

## Buscombe, Karen

---

**From:** cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk  
**Sent:** 03 October 2024 13:17  
**To:** Buscombe, Karen  
**Subject:** Chemistry Staff Newsletter October 2024



**Hello Karen,**

### **Your October newsletter**

I hope that you all had a good start to the term. I am really looking forward to this exciting academic year and I hope you are too. We are welcoming two new members of academic staff this month, Rianne and Fredrik, as well as approximately 170 new Year 1 Undergraduate students, 30 students on the Chemistry MSc courses, 11 students on the interdisciplinary Global Decarbonisation programme and 35 new Research students!

Our returning students have also performed exceedingly well in the exams last year, we are therefore welcoming back 174 students to Year 2, 133 students to Year 3 and 20 students in the MChem cohort. It is worth noting that our continuation and attainment rates for Y1 and Y2 students are the best in several years. Well done to our students and to all colleagues who contributed to this success!

Teaching is now underway, with our brand-new Year 2 modules delivered for the first time. Massive thanks to all who have been contributing to development of our new curriculum. We also have plenty of new exciting extracurricular activities planned for our students this year, including [We are Chemistry](#) events and the newly launched [Polymer Café](#). I look forward to meeting our new students during the modules and events!

**Nikola Chmel, Deputy Head of Department (Education)**



Our Chemistry Welcome Social was a resounding success! We were pleased to welcome our new UG and PG students who had the chance to mingle, enjoy some food, and learn more about the department. We were thrilled to welcome 200+ new faces to our chemistry community. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event as success. We look forward to seeing you at future We are Chemistry [events](#) and departmental gatherings.



On Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September in Welcome Week, a team of tutors led by Prof Tim Bugg ran 4 half-day team development exercises for our new Year 1 undergraduate students. The sessions at Westwood involved three outdoor problem-solving exercises, where a group of 6-8 students had to work together to solve a problem (with varying degrees of success) and then discuss inside what went well and what they could have done differently. The students really enjoyed meeting other fellow students and doing some fun exercises, and it was noticeable how the more quiet/shy students became a lot more engaged as they got to know people in their groups. This is the 20th year that we have run team development in the Department, and it's something that students remember. This year we had mixed weather, but we had some back-up indoor exercises that worked well. Thank you to all the academic staff, support staff and PGR students who assisted as tutors, and Adam Alcock for helping to organise this event.

# Staffing Updates

## New Starters

Rianne Lord – Associate Professor with Pat Unwin  
Benjamin Hofmann – Research Fellow with Rianne Lord  
Annie Edgar - Project Administrator with Peter O'Connor  
Callan Littlejohn – Research Assistant with Peter O'Connor  
Joe Gilkes – Research Assistant with Scott Habershon  
Katie Pickering – Research Assistant with Richard Walton  
Callum Pritchard - Research Fellow with Mike Ward  
Cameron Wilson – Research Fellow with Mark Senn

## Leavers

Despina Coursari  
Max Tipping  
Arun Gupta  
Temi Ajayi

## Annual Leave carryover in SuccessFactors

The permitted number of hours of [annual leave carryover](#) for the annual leave year 2023/24 is planned to be added to SuccessFactors by the middle of October 2024.

## Warwick's Adjustments Process

The Social Inclusion team have been updating Warwick's adjustments process, staff can now upload a record of their agreed adjustments to their employee profile on SuccessFactors. This is so there is a record of the individuals agreed adjustments recorded on their profile, which will move with them if they change line managers and/or roles. There are currently three documents where staff can record adjustments: [My Adjustments Passport](#), [Menopause Passport](#), and [Carers Passport](#) - these documents can now be uploaded via the 'Personal Information' section of SuccessFactors. Details of how to update your personal record can be found [here](#).

## Reminder for Recruiting Managers

The Central HR Team are receiving an increasing number of enquiries regarding the status of applications following closure of a vacancy. Can we therefore remind Recruiting Managers to please return shortlisting outcomes as early as possible and within the two-week window specified by the Central HR Team. If you are unable to return this to [Chem-Admin@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Chem-Admin@warwick.ac.uk) within that time, please let them know as early as possible.

## STEM Connect Update

There have been some recent updates to internal STEM connect websites and new printouts of the floorplans from the end of RIBA stage 3 are now in the common room. Our [intranet pages](#) have been updated and we will keep you updated on developments that impact on Chemistry through these pages. They also link to the University's [new internal STEM Connect pages](#) where you can find key information as the project progresses.

Specific recent updates relate to information on the [current floorplans and next steps](#) as we wait for RIBA stage 4 to start.

Information on the impact of the enabling works in car parks 9 & 10 can be found on the [Your Campus Journey pages](#).

