

From: cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk
Sent: 05 September 2024 13:54
To: Mosses, Rachel
Subject: Chemistry staff newsletter September 2024



Hello Rachel,

Your September newsletter

Welcome to the start of a new term

I hope that you have had an enjoyable Summer, whatever you have chosen to do, and that you have had the chance to take a good break or holiday, with the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends, or to have a bit more 'me time'.

The month of September marks the transition between Summer and Autumn, and people have different responses to this time of year. Some find it difficult – it's even been called 'Stresstember' – with feelings of sadness and regret, as the Summer months become a distant memory and the nights start to draw in. For others, September marks a new start, with a chance to reflect and make plans for the new year. Many of us may feel both – a little regret, but some optimism!

Over the next few weeks we shall be welcoming new students from all over the world, along with returning students. We also have new staff joining us in several areas of the Department. I know that we shall give all new starters and returners a warm welcome. We have much to look forward to, but also (as always!) things to work on. We shall be rolling out the second year of our new undergraduate curriculum, in the knowledge that the response to the first year from students was pretty positive. Research activity is on an upward trajectory, with new grants and contracts starting and in the pipeline. And no one can have failed to miss STEM Connect becoming a reality, with hoardings going up and a one-way system in place. At a time when there are reports of many UK universities facing difficult financial circumstances, the major investment from the University is a strong indicator of the confidence it has in the STEM subjects.

I look forward to seeing you at the first All Staff meeting on 12 September and to working with you over the coming year.

Staff Updates

New Starters

Anna Pushkareva - Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher with Pat Unwin

Lidice Cruz Rodriguez – Research Fellow with Scott Habershon

Kay White - Programme Coordinator in the UG Office

Leavers in August

Anuradha Peramunugamage

Jonas Becker

Huayun Shi

Callum Pritchard

Department Culture Survey Reminder

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!

Good news

Royal Society on Tour at Jodrell Bank

The University of Warwick's "In Your Element" exhibit led by Prof Peter Sadler and his team (Rafael Marchi, Pragya Kumari and Edward Lant), offered an engaging and insightful journey into the fascinating world of the periodic table, featuring our giant flashing table designed by Rod Wesson. Their exhibit focused on elements essential for life and those used in metallodrugs, highlighting critical roles in growth, metabolism, development, and medical therapy - all with the dramatic backdrop of the world's third largest radio dish telescope. More information and photos of the event can be found [here](#).

Dr Tania Read recognised by Masao Horiba Awards

Congratulations to Tania who received an honourable mention in the Masao Horiba

Awards 2024 for the development of boron-doped diamond electrodes for key analytes in the aqueous environment and beyond. See our [news page](#) to find out more about the award and Tania's reaction to it.

Dr Raj Pandya wins prestigious ERC Grant

Raj Pandya has won €1.8 million EU funding for studying elementary charge dynamics in batteries. See our [news page](#) for more information on the details of this project.

Development of Sustainable Alternatives to Plastics

Joshua Ryan, Gabriele Sosso and Stefan Bon have published a paper in Chemical Science on their groundbreaking research on a proof of concept for eutectic materials as an alternative to plastic. You can read the [press release here](#).

Chemistry in the News

Alex Baker was invited by the BBC News Midlands Today and BBC West Midlands radio to provide expert comment on the recent sodium cyanide spill in Walsall. The TV and radio interviews were on how sodium cyanide works as a chemical and its uses, so the public had some concept of what it does.

Forthcoming Events

Computational Molecular Science CMS 2024

We are delighted to announce that the 7th edition of the Computational Molecular Science (CMS) conference is scheduled to take place at the University of Warwick from 11th to 13th September 2024. The Computational Molecular Science conference is a biennial series that commenced in 2008, organised by various hosts, with the previous gathering held in 2019 at the University of Warwick. Following the pandemic break, we are resuming the CMS series by convening the upcoming event once again at Warwick, bringing together eminent and early-career experts from diverse computational disciplines, and offering a premier platform for the UK modelling community to come together.

A list of distinguished keynote and invited speakers will be presenting at CMS 2024. The conference will feature two parallel sessions, covering topics from machine learning to simulations of soft and biological matter, from quantum chemistry methods to energy materials and interfaces, as well as a networking event for early career researchers. CMS 2024 will also host the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Theoretical Chemistry Group's Graduate Student Meeting (13th September). Over 120 participants are expected to attend CMS 2024.

The organization of CMS 2024 is overseen by the Warwick Chemistry CATCH Research Centre members (Livia Bartok-Partay, Svenja Janke, and Bora Karasulu). Further

information can be found on the [CMS 2024 webpage](#).

Staff Masterclass: Demystifying Neurodiversity and Reasonable Adjustments

For staff supporting students, the Disability Team is offering staff an in person masterclass on neurodiversity, reasonable adjustments, and sharing how the Disability Team and the wider university community support disabled students. There are various dates in Term 1, and more information on this can be found [here](#).

Chemistry Internal Events Calendar

The best way to find out about forthcoming events in the department is to look at the internal [events calendar](#)! Please make sure it is up to date by emailing Cheminternalcomms@warwick.ac.uk to add any events, so we can all try to avoid clashes for larger events.

And finally...

Painting Masterclass

Our first staff/PGR painting masterclass took place at the end of August, hosted by Painting Perfect who managed to make even the novices in the group create masterpieces! We've had some lovely feedback from those that attended, and it was great to have a mixture of staff and our PGR community taking part. Thank you to everyone who joined us. If you want to admire some of our work, photos can be found [here](#).

Best wishes,

Karen
Chemistry Internal Comms

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