



**Analytical
Science
Community**

Analytical Matters, Summer 2024

Welcome to the twenty-sixth issue of Analytical Matters, the e-newsletter of the Analytical Science Community (ASC) of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). Analytical Matters aims to showcase the wide range of analytical science activities being run across the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Science Community as well as linking with parts of the analytical community beyond our membership.

In June, it was wonderful to see the analytical science community come together for the Analytical Research Forum 2024. The quality of the talks and poster contributions were excellent, and it was wonderful to see such a range of different topics and techniques covered. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the organising committee and RSC staff who helped ensure the event ran smoothly.

We have also recently announced our RSC Analytical Prize winners, Dr Maxie Roessler and Professor Steven Bell. A huge congratulations to both - you can learn more about their excellent analytical work and their awards below. Nominations for all prize categories for 2025 will open later in the year.

I'm also pleased to see the first round of [RSC Sustainability Grants](#) be awarded, with many projects having an analytical focus. Exploring how we can be more sustainable as a community is hugely important as analytical scientists - from looking at how we can reduce and reuse plastics, to reimagining methods - we all have a huge role to play. The next call for the Sustainability Grants will go live in the Autumn, so please do consider applying if you have an idea you want to explore.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing ASC Council Members, who have devoted a large portion of their time to improving the analytical sciences for our community - thank you for your service - and welcome our new ones. If you would like to get involved in ASC Council, please do consider putting your name forward for the RSC Elections later in the year.

With best wishes,

Zoë Ayres

President, RSC Analytical Science Community

Highlights from the Community

Report from the 2024 Analytical Research Forum

On 18th June, 100 delegates attended the [Analytical Research Forum](#). This flagship event for the analytical science community showcases cutting edge analytical chemistry and its applications encompassing industry and academia. The programme included keynote talks from RSC Prize winners and leaders from Industry including: Tony Bristow (AstraZeneca), Azzedine Dabo (GSK), Julie MacPherson (University of Warwick) and Robert Weatherup (University of Oxford).

Alongside the keynote talks, there was a rich programme of invited talks covering a range of challenges being addressed by analytical chemistry such as monitoring for pollutants in air and wastewater, analysing compounds in Antarctic ice, to applying analytical technologies in medicine, archaeology as well as the application of machine learning.

Claire White (Seldon Research Ltd) chaired an expert panel to discuss experiences of engaging with the broader community and was joined by Melissa Hanna-Brown (University College Cork), Kemi Oloyede (Imperial College London) and Graeme Turnbull (Northumbria University).



Photo caption: Delegates at the panel discussion involving panellists Claire White (Seldon Research Ltd), Melissa Hanna-Brown (University College Cork), Kemi Oloyede (Imperial College London) and Graeme Turnbull (Northumbria University).

37 PhD students and early career scientists shared their research during the dedicated poster sessions, and prizes were awarded to two poster presenters by RSC journals [Analyst](#) and [Analytical Methods](#).

Vicky Hilborne (ARF Scientific Organising Committee) said *'The meeting was a great success. The quality of all talks was outstanding, as were the poster presentations. The variety of analytical chemistry applications, from the Amazon rainforest, to Antarctic ice cores, air quality in our own homes and medical diagnostics was inspiring. A huge thanks to the organising committee, not least, the brilliant RSC staff, all of whom are a privilege to work with. Above all, many thanks go to the delegates for joining us, for asking great*

questions, and making this event such a success. I encourage you to submit oral or poster presentation abstracts for ARF2025.'

Thanks to members of the 2024 Scientific Committee: Zoë Ayres, Vicky Hilborne, Claire White, Leon Barron and Philip Kay, and RSC team: Susan Weatherby, Rosalind Searle and Anne Horan.

Look out for more information about next year's Analytical Research Forum soon.



Photo caption: RSC Prize winners, Julie MacPherson (University of Warwick) and Robert Weatherup (University of Oxford), were presented with their medals.



Photo caption: Zoë Ayres presents the 2024 ARF poster prize winners: Anjali John (University of Warwick) and Ibrahim Salaudeen (Northumbria University).

