



## School of Chemistry News February 2024

### A very warm welcome to...

Congratulations to Tom Hooper and his wife, who have just welcomed a baby girl into their family.

A warm welcome to PhD student Marie Clara Michel. She began her PhD in UCC in October 2020 in the Byrne research group, and moved to UCD with Peter in January, after spending the second half of 2023 in TU Chemnitz in Germany carrying out computational chemistry with collaborator Prof. Martin Breugst.

### Congratulations to ....

Many congratulations to Eoghan McGarrigle on his well-deserved promotion to Associate Professor. Eoghan joined UCD as a member of academic staff in 2012 and has made significant contributions to excellence in research, teaching and administration over the years, including taking on the role of Head of Teaching & Learning during the Covid pandemic. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland, and >10 students have completed their PhD studies under his supervision.

And in more wonderful news, congratulations to Susan Quinn who was last week promoted to Professor and is the first female Professor in the School since the retirement of Prof. Dervilla Donnelly in 1995. Since joining UCD Chemistry in 2009 Susan has contributed significantly to the life of the School through teaching and research, growing her research group and acting as the Head of Research, and currently as the Head of Teaching and Learning. She has also received the RSC Cornforth Award (2016) and the Institute of Chemistry annual Award (2023). It's fantastic to see the University recognize and reward the contribution of female academics.

### New Doctors in the house...

A huge congratulations to Dr Declan Galvin and Dr Dáiríne Morgan from the Guiry group, who both passed their vivas this month. Both are pictured below with their examination committees.





### Publications from staff and students in the School

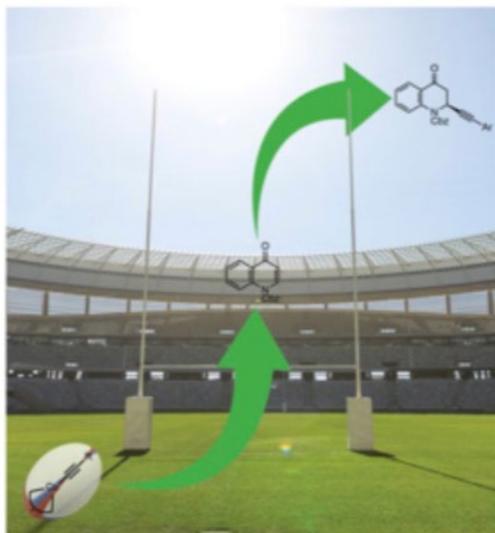
Congratulations to Adam and Amber on co-authoring back-to-back Tutorial Reviews in *Chemical Society Reviews*, with colleagues from the University of Manchester. Tutorial Reviews are jargon-free and easy to read highlights of important topics, which are ideal for those interested in learning about a new area. The first in the twin reviews is *Biocatalysis: landmark discoveries and applications in chemical synthesis*, Adam O'Connell, Amber Barry, Ashleigh J. Burke, Amy E. Hutton, Elizabeth L. Bell, Anthony P. Green and Elaine O'Reilly, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **2024**, Advanced Article <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3CS00689A>.

The second Tutorial Review was also co-authored with colleagues at the University of Manchester. *Strategies for designing biocatalysts with new functions*, Elizabeth L. Bell, Amy E. Hutton, Ashleigh J. Burke, Adam O'Connell, Amber Barry and Elaine O'Reilly, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **2024**, Advanced Article <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3CS00972F>, explores bottom-up enzyme design and application.

Congratulations to Danielle Winning and Jacek Wychowaniec for their recent collaborative paper on magnetically responsive films. *Magnetic chitosan bionanocomposite films as a versatile platform for biomedical hyperthermia*. A. Barra, J. K. Wychowaniec, D. Winning, M. Margarida Cruz, L. P. Ferreira, B. J. Rodriguez, H. Oliveira, E. Ruiz-Hitzky, Cláudia Nunes, Dermot F. Brougham, Paula Ferreira. *Advanced Healthcare Materials*, **2023**, 2303861. DOI: 10.1002/adhm.202303861.

