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Hello Karen,

Your August newsletter

Conference season is alive and well in Warwick Chemistry this summer...

I wanted to use this opportunity to highlight the fantastic work of our staff in organising and hosting some amazing conferences recently across a wide range of scientific areas.

Our polymer colleagues have just hosted one of the largest polymer conferences in the world [IUPAC MACRO 2024](#): The 50th World Polymer Congress. Organised by Dave Haddleton and a local organizing committee which included Alex Baker, Remzi Becer, Stefan Bon, Rachel Hand, Hannes Houck, Dan Lester, Evelina Liarou, Seb Perrier and Paul Wilson, this meeting brought 1200 world experts from 61 countries to Warwick University from 1st – 4th July. The meeting was host to 600 talks, 300 posters and 25 exhibitors and featured an impressive social programme.

Peter Wich said *“The @WarwickPolymer conferences were always unique, but this time was on a different scale and very special. Excellent scientific discussions, immaculate organisation and an amazing social program.”*

“The presentation was at a fantastic IUPAC Polymer Division conference at the University of Warwick co-chaired by David Haddleton and Paul Topham.”
Professor Michael Brook, 2023 Macro Group UK Medal for Outstanding Achievement winner.



Chemistry and Biology of Natural Products Symposium XVII

From July 4th – 5th, Matt Jenner and Fabrizio Alberti also co-chaired the [Chemistry and Biology of Natural Products Symposium XVII](#) in the IBRB Building on the Gibbet Hill campus. This meeting, aimed at postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and junior academics working in any area of natural product chemistry/biology, brought 115

delegates to Warwick to discuss recent progress in the field.

One attendee stated "*the calibre of the posters and talks was simply exceptional throughout!*"



Warwick Battery Days 2024

Bora Karasulu and Richard Walton organised the [Warwick Battery Days 2024](#) conference here at Warwick from June 20th – 21st. This meeting was the first edition of the annual WBD series, and brought together over 100 computational and experimental experts from 21 different organisations spanning academia and industry. Notably, 40% of attendees were from academic departments here at Warwick, highlighting the extensive battery research community here.



7th Computational Molecular Science

Looking forward, we have another Warwick-based conference being organised by our Computational Chemistry colleagues: the [7th Computational Molecular Science meeting](#) planned for Sept. 11th – 13th. Organised by Livia Bartok-Partay, Bora Karasulu, and Svenja Janke, this meeting will bring keynote and invited speakers from across the UK, Europe, and the USA to speak on a diverse array of topics, from machine learning to simulations of soft and biological matter, from quantum chemistry methods to energy materials and interfaces.

Chemistry Summer BBQ, Rounders and Football

A yearly tradition, our Chemistry Department [Summer BBQ and Rounders \(and Football\)](#) match was held on July 8th. We had “good” weather (no rain) and an amazing turnout of

staff and students for burgers etc. and the much-anticipated return of the ice cream truck. We also managed to pose for what I hope is the first of many departmental photos – thanks for humouring me and thanks Ayca for taking the pic! A huge thanks goes to Karen Buscombe who organised the day, and to Jane, Elise, El, Chris and David for handing out vouchers to people who left it until Monday morning to collect.

Please remember to complete the [feedback form](#) for the event – and thanks to all who came along for making this such a lovely day.



Ann Dixon, Deputy Head of Department (People and Culture)

Staff Updates

New Starters

Connor Box - Research Fellow with Gabriele Sosso

Stephen Brown - Research Assistant with Seb Pike

Leavers

Samson Thorpe

Department Culture Survey

As part of the Transformed Athena Swan Charter brought into effect in 2022, Departments are asked to poll their staff using a specific set of questions designed by Advance HE to explore the departmental culture. We ran this survey at a similar time last year and would appreciate your participation once again.

Please take some time to answer these [23 multiple-choice questions](#) (plus 3 questions about you). Your answers will be completely anonymous and will only be viewed by ED&I Committee members involved in Chemistry's Athena Swan submission (Ann Dixon, Livia Bartok-Partay and Jane Shepherd). The results of this survey will be summarised and made available to staff in due course. The [survey](#) should take approximately 7-8 minutes to complete. Please complete by Friday September 27, 2024. Thank you!

Dignity at Work

There is now an updated Dignity Principles policy (formerly the Dignity at Warwick policy.) Please take a moment to have a look at this new policy which can be found [here](#).

Academic Governance Review Outcomes

The Academic Governance Review, which started in September 2023, now has an approved final report which sets out recommendations for a renewed approach for academic governance, redefining consultation and embedding equality and diversity. You can find out more and read the report [here](#).

Good news

EU and UK Guarantee Scheme

Remzi Becer and Seb Perrier have received a large funding from EU and the UK Guarantee scheme. The Doctoral Training Network has a budget of 5.5M Euro to train 20 Doctoral Candidates in the area of Targeted Delivery of Nucleic Acids together with scientists across Europe and companies such as Astra Zeneca and Croda Pharma. More information can be found on the [network website](#)

Work experience placement 2024

During July we had a really successful 3 day work experience placement for 40 A-Level Students with thanks to all the staff who made this possible. Further information about this and the feedback from the students can be found [here](#).

ACS Polymers Au

Professor Sébastien Perrier was appointed as the new Chief Editor of ACS Polymers Au. ACS Polymers Au is an open access journal published by the American Chemical Society (ACS) that focuses on high-quality research, reviews, and technical guides in the field of polymer science and engineering. It aims to facilitate information sharing and support the global polymer research community by making articles freely accessible to all. Seb believes that open access publishing is essential for modern research, as it removes barriers and enables wide accessibility. This approach benefits multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary work and is crucial for research training. His vision for ACS Polymers Au is to support polymer scientists by providing a fully open access platform, making scientific discoveries and critical reviews accessible to all, and serving as an effective

communication tool.

Pioneering Professors in RSC Special of ChemComm

RSC journal, Chemical Communications, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a special collection of 'pioneering papers' which represent the most cited articles in the UK over the last six decades and includes five from Warwick Professors Stefan Bon, Dave Haddleton, Peter Sadler and Mike Ward. Find out which papers [here](#).

And finally...

New Baby!

Congratulations to Patti Grierson and family on the birth of Eleanor Faith, weighing 7lb 11oz (~3.5kg). All are doing well, and they wanted to thank everyone for their support.



Summer Opening Hours

Summer opening times for campus cafes and shops can be found [here](#).

Car Parks 9 and 10 closure

From 5th August, the car parks near Physics will close. More information on this and other changes can be found [here](#).

New Printing Process

Warwick Print has now officially closed. The new process for printing is outlined [here](#).

OneDrive Phishing Scam

IDG have highlighted to be on the lookout for a sophisticated new phishing campaign that targets OneDrive users with a fake request to fix an error, which, if followed, executes a malicious PowerShell script on their device. More details can be found on the [IDG News page](#).

Best wishes,

Karen

Chemistry Internal Comms

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