Upcoming Events

Faraday Discussion - NMR crystallography

4-6 Sept 2024, Birmingham, UK

Poster abstract deadline: 15 Jul 2024

Registration deadline: 12 Aug 2024

Faraday Discussion - Data-driven discovery in the chemical sciences

10-12 Sept 2024, Oxford, UK

Early-bird registration deadline: 29 July 2024

Faraday Discussion - New horizons in nanoelectrochemistry

14-16 Oct 2024, Nanjing, China

Poster abstract deadline: 29 July 2024

Faraday Discussion - Atmospheric chemistry in cold environments

17-19 February 2025, London, UK

Poster abstract deadline: 9 December 2024

Faraday Discussion – Advanced imaging techniques in biomineralisation research

14-16 May 2025, Edinburgh, UK

Oral abstract deadline: 9 September 2024

For more information about activities from the broader Analytical Science Community, please visit the [events page](#).

News and opportunities

Welcome to the new elected members of the Analytical Science Community Council

At the RSC Annual General Meeting, on 1 July the newly elected members of the Analytical Science Community (ASC) Council were formally announced. We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the Council:

- Yi-Lun Ying, Nanjing University
- Stefaniya Velichkova, Cargill European Food Innovation Center

During their terms on Council, they will contribute to RSC strategic programmes as well helping to develop ASC's future activities. Find out more about the Analytical Science Community activities [on our webpage](#).

We also say a fond farewell and thank you to Council members who are stepping down:

- Ian Ball, Johnson Matthey
- Jonathan Jones, Genedata
- Bhavik Patel, University of Brighton

Congratulations to the winners of our 2024 Analytical Science Prizes



On 12 June, the RSC announced the 2024 winners of its Research & Innovation, Horizon, Inclusion and Diversity, and Volunteer Recognition Prizes.

Through its Prizes programme, the Analytical Science Community celebrates the individuals, teams and collaborations who contribute to the advances in analytical science, as well as recognising significant recent novel discoveries in the field. Winners are selected by the Analytical Science Prize Committee.

How can I get involved?

Take a look at the list of winners below, and click through to learn more about them and their work:

[2024 Analytical Science early career prize: Joseph Black Prize](#)

Dr Maxie Roessler, Imperial College London

[2024 Analytical Science open prize: Theophilus Redwood Prize](#)

Professor Steven Bell, Queen's University Belfast

Visit our [online gallery](#) to find out more about all our 2024 winners.

What's next?

Nominations for our 2025 [Horizon](#), [Inclusion and Diversity](#), [Research & Innovation](#) and [Volunteer Recognition](#) Prizes will open in the autumn. Keep an eye out nearer the time for more information and consider making a nomination.

Sustainable Laboratories Grants

We are delighted to have announced the [33 projects funded in the first round of our Sustainable Laboratories Grants](#). These grants offer up to £10,000 to projects that will help improve the environmental footprint of chemistry research.



The projects are from 11 countries and address a broad range of sustainability topics important in chemistry research laboratories.

The project teams represent a broad range of roles and career stages within chemistry, with five led by technicians, and four including a PhD student within the team. All the [projects are listed on our website](#) and four grant recipients are [profiled in this month's edition of Voice](#).

The Sustainable Laboratories Grants form part of the RSC's commitment to reduce the environmental footprint of chemistry research, building on the findings of our [Sustainable Laboratories report](#). Members of the RSC's Science Subject Community Councils helped develop the grants, as well as overseeing the selection of the funded projects.

Apply for funding

A new round of funding will open on 2 September 2024.

Available to all RSC members for initiatives and activities that achieve one or more of the following aims:

- Advance understanding of environmentally sustainable laboratory practice.
- Increase the take-up of environmentally sustainable laboratory practices in the chemical sciences.
- Facilitate sharing of best practices.

If you have an idea to reduce the environmental impact of chemistry research laboratories, we encourage [you to apply](#).

Get involved with RSC policy work

To stay informed about developments in the science policy environment, you can join our Group on Research and Innovation Policy (GRIP). The group covers a breadth of policy areas, ranging from research and development funding, to support for innovation, international collaboration and mobility, to science culture and research assessment. You will hear about our ongoing work and can contribute to our calls for evidence on UK research and innovation topics. Your input will help us continue to advocate for changes that will best enable high quality work in the chemical sciences. Any RSC member interested in joining the GRIP can [sign up by completing a short survey](#).

