



RSC INTEREST GROUP  
**CHEMICAL BIOLOGY  
AND BIOORGANIC**

**Group Forum**  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**School of Chemistry, University of Bristol**



University of  
**BRISTOL**

## Schedule

9:15-10:00 Arrival and poster assembly

10:00-10:10 Welcome address

**Session 1 – Chair: Michael Booth (UCL)**

10:15-10:35 **Simon Tang** (U. Bath) – Recombinant head-to-tail cyclic protein production using an asparinyl endopeptidase

10:35-10:55 **Jess Cross** (U. Bristol) – Allosteric regulation of kinesin-1 through *de novo* protein design

10:55-11:15 **Nicola Wade** (U. Glasgow) – A platform for cyclic peptide anti-toxin aptamer discovery

**Session 2 – Chair: Matt Crump (U. Bristol)**

11:20-11:40 **Michael Herrera** (U. Edinburgh) – ALGO-CP: Developing a computational platform for the design of novel carrier proteins

11:40-12:00 **Joshua Tomkins** (KCL) – Genome mining and bio-inspired cyclisation: Unlocking novel therapeutic RiPPs

12:00-12:15 **Hanieh Ljakipour** (CEM) – Advancements and innovations in solid-phase peptide synthesis: Enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and automation

12:15-13:15 **Lunch and posters**

**Session 3 – Chair: Stephen Wallace (U. Edinburgh)**

13:15-2:00 **Plenary Lecture - Sandy Schmidt** (Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy) – Harnessing the catalytic power of nitrogen-nitrogen bond forming enzymes for pharmaceutical synthesis

2:00-2:20 **Jack Rowbotham** (MIB, U. Manchester) – Repurposing metalloenzymes for emerging challenges in chemical synthesis

2:20-2:40 **Seb Cosgrove** (U. Keele) – Enzyme immobilisation as a central tool in flow biocatalysis

2.40-3:45 **Poster session**

**Session 4 – Chair: Sarah Barry (KCL)**

3.45-4:05 **Charlie McTernan** (The Francis Crick Institute) – MacTACS- a new family of supramolecular molecular degraders with unexpected selectivity

4:05-4:25 **Purba Mukerjee** (U. York) – Polymerases for synthesis

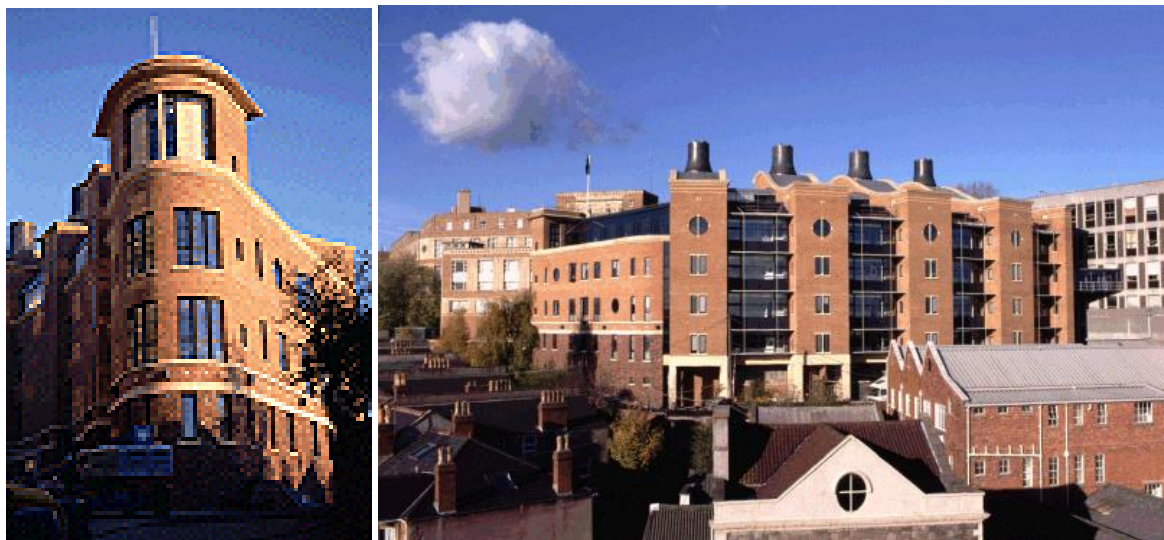
4:25-5:10 **Plenary Lecture – Zoë Waller** (UCL) – The changing shape of DNA in genes

5.10-5.15 **Concluding remarks- Chris Willis (U. Bristol)**

5:15-6:15 **Networking reception and prize presentations**

## Getting to the Meeting

We look forward to welcoming you to the University of Bristol. The meeting will take place in the School of Chemistry (LT1) University of Bristol (BS8 1TS). If you are travelling by train, it is best to come to Bristol Temple Meads Station. It takes about 25 minutes to walk to the Department. Alternatively, the number 8 bus leaves regularly from the station forecourt and stops close to the University. There is also a taxi rank at the station forecourt. If driving, the closest parking is at Trenchard Street Car Park.



## Important information for delegates

### Exhibitor information

A table and chairs will be provided for each exhibitor. Please contact Chris Willis ([chris.willis@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:chris.willis@bristol.ac.uk)) for further requests/information.

### Poster presentations

Posters should be printed in advance of the conference by delegates in the **A0 portrait** format. Double sided poster boards and fixing materials will be provided. Poster board will have numbers and presenters will be able to find their poster number in the poster abstract section of the final booklet available closer to the meeting. Posters should be setup by 9.50 and removed by 18:00.

### Oral presentations

The length of oral presentations is included in the schedule (please allow 5 minutes for questions in that time). We ask that all speakers keep within their allocated time slots as the scheduling is tight. In the conference room there will be a PC, as well as the option to connect a personal laptop to a hdmi cable. If using the PC provided, please bring your presentation on a USB stick (to be uploaded before the morning session or for those speaking in the afternoon then uploaded in the break before your session). If you are using your own laptop, please ensure that you bring all the adapters needed. It would be helpful if speakers could also send a copy of their presentation to [chris.willis@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:chris.willis@bristol.ac.uk) by 9 a.m. on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February so that a backup is available in the event of any on-the-day technical issues. These presentations will be deleted after the meeting.

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