The second cohort of Science for Sustainable Futures Postgraduate students have joined us this week and we're delighted that they'll have a dedicated space for study and relaxing with their peers within the Science for Sustainable Futures Learning Hub, in the learning grid first floor space of University House.

Finally, STEM Connect are now offering opportunities for Chemistry staff and PGR community to be able to experience the new Science and Engineering Precinct - flying through parts of the building from the inside! Access this experience [by booking a session at the Powerwall](#) [full wall screen, approx. 60 minutes experience] The first session is 9th October so please do book asap if you are interested. We will also be arranging for a remote control and VR experience to be brought to the department. More information will follow in the internal Chemistry [calendar](#) when this is booked.

## News in brief

First Announcement



**SEM Faculty  
Postdoctoral  
Symposium**

🕒  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2024**

📍  
**MD0.01 & SLS Atrium**

**Are you a Postdoctoral Researcher in Science, Engineering or Medicine?**

Then join us for the 2024 SEM Faculty Postdoctoral Symposium! Present your work to the wider university, network with colleagues from other departments, and explore opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Register using the QR code below to secure your attendance, poster space, or submit and abstract for an oral presentation.

**Register Here:**



**Want to Help?**  
Organising committee members sought from all SEM departments, email [tania.lread@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:tania.lread@warwick.ac.uk) to get involved!

## Discovery of New Cryoprotectants for Medical Applications

The [SossoGroup](#), in collaboration with the University of Manchester, has published a groundbreaking paper, titled “*Data-driven Discovery of Potent Small Molecule Ice Recrystallisation Inhibitors*”, in Nature Communications. This work, combining computational and experimental approaches, has led to the discovery of novel chemicals that reduce cellular damage during cryopreservation - the process of freezing biological material for medical use. This advancement is crucial for delivering the next generation of medical treatments. You can read the paper [here](#) and the Warwick Press Release [here](#).

## Masters student wins prestigious fellowship

Gareth Hart, a Johnson Matthey sponsored Master of Science (by research) student in Walton Group, has been awarded an Industrial Fellowship by the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 for his PhD project. More details on his work and the fellowship scheme can be found [here](#).

## Change to Department Meetings

The Steering Committee decided at their September meeting, for the rest of this academic year, all staff meetings will revert to face to face meetings rather than hybrid, in line with

the majority of other departments. Whilst the Committee is aware of potential EDI issues, it was noted that there is only one meeting per term and the dates of these are advertised well in advance so please make every effort to attend the meetings on 29th January and 7th May. If you have any concerns or comments about this, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Brand Evolution Project**

The Brand Evolution Project Roadshow is now open. Please take part by completing the [survey](#) to get your views heard before 13th October. There are also a series of events to drop in to.

### **Climate Literacy Training**

Some new training for all staff and students has just been launched from Energy and Sustainability, Global Sustainable Development and WMG. The training will provide a fundamental awareness of how our way of living is having an impact on the planet, and how we can make a difference by reducing those impacts. This training will contribute to the Warwick Award. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Warwick Impact Academy**

The new [Warwick Impact Academy](#) has now launched. The Warwick Impact Academy is a web portal that brings together the teams and resources that can support academics on their research impact journey: a one-stop-shop for all things impact. Please note, this is not available externally, it is for Warwick staff only.

### **World Mental Health Day 10th October**

It is World Mental Health Day on October 10th so here is reminder that the [staff wellbeing hub](#) has a wealth of resources to help you look after yourself. On 10th October there are also some short online stress, anxiety and sleep workshops, the links to attend are [here](#).

### **Chemistry Moves Challenge**

Download the [Warwick Moves](#) app, if you haven't already, and get ready to go head to head with colleagues for a Chemistry department challenge in November with special prizes for the winner. More details will follow!

## Development Opportunities for Unrepresented Groups

Do you have disabled, female, LGBTQUIA+ or ethnic minority staff members in your teams who are looking to progress in their careers? There's still time for them to get involved in our development programmes.

Please encourage Grade 7 or 8 colleagues with senior leadership aspirations to consider the [Accelerate programme](#) – applications close this **Friday 4 October**. Colleagues at Grades 4, 5 and 6 can explore the [EmpowerUs programme](#), and apply by 1 November.

If you have any news you would like to share in future newsletters, please email [Cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk) with your idea.

Best wishes,

***Karen***

**Chemistry Internal Comms**

[Data and Privacy](#)

The University of Warwick, University House, Coventry, CV4 8UW, United Kingdom



[View this email in a web browser](#)

[Unsubscribe from our mailing list](#)

[Communication Preferences](#)