

Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2025

Inside your Newsletter:

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Graduation and Awards
- 3 Celebrations and Congratulations
- 6 Enterprise activity: launch of CChES
- 7 Wedding Congratulations
- 8 University Challenge
Outreach update
- 9 Chemistry Publications UG
contributions
Obituary: Derek Pletcher
- 10 PSDI Showcase 2025
- 11 Pets of the School of Chemistry
and Chemical Engineering
- 12 Beyond Chemistry
Mentoring
- 13 Student Resources and Wellbeing
- 16 Code of Conduct

Important Dates

2025/26 Term Dates:

Semester 1:

Mon 22 Sept 2025 – Sat 24 Jan 2026

Autumn Term: Mon 29 Sept to Sat 13
Dec 2025

Semester 1 Exams:

Monday 12 Jan – Fri 24 Jan 2026

Semester 2:

Mon 26 Jan – Sat 13 June 2026

Spring Term: Mon 5 Jan – Sat 21 March
2026

Summer Term: Mon 20 April – Sat 13
June 2026

Semester 2 Exams:

Mon 18 May – Fri 6 June 2026

University Closure days/Public Holidays:

Thur 25 Dec 2025 – Fri 2 Jan 2026

Thur 2nd April – Tues 7th April 2026

Mon 4th May 2026

Mon 25th May 2026



Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. It's now a couple of months since we welcomed back returning students and inducted a large group of new students. We have also welcomed several new staff including research fellows since last spring.

We have several developments underway, including the recent introduction of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Enterprise Solutions (CChES) connecting industry with our specialist expertise and facilities within the School. We expect this initiative to make it easier for more of our community to get involved in supporting innovation through consultancy, research and advanced training.

Hopefully researchers in building 30 are enjoying the fresher and brighter appearance and the new kitchenettes following the fire protection works in the building.

We recently had a successful careers fair and continue to look for more employers to join next year's event.

We have celebrated long service awards, including one for 40 years to Richard Whitby.

We also have several recent grant successes, and our published outputs are progressing well as we prepare for REF2029 and continue to strive for greater excellence. The assessment of an electronic notebooks across 12 of our research groups with the Physical Sciences Data Infrastructure team situated in the school was successful and we are beginning to roll out access to further users.

This newsletter celebrates achievements across the School and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Andrew Hector

Head of School Chemistry and
Chemical Engineering



Photo courtesy of Darren Bradshaw

Do you have an article you wish to contribute to a future edition?
Please email Julie Herniman J.M.Herniman@soton.ac.uk or Dawn Dunlop D.Dunlop@soton.ac.uk

Graduations and Awards

Congratulations to all our Undergraduate students who graduated in the Summer of 2025, the school of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering hosted a pre-graduation reception on Thursday 17th July in the Chemistry common room.



Chemistry & Chemical Engineering graduation reception

It was wonderful to see so many of our students, staff and family members celebrate the occasion. This was also an opportunity for the School to award this year's prizes.

Further congratulations to the prize winners below:

Sara Honskusova - John Mellor prize, Outstanding project in Organic Chemistry or related field for a Y4 MChem project or placement completed in Southampton

Leon Mutter - Alan Carrington prize, Outstanding project in Physical Chemistry or a related field for a Y4 MChem project or placement completed in Southampton

Kate Snowsill - Judith Corker prize, Outstanding project in Inorganic Chemistry or related field for a Y4 MChem project or placement completed in Southampton

Lauren Rowe - Progression Award, Academic development award across contributory part of degree

Imogen Daniel - A E Clarence Smith prize, Outstanding performance by a student graduating from a BSc degree

Lauren Cheney - David Runciman Boyd prize, Outstanding performance by a student graduating from a MChem degree

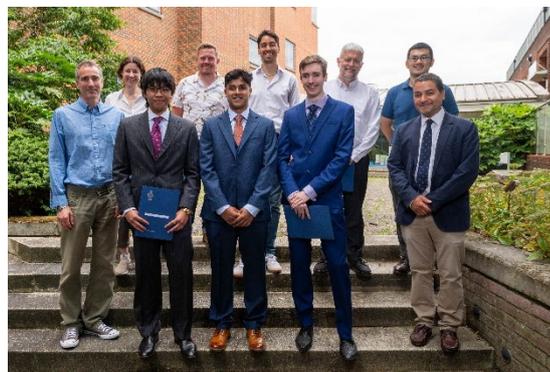
Eleya Jack - Prize for Outstanding Research Placement Project

Wei Bo Ng - R E Parker Project prize, Best BSc Project

Imogen Daniel - Roger Parsons prize, Highest level of academic achievement in the graduating cohort

Kit Narito - Top Degree Score in Chemical Engineering

Matthew Berry - Top Project Score in Chemical Engineering



Chemical Engineering graduates

Congratulations to the following students received a Dean's prize certificate, awarded to any Part students who achieved an overall Part percentage >80%

Part 1: Jacob Gilbert, Reuben Cole, Jasmine Grant, Natalia Witkowska, Isabella King, Daisy Grant, Grace Fawbert, Emily Robinson, Jasmine Appleby, Matthew Bucknell, Ruby Newman, Rowan Witten, Fatma Al-Mazrouai