Congratulations to Periklis Karamanis, Jimmy Muldoon, Cormac Murphy and Marina Rubini on their article, *Total synthesis of antifungal lipopeptide Turin A analogues and evaluation of their bioactivity against F. Graminearum*, in *Journal of Peptide Science* <https://doi.org/10.1002/psc.3569>. It's wonderful to see cross-School research that involves strong contributions from students, academics and technical officers. Well done all!

Congratulations to Dáirine and Cian in the Guiry group, whose paper *Enantioselective Copper-Catalyzed Alkynylation of Quinolones Using Chiral P,N Ligands*, has been published in *J. Org. Chem.* **2024**, 89, 3, 1993, and showcased on the Front Cover (see below).



## Research Talks

Many congratulations to Eva Naughton who was awarded a prize for her oral presentation entitled "*Development of Materials for Sustainable Artificial Photosynthesis*" at the EPSRC/SFI CDT in Sustainable Chemistry Winter Showcase 2024, held in the University of Nottingham. Eva is pictured below receiving her award from Professor Simon Woodward.

Congratulations also to Fionn McNeill for his excellent talk on development of methodology for the enantioselective synthesis of sterically hindered heterocycles.



Leila Negahdar has been invited to give a talk at the 9th EuChemS Chemistry Congress for Green Chemistry Education for the Achievement of a Sustainable Future Education focus: To properly prepare chemists to select and further design more benign chemicals, processes, materials, and products. Best of luck with your talk and we look forward to hearing more!

## School events and Activities

To mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the School of Chemistry EDI Committee hosted a screening of the 2019 rendition of Marie Curie's life story, *Radioactive*. The event was well-attended by staff and students in the School of Chemistry, as well as from the College of Science more broadly, and participants were asked to take part in a short survey of their view of female role models in the School. Many thanks to Kristy Stanley for organising this event and to other members of the EDI committee for their input.

We have a new **Instagram account** that is run by the EDI Committee and which we will use to promote selected school events. If you have an event that you would like promoted via this social media account, please send an email with suitable text and relevant photos (ensure you have permission to use these) to [edichem24@gmail.com](mailto:edichem24@gmail.com). The Instagram account is [EDIChemistryUCD](#) and it would be great if people would follow us.

## Save the date!

The School EDI Committee is kick-starting a 'STEM for All' workshop series with 'Let's Talk About Race'. The event will take place in the UCD Global Lounge on March 5th (11am-1pm) and will include talks and discussions lead by undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and technical staff. Please make every effort to attend this important event and spread the word to students and colleagues. As places are limited, please only [register](#) if you can attend. [Register here.](#)



The ICI Young Chemists Network is hosting an afternoon event presenting cutting-edge chemical research through short talks in the Irish language on March 1st. Register for your ticket [here](#) if there are any left!



# Ceimic as Gaeilge 2024

**Dáta:** 1 Márta, 13:30 | 1 March, 13:30  
**Áit:** Ollscoil na hÉireann, 49 Cearnóg Muifeann,  
BÁC 2 | National University of Ireland, 49 Merrion  
Square, Dublin 2 D02 V583

**Tá Líonra na gCeimiceoirí Óga ICÉ á eagrú imeacht ina gcuirfear i láthair taighde ceimice ceannródaíoch le léirithe gairid trí mheán na Gaeilge**

The ICI Young Chemists Network is hosting an afternoon event presenting cutting-edge chemical research through short talks in the Irish language



**Cainteoirí:** An Dr Patrick O'Leary (Cláráitheoir Ollscoil na hÉireann), Maitiú Ó Ciarnáin (UCD), Niamh Ní Shé (TCD), Eoghan Ó Curnáin (UCD), An Dr Iósaf Ó Beirne (UCD), Cathal Shiels (UCD), Cathal Ó Ceallaigh (QUB), Eoin Mac Aoidh Pasquetti (UCD), Aobhain Ní Chonchubhair (UCD), Gearóid Ó Máille (Comhairle Taighde na hEorpa)





**Má tá suim agat teacht, cuir ticéad saor in áirithe**

If you want to attend, book a free ticket

**Cláraigh / Register:**

<https://buytickets.at/youngchemistsnetwork/ionranagceimiceoig>





**Scaip an scéal le bhur dtoil d'éinne i bhur líonra le suim sa Ghaeilge**

Please spread the word to anyone in your network with an interest in the Irish language

