Yannick, Julia, Kristy, Alex and Ray, who participated in the UCD Autumn Fitness Challenge and finished as the **2nd best team**, with a distance of 1466 km done through 4 weeks.

Congratulations to...

The new Doctors in the house, who all had the PhD defence recently:

Congratulations to Dr Niamh Geoghegan from Dr Susan Kelleher's group, who defended her PhD thesis in November.



Congratulations to Dr Jessica McFadden from Dr Susan Kelleher's group, who defended her PhD thesis in November.

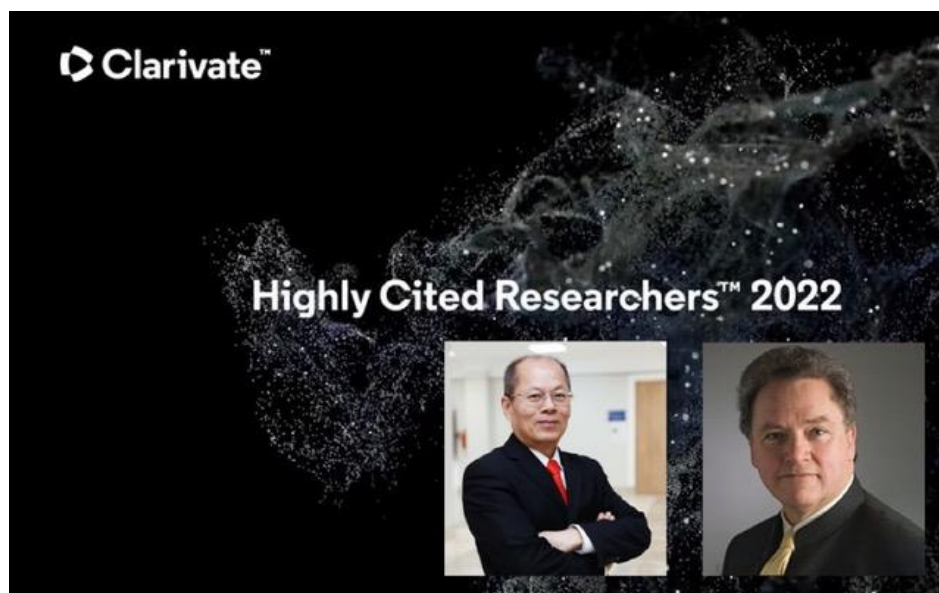


Awards

Many congratulations to Hans-Georg Eckhardt, who was awarded a College of Science "Exceptional Contribution to Learning Award". The College adjudication panel also recommended Hans' application proceeds for a University level Teaching & Learning Award! A fantastic achievement, Hans!!



Many congratulations to Professor Kenneth Dawson, who was one of two researchers at UCD named among the top 1% of the world's most cited academics, according to the latest Highly Cited Researchers report, compiled by Clarivate analytics.



Upcoming Events

Please save the following dates in your diary:

- All postdocs are welcome to **postdoc coffee mornings** in the 1st floor kitchen every Tuesday morning at 9:30-10 am.
- All staff, postgrads by research, taught MSc students and Stage 3 and 4 undergrads are invited to Friday December 2nd @ 3pm – School Christmas Celebration, 3rd Floor of SCS. Christmas jumpers or festive decorations including hats are encouraged but absolutely not necessary!
- All postdocs and postgrads in the College of Science are invited to a Networking Event followed by a Table Quiz on December 5th 2022 organised by the EDI reps from the College of Science. The event will take place from 6:30pm in the O'Neill lounge which is above the student bar. Snacks will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/lets-connect-a-postdoc-and-postgrad-networking-event-tickets-472663117107>
- Tuesday 6th Dec @ 4pm - Inaugural lectures from Professor Dermot Brougham and Professor James Sullivan, following their recent(ish) promotions.
- The 21st annual CSCB symposium will take place on December 9th, in the UCD Village.

Please remember to send on newsworthy items to Elaine O'Reilly each month, with all details and accompanying pictures.