



School of Chemistry News September 2023



Welcome to....

Prof Quan-Qing Xu from Yunnan Normal University, China, has joined the Sullivan group as a Visiting Professor for a year.

A warm welcome to all Stage 4 students who are joining research groups in the School for their projects. We wish you every success in your research and hope that it is an enjoyable experience for you all.

The Baumann Group would like to welcome Tara Joyce, Eunice Elewa and Emilija Stankeviciute as our three 4th year research students.

Recent Publications from the School

Both Arlene Bonner and Parth Naik (Baumann group) published their first research papers recently in a Special Issue on Flow Chemistry in OPRD - Well done! "*Development of a Continuous Flow Baldwin Rearrangement Process and Its Comparison to Traditional Batch Mode.*" Arlene Bonner and Marcus Baumann *Org. Process Res. Dev.*, **2023**, DOI: 10.1021/acs.oprd.3c00213 and "*Continuous Flow Oxidation of Alcohols Using TEMPO/NaOCl for the Selective and Scalable Synthesis of Aldehydes.*" Parth Naik, Jorge García-Lacuna, Patrick O'Neill, and Marcus Baumann, *Org. Process Res. Dev.*, **2023**, DOI: 10.1021/acs.oprd.3c00237. Congratulations to all involved on these too great papers.

Congratulations to Niamh Disney, also from the Baumann Group, on her recent publication of a cyanide-free synthesis of nitriles exploiting flow chemistry. "A cyanide-free synthesis of nitriles exploiting flow chemistry", Niamh Disney, Megan Smyth, Scott Wharry, Thomas S. Moody, Marcuss Baumann, *Reaction Chemistry & Engineering*, DOI: [10.1039/D3RE00458A](https://doi.org/10.1039/D3RE00458A).

Congratulations to Aoife, Marianne, and Ishita from the O'Reilly Group, on their wonderful review on "*Enzyme-triggered reactions for the synthesis of organic molecules*" recently accepted in *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*. The article will be included in a Special Edition of the Journal in memory of Professor Dave A. Evans, a pioneer in the field of asymmetric synthesis. A lovely feature of this article is that the all-female co-authors represent all the various stages (undergraduate, PhD, Postdoc, and faculty) on the academic journey. Have a read! Aoife Martin, Ishita Solanki, Marianne Bore Haarr, Elaine O'Reilly, *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*, DOI: 10.1002/ejoc.20230085.

Events

On November 19th, we celebrate International Men's Day. We would like to showcase the contributions from our male colleagues in the lead up to this day, so could I ask male PhD students, PDs, technical and academic staff to please send me on a simple ppt slide that you would be happy for us to display on our 3rd floor screen and potentially as part of a story on our School's website. A picture(s) and a brief line about your work is all we need. Please send this to elaine.oreilly@ucd.ie by Friday 10th November with the subject (International Men's Day).

FYI Elaine Mackey updates the School of Chemistry news pages every month (thanks Elaine!). An archive of news items is also available. You can view the page at <https://www.ucd.ie/chem/newsevents/schoolofchemistrynewsbulletins/>