Funding and support

For more information on funding and to explore those open for application, visit the [RSC's funding pages](#).

Researcher Development and Travel Grants

The Researcher Development and Travel Grants provide up to £500 for PhD students and early career scientists in both industry and academia wishing to undertake an activity that supports their research career.

Our [Researcher Development and Travel Grants](#) have reopened for applications for activities starting from **1 October 2024**. Applications will close on **29 July**.

The next round will open on 19 August 2024, for activities starting on, or after, 1 January 2025. For full details of application rounds and updated applicant guidance, please see our [website](#).

Researcher Collaborations Grants

Our [Researcher Collaborations Grants](#) will reopen for applications on **27 August** for activities starting within 12 months from 1 February 2025. Our Researcher Collaborations Grant enables researchers to establish and develop national, international, interdisciplinary, and cross-sector collaborations and networks. RSC members can apply for funding to participate in or organise activities that bring together researchers, including:

- research visits to potential or current collaborator's institutions.
- organising meetings/workshops.

Research Fund

Our [Research Fund](#) is open for applications until **8 July** and reopens for another round on 28 October. Our Research Fund supports members with limited access to research funds to start new projects, particularly those working in less well-funded institutes, those in developing countries and early career researchers. Many of our members use this grant as seed funding, helping them to subsequently obtain larger grants or with career development.

Education News

Schools' Analyst Competition

The RSC Schools' Analyst Competition 2024 recently came to a close, and thanks go to all of the schools and colleges around the UK and Ireland who participated this year.

350 boxes of samples and equipment were again sent out for students, this time to have them support a fictional trading standards investigation. Using their investigative powers and their skills in titrations, TLC, and volumetric analysis, students ensured ingredients lists were accurate, food dyes were kept safe, and cakes could rise!

Each school or college crowned their own winner, but also each of the Analytical Sciences Community regions has a champion of champions listed below.

Region	Team
Scotland	Fraserburgh Academy
North East	Cramlington Learning Villages
North West	Oldham Sixth Form College
Midlands	King Edward's School, Birmingham
East Anglia	Colchester County High School for Girls
Western	QEH Bristol
South East	St Helen's School, Northwood
Northern Ireland	St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon
Republic of Ireland	Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon

The competition will return in 2025, so keep an eye out on [RSC Events](#) from October for more details.

Items of interest from other organisations

Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund

The Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund (ACTF) is a charity established for the purposes of promoting, assisting and extending the science and study of Analytical Chemistry and of all questions relating to the analysis, nature and composition of natural and manufactured materials for the benefit of the public. Please visit [the webpage](#) for a number of new ACTF grants alongside education and training opportunities.

CAMS Fellowship Call 2024

This is a call to support up to 5 CAMS Fellowships, funded by the ACTF, to assist early career analytical chemists to establish a research identity. Applicants should be within 5 years of their first, fulltime academic or research technical professional appointment at a UK or Irish higher education institute (excluding career breaks). The one-off Fellowship awards of up to £30K are to be used to advance the research career of the Fellow, whilst being in-keeping with the objectives of both the ACTF and the Community of Analytical Measurement Science (CAMS).

The application deadline is **16 September 2024** and further information about the call and the application process can be found on [CAMS Fellowship Call 2024 - CAMS-UK](#) .

Emerging Analytical Professionals Conference 9-11 May 2025

Whether you're from industry or academia, the upcoming EAP conference, "**Unveiling the Mysteries: A Journey through Analytical Sciences**", is your gateway to cutting-edge research, innovative methodologies, and vibrant networking opportunities.

The conference will include:

- **Expert Speakers:** Hear from leading minds in analytical chemistry as they share their latest discoveries and insights.
- **Networking:** Connect with peers and professionals from both industry and academia.
- **Fancy Dress Night:** Get ready to showcase your creativity at the themed fancy dress night!

Keep an eye on the [Analytical Science Network page](#) or sign up to the mailing list for further details over the coming months!