Part 2: Lucy Mannie, Reggie Kaczynski, Jack Zheng, Rosie Cade, Amy Clough, Shreya Panchmatia, Charlotte Hutchinson, Rosa Bridges, Adam Steer, Wei Ng, Emma Alston, James Spencer, Imogen Daniel, Anna Sheppard



Selection of images from the Graduation reception



Congratulations to the following students on their PhD Awards since our last newsletter:

Hiroki Cook - *Investigating Biological Optical Transparency Windows in the Near and Shortwave Infrared for Diagnosis and Therapy*

Megan Daw - *Novel Electrolyte Materials for Rechargeable Magnesium Metal Batteries*

Albert Ferriol Monjo - *Targeting the IRES structure of mRNA for modulating gene translation*

Peter Gallagher - *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Mechanical Stereochemistry*

Harry Harbor Collins - *Advanced Methodology for 103Rh NMR*

Steve John - *Characterising the beta-catenin interactome using novel interaction proteomics techniques and small-molecule inhibitor screen*

Alexander McDermott - *Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Cyclic Peptide PROTACs of Hypoxia Inducible Factor - 1 Alpha*

William Poole - *Development and Application of Grand Canonical Nonequilibrium Candidate Monte Carlo for in silico Prediction of Ligand Binding Sites, Modes, and Affinities.*

Connor Sherwin - *Operando X-ray Studies of Gas Evolving and Consuming Catalysts*

Tina-Thien Ho - *Modular DNA nanopore (NP) for targeted cell killing*

Edward Jackman - *Investigations into the Flow Photochemical Generation of Triplet Aryl Cations, and the Development of a Practicable Synthesis of Electroluminescent Ionic 2,2'-Bifluorenes*

Daniel Li - *A holistic approach towards incorporating and/or improving the green sustainability of chemical process plants*

Juan Sarmiento Muro - *Identification of a cyclic peptide inhibitor of Ras/SOS1 complex that disrupt Ras signalling in cancer cells*

Maciej Walerowski - *Development of Bifunctional Catalysts for the One-pot Conversion of Carbon Dioxide to Sustainable Fuels*



Chemistry PhD students

Celebrations and Congratulations

Congratulations to the following members of staff on their promotions during the summer months:

Sam Perry to Senior Teaching Fellow

Tamas Bansagi to Senior Teaching Fellow

Peter Horton to Senior Enterprise Fellow

Rob Bannister to Senior Enterprise Fellow

Julie Herniman to Principal Enterprise Fellow

Nicola Knight to Principal Enterprise Fellow

Sami Pearman-Kanza to Principal Enterprise Fellow

Neil Wells to Principal Enterprise Fellow

Paul Duckmanton to Professor

Geoff Hyett to Professor

Congratulations to Darren Bradshaw on becoming an RSC Fellow.

Congratulations to Jing Lu on receiving the **Technician of the Year Award**, presented by Professor Mark Smith, Vice-Chancellor at the Technician's Conference held on 26th June 2025., recognising the outstanding contributions of technical staff to teaching, research, and infrastructure.



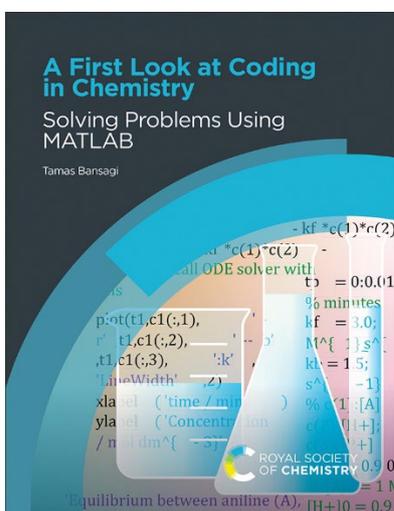
Jing said "I'm deeply honoured to be named Technician of the Year. Being part of a School that values dedication and hard work is truly rewarding. I'm grateful to collaborate with such talented and supportive colleagues and to be inspired by our incredible students. This award reminds me of my passion for being a technician."

Further congratulations to Jing for achieving HEA associate fellowship.



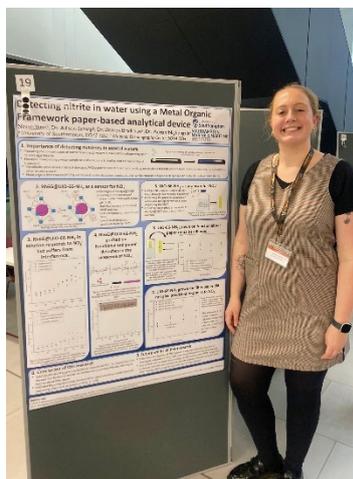
Congratulations to Tamas Bansagi on the publication of his new book titled "A First Look at Coding in Chemistry: Solving Problems Using MATLAB" (published by the Royal Society of Chemistry)

The book takes a chemistry-first approach to teaching coding to first year chemistry students while developing concepts in data analysis, statistics and maths. The material is delivered workbook-style through scenarios and solving problems directly relevant to first year students, rather than via the common format of formal definitions first followed by examples based on chemistry often learnt in later years.



Congratulations to Niamh Yates