

FYI - EDI

In May, the School will submit an application to AdvanceHE for an Athena Swan Silver Award, to have our continued commitment to Gender Equality and wider EDI issues recognised. For more information about Athena Swan, please see the [AdvanceHE website](#).

Welcome and Farewells

The Baumann group welcomes Sara Vicinanca (Milan) and Nicolas Leclercq (Liege) as new visiting postgraduates. At the same time we say farewell to Andrea Chiocca (Genoa) and Sara Ferrario (Milan) and wish them all the best in the future.

Research Funding

Dr Kirill Nikitin SINFERT

25 March 2025: Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD has announced the final 10 research teams to receive Grow Phase funding under the National Challenge Fund – a €65 million competitive programme which aims to deliver solutions for major environmental and societal issues.

The Future Food Systems programme seeks solutions for sustainable, productive and resilient food systems. Among the finalists, Dr Kirill Nikitin's project SINFERT "Non-aqueous Generation of Soluble Phosphate Fertiliser from Solid Agricultural Biowaste for Sustainable Agrifood Systems".

The specific problem is the sequestration of phosphorus from municipal, biological and organic solid waste and turning it into a soluble plant available form. SINFERT team have designed a totally novel chemical system that can recover phosphorus from mineralised biological waste streams and where the recovered phosphorus is in plant-available form. The method has already been validated for incinerated abattoir waste, fish waste, flocculated water treatment waste. The outputs of the process are high quality phosphates for use as fertilisers, flame retardants and food additives.

As a member of the ESPP (European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform) SINFERT works closely with industrial stakeholders in Ireland and in the EU. The results have been presented at the Aquatech Forum in Amsterdam, 12-14 March 2025.

congratulations

UCD Student Awards

Students Recognized for Outstanding Academic and Extracurricular Achievements



Well done, Anastasiia Nikishkina and Harry McGuckin

Harry McGuckin and Anastasiia Nikishkina have been awarded Stage 3 Chemistry and Stage 3 Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology awards respectively at UCD award ceremony on March 7th. These are awarded based on student performance in individual subject areas and is evidence of exceptional academic achievements!

Congratulations, Jan Hrebík

At the University Awards Day on March 7th, a final year Chemistry with Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry student Jan Hrebík was awarded the President's Award for excellence in extracurricular activities of a kind that make UCD an exciting, interesting, dynamic, and humane place to live, study and work. Jan was primarily involved in UCD German Society, leading it to a university-wide recognition. More about the Award and its recipients can be found [here](#).



UCD Science Annual Awards Ceremony 2025



We would like to congratulate all the Chemistry students who received awards at the [UCD Science Annual Awards Ceremony 2025](#), held on the 22nd of March.

The award recipients are:

- » Irwin Tze Yu Fong: Science (BBB & Chemistry)
- » Maria Sanchez-Giron: Science (Chemistry)
- » Harry McGuckin: Science (Chemistry)
- » Felix Schlosser: Chemistry
- » Hubert Rebow: Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology
- » Jan Hrebík: Excellence in Mentoring (Chemistry)
- » Adaline Bainbridge: Recognition of Student Achievements (BBB & Chemistry)
- » Celine Erkey: Recognition of Student Achievements (Chemistry)
- » Yoana Petrova: Recognition of Student Achievements (BBB & Chemistry)

Michael McGlinchey at 80 - A Celebration of Inorganic Chemistry



Left to Right: Grace Morgan, Barbara McGlinchey, Didier Astruc, and Michael McGlinchey

On March 12, 2025, we celebrated Emeritus Professor Michael McGlinchey's incredible career and 80th birthday with a special half-day symposium hosted by Associate Professor Grace Morgan. The event featured insightful talks from guest speakers and Professor McGlinchey himself. Find out more about this event on our [website](#).

Coffee Morning with our Taught Masters Students



On March 28th the Taught Masters 2024/25 students met up for one of our regular coffee mornings. These get-togethers are a great opportunity for students to have informal discussions with their Programme Directors, Declan Gilheany and Paul Evans, and the School Head of Graduate Studies, Tony Keene. While these students are with us for only one year, it is great to get to know them better at a relaxed event once a trimester. Thanks to all who attended and to Elaine Mackey for organising.