Talks, Awards and Recognition

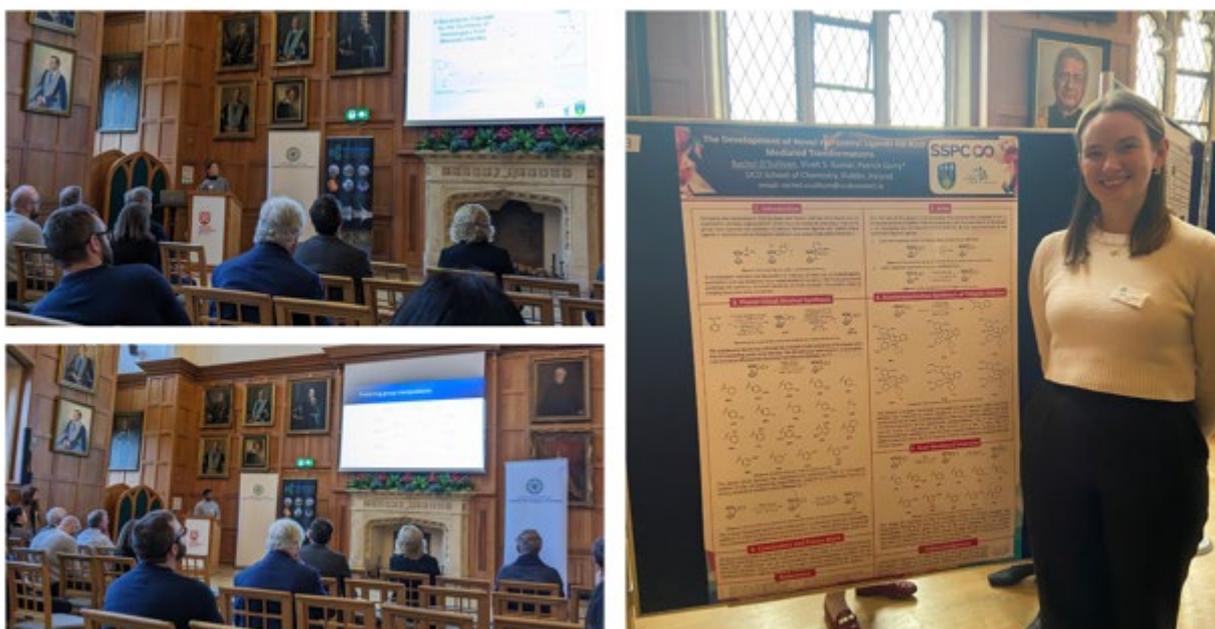
Many congratulations to Val Abromaitis, Rónán Crowley, and Paddy Waldron, all of whom have recently been promoted to Senior Technical Officers. Our TOs are central to all our teaching and research activities and these promotions are recognition for the fantastic contribution each make to the School.

The Annual ICI Congress took place in Queen's University Belfast this October. The event was held in the Great Hall, and it was a wonderful event for all in attendance, with an especially great turn-out from UCD School of Chemistry. Prof Susan Quinn delivered her award lecture titled "*Adventures in DNA: Exploring new avenues for light activated diagnostics and therapeutics*" and received the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Eva Philbin prize. Many congratulations to Susan on this well-deserved recognition of her group's research.



Congratulations to Dr Hannah Crory (J. Byrne Group, *pictured*), who did an 'elevator pitch' with some updates on SugarCoat and also picked up a poster prize! Many congratulations to Rachel O'Sullivan (Guiry Group, *pictured*) for winning a poster prize!" Sophie Kavanagh and Thomas Rabbitte shared a poster highlighting the design of the Link4Lectin IRC Laureate project. Christine Coffey (Hooper Group), Kathryn Yeow (O'Reilly Group, *pictured*), and Bodhayan Biswas (McGarrigle Group, *pictured*) also gave great

'elevator pitches' at the ICI Congress. Well done to the UCD crew for helping make this event such a success.



The EDI committee invited [Dr Felix Kaspar](#) from Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, to give a talk at the first Postdoc Forum of the new academic year. Felix is an independently-funded postdoc and project manager with an impressive [CV](#) and a passion for chemistry (he completed his PhD in less than 1.5 years!). He gave a research talk titled "Biocatalysis with Phosphorylated Intermediates" and shared some aspects of his career journey and his advice to early career researchers. It was a truly outstanding talk!

Congratulations to group members from Peter Byrne and Xiangming Zhu's group, who won best group costume at the ChemSoc Halloween event for their wonderful *Wizard of Oz* costumes. Second prize went to a group dressed up as Scooby-Doo.



New Doctor in the House!!!

Congratulations to Dr Peter McDermott from the McGarrigle Group, Dr Kristy Stanley from the Sullivan group and to Dr Cian Reid from the Guiry Group on passing their viva this month!



Opportunity

Applications are invited to join SFI funded proposal team working on Non-aqueous Generation of Soluble Inorganic Phosphate (SINFERT) led by Dr Kirill Nikitin. The proposed research is a part of strategic theme Creating a Sustainable Global Society. If anyone is interested in this post, please contact Kirill for an informal discussion. Closing date: 17:00hrs (local Irish time) on 16th November 2023.