

**Buscombe, Karen**

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**From:** cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk  
**Sent:** 05 June 2024 13:14  
**To:** Buscombe, Karen  
**Subject:** Chemistry Staff Newsletter June 2024



**Hello Karen,**

## **Your June newsletter!**

### **Spotlight on Research**

Our research is a major part of our activity as a thriving Chemistry department, and how we publicise what we do and why we do it is very important. This is not just for the outside world but includes our undergraduate students and our colleagues in other departments at Warwick. We are currently looking at how best to promote our research and the first change has been to create six research groupings that reflect the current focus areas of our research: these will allow us to discuss our work in internal discussion groups to look for collaborative opportunities and also to signify to the outside world where our research strengths lie. The new research [webpages](#) are now live.

Warwick's chemistry research has always been well regarded, and recently some exceptional recognition has been received. Just a few weeks ago our Head of

Department, Pat, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. This is probably highest recognition for any UK scientist, and Pat is the first Warwick chemist to be elected while in post. This is a tremendous personal achievement, and we record our congratulations here. Pat's election to FRS was on the basis of his independent research done entirely at Warwick, where the department supported his significant developments in electrochemical techniques, including many students and the team of technical support staff. Further evidence of our successful research environment will come soon with the announcement of a number of prizes and awards from the Royal Society of Chemistry to Warwick chemists: these are embargoed for now but June 12th will see them revealed. Then we have a further excuse to celebrate the research achievements of our colleagues and their research groups: see elsewhere for an event that is planned.

Hopefully the coming months will see the seeds of new research discoveries with projects from a large cohort of URSS and other summer students!

Richard

## Staffing News

### **New starters**

Ruby Ma - Senior Teaching Lab Technician with Raj Randev  
Boyuan Zhao - Research Fellow with Paul Wilson

We also welcome some new staff who have joined us on a temporary basis through Unitemps:

Alijah Taha joins the Chem-Admin Team  
Lucille Hyde joins the Postgraduate Programmes Team  
Annie Edgar joins Pete O'Connor supporting Project Admin

## Good news

### PG Symposium 2024

On 22 May, Dr Rebecca Notman welcomed around 150 students, staff and guests to the annual Department of Chemistry Postgraduate Symposium held on the Science Concourse.

The programme of almost 70 oral and poster contributions from our postgraduate research students across our MScR and PhD provision encompassed a wide range of excellent research from our six research groupings. The contributions covered research ranging from synthesis to analysis, and theoretical studies through to experimental research. Coming as it did a matter of days after Pat was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Symposium demonstrated that as well as being home to world class researchers, the department is an environment in which the next generation of researchers are thriving.

The day finished with a prize-giving ceremony in which Professor Richard Walton convened awards for the best six talks and four posters, as well as the annual SEM Faculty Thesis Prizes, which this year were awarded to Dr Fabienne Bachtiger and Dr James Gardner, and the departmental publication prize which was awarded to Byron Ross for his Nature Communications [paper](#). Full details of all of the winners can be found [here](#):

We would like to extend our congratulations to our prize-winners as well as our thanks to all who attended and made this event such a success: from our poster presenters to our speakers and to those staff members who acted as session chairs on the day.

Plans are underway for next year's Symposium which is expected to take place on **21st May 2025** so put it in your calendar now!

### Public engagement success

Alex Baker's Royal Institution Talk (The Chemistry of Star Wars) was picked up by the Daily Mail, Metro and Microsoft News amongst other media outlets. The entire project was

estimated to have a reach of **80 million people** which means about 1% of the global population were reached by media linked to the talk. This is a truly astonishing statistic so well done Alex! .



## Chemistry Graduation Celebration 2024

We are delighted to invite you all to join us in celebrating the hard work and achievements of our graduating students at this year's celebration on 15th June 12-2pm at the Slate. Email [chem.experience@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:chem.experience@warwick.ac.uk) for any more information

## Taking Science to Parliament

Sopida Wongwas, a final year PhD student in Chris Corre's group was selected as a finalist in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences category as well as finalist for the Dyson Sustainability Award as part of the STEM for BRITAIN 2024 event.

Sopida presented her research on bioengineering natural sunscreen to a range of politicians and a panel of expert judges. Further information about the event is [here](#).

## Health and Safety

The department points of contacts for statutory testing and compliance at Chemistry are:

- for **Water, Natural gas, Lifting Equipment, Pressure Systems and regulators, Bulk storage and lab gases** - Nishi Vasisht, Technical & Building Services Manager
- for **LEV** – Rajan Randev, Deputy Technical Services & Facilities Manger

Four main areas where statutory inspection of the equipment is required by relevant regulations are:

- LEV,
- Lifting Equipment and Lifting Accessories,
- Pressure systems,
- Fixed wiring

If not sure whether your equipment requires statutory testing, you can find more information about this topic on central [H&S page](#):

Please note, statutory testing does not replace regular maintenance. That is the

responsibility of the owner to organise.

## Forthcoming events

### Pride at Warwick

Friday 14 June, 12.30pm - 9pm, Piazza & Student Union Atrium

With headliners from RuPaul's Drag Race UK gracing the stage, join our FREE pride festival for a day of fun and frivolities. Headlined by the incredible Cheddar Gorgeous, with performances from Black Peppa, Bambi Bang Bang and more, it's guaranteed to be a sickening show you won't want to miss! We'll have food vans, community stalls, a rodeo bull, fairground activities, photobooth and more. Drag performers, singers, bands, and dancers will be performing on our very own stage, so come and join in with this FABULOUS event! #WeAllBelong

### **Inspiring Women Presents....How to develop your Career at Warwick**

Wednesday 19 June, 12-1pm, WMG Building, IMC Auditorium (ground floor)

A panel of four women staff members will be describing their career paths at Warwick. There will be opportunities for attendees to put forward questions and receive tips on career progression, plus a networking opportunity. Please register [here](#).

### **Warwick Battery Days (WBD 2024) Workshop**

Thursday 20 June and Friday 21 June, Scarman

Warwick Chemistry and Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) are jointly hosting the very

first edition of the Warwick Battery Days at the University of Warwick, Coventry, on June 20-21. WBD 2024 will bring together experts from the experimental and computational battery research community as well as the from the industry, aiming to facilitate discussions on the current state-of-the-art in the field and the future directions based on industrial and societal needs. More information on speakers can be found [here](#).

Best wishes,

Karen  
Chemistry Internal Comms

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