Publications from staff and students in the School

Changing Attitudes toward Organic Chemistry via a Digital Multiplayer Game

(Jovern Teo, Panshul Sharma, Mattias Wei Ren Kon, Jia Yi Han, Timothy Lin Yun Tan, Yun Ling Teh, John Yap, Yulin Lam and Fun Man Fung)

Congratulations to Fun Man Fung for having his ChemPOV project, created in collaboration with NUS Information Technology and CIENTIA at NUS High School, published in the Journal of Chemical Education.

Read more at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jchemed.4c01237>

Study of Ni-ZSM-5 Catalysts in the Hydrogenolysis of Benzyl Phenyl Ether: Effects of Ni Loading, Morphology, and Reaction Conditions

(Raphaël Abolivier, Hans-Georg Eckhardt, James A. Sullivan)

A paper from Raphaël Abolivier's thesis "A study of Ni-ZSM-5 catalysts in the hydrogenolysis of benzyl phenyl ether: Effects of Ni loading, morphology and reaction conditions" Raphaël Abolivier, Hans-Georg Eckhardt, James A. Sullivan, has been accepted for publication in ACS Omega.

Read more at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.4c11273>

Direct synthesis of ethers from alcohols & aldehydes enabled by an oxocarbenium ion interception strategy

(Dara T. Curran, Marcin Szydło, Helge Müller-Bunz, Kirill Nikitin and Peter A. Byrne)

While a combination of alcohol and aldehyde under acidic conditions typically gives an acetal, interception of the intermediate oxocarbenium ion by a phosphine followed by hydrolysis leads to ethers without the need for a hydride donor 04 Mar 2025 Chem. Sci. 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1039/D4SC06203E>

Congratulations to Dara Curran on the publication of this article, and also on completing his PhD viva in February with external examiner Dr Louis Morrill from the University of Bath and Prof. Declan Gilheany and Dr Robert Johnson as internal examiner and Chair, respectively.

Publications from staff and students in the School

Recent publications from the Baumann group

Congratulations to Elena Graziano, Ruairi Bannon, Ruairi Crawford, Arlene Bonner and Jorge Garcia for publishing their research in a number of high profile papers over the recent weeks:

"Continuous Flow Technology Enabling Photochemistry"

R Crawford, M Baumann
Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis, 2025, ASAP;
<https://doi.org/10.1002/acs.dsc.202500133>

"Generation and Use of Bicyclo [1.1. 0] butyllithium under Continuous Flow Conditions"

E Graziano, M Colella, M Baumann, R Luisi
Organic Letters, 2025 ASAP;
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.orglett.5c00705>

"Photocarboxylation of Arylated 2H-Azirines Exploiting Continuous Flow Technology."

A Bonner, J García-Lacuna, M Baumann
European Journal of Organic Chemistry, 2025, e202500177;
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejoc.202500177>

"Continuous Flow Synthesis of β -Aminoketones as Masked Vinyl Ketone Equivalents."

R Bannon, M Smyth, TS Moody, S Wharry, PMC Roth, G Gauron
Chemistry–A European Journal, 2025, e202500014.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.202500014>

Two recent publications from the Fung Research Group, in collaboration with international teams.

Zinc Single-Atom Nanozyme As Carbonic Anhydrase Mimic for CO₂ Capture and Conversion

EM Hamed, FM Fung, SFY Li
ACS Mater. Au 2025, 5, 2, 377–384

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsmaterials.4c00156>

Nanozymes and the Sustainable Future of Food Quality Control: Innovation versus Pragmatism

EM Hamed, FM Fung, SFY Li
ACS Food Sci. Technol. 2025, 5, 3, 925–927

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsfoodscitech.4c01040>

Female Role Models in Chemistry Awards

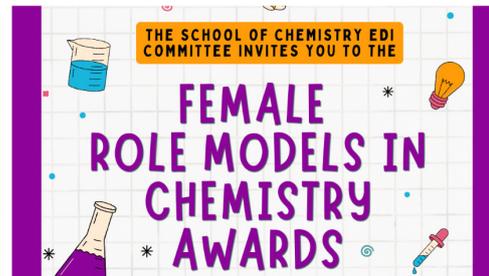
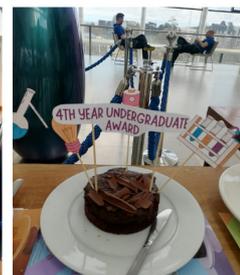
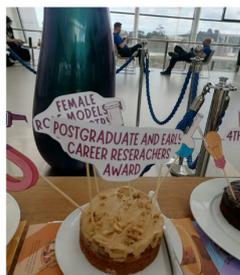
On March 28th, the Female Role Models in Chemistry awards took place, an event organized by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee to recognize and celebrate women who actively contribute to creating a more equitable and inclusive academic environment.

The awardees in each category were:

- » *Serena Cussen* – Academic Staff
- » *Kristy Stanley* – Technical Officer or Administrative Staff in the School of Chemistry
- » *Olivia Breen* – Early Career Researcher or Postgraduate Student
- » *Emily Kelly* – Fourth-Year Undergraduate Student
- » *Tracey Nwedo* – Third-Year Undergraduate Student

We extend our warmest congratulations to the winners and to all those who were nominated for their positive impact on the School. Let's continue working together to promote diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for everyone.

A special thank you to Celine, Giselle, Julia, and Gawain for their dedication and effort in making this event possible. Below are some photos from the celebration.



Talks in External Institutions



Dr. Fung delivered a talk for post-docs and PhD students at Stanford University on Finding Meaning in Chemistry Education: [A Guide to Your Ikigai](#)

Dr. Fung gave research colloquia at the Chemistry Departments at Washington University St. Louis, and University of Iowa. He was hosted by the Department Chairs Professor Drs. Jennifer Heemstra and Renee Cole respectively. Upon invitation by Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN) President/CEO Dr. Jonathon Richter, Dr. Fung also spoke at the Montana Futures Forum held in Missoula, MT and had discussion for possible collaborations with Julie Cahill, Associate Vice Provost, Educational Initiatives & Innovation, University of Montana. The meetings were supported by the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund.

As part of his research sabbatical Marcus Baumann has undertaken a lecture tour in Singapore and Australia where he gave invited seminars at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) as well as Monash University, the University of Melbourne, Wollongong University, the University of Tasmania, the University of Queensland Brisbane, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University.



Events Attended by Chemistry Students

Well done, Vanessa!

Congratulations to Vanessa Becker (@McGarrigle Group) who presented her PhD research in a talk at the American Chemical Society's National Meeting & Expo in San Diego in March.

ChemSoc/SRI green week event



During UCD's Green week earlier in March the Chemical Society teamed up with members of the UCD sustainable research initiative wet labs sub group to organise a workshop entitled: "Small Wins: Sustainable Practices in Labs". We had some great attendance from labs across the school and several members of the school of chemistry delivered short flash talks on ways that we can be more sustainable in our daily lives in chemistry labs. A big thank you to all of the speakers who took part and to all those who attended. Congratulations to Amélia Auville who received the prize for best flash talk for her talk about green solvents!

Conference



Senpai Learning, the Chemistry Education Research Group at UCD Chemistry, participated in the American Chemical Society Spring Meeting 2025 held in San Diego, CA. Five students under Dr. Fung's mentorship debuted at their first international scientific conference, presented their works in Chemistry Education and the Science of Learning.

What was on in UCD?

Pi the Professor 2025 – Fundraising

SciSoc held their annual Pi the Professor event on Tuesday April 2nd to raise funds for the Children's Health Foundation. Chemistry was well represented!



You can make a charitable donation using the QR code provided and any donations are warmly welcomed!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ChemSoc Inaugural Lecture –
24th April – 3pm – 6pm
(C004, Health Sciences)

Chemistry Third Year PhD Presentation 2025 –
21st of May – 9 am – 5pm
(Science Hub – O'Brien Centre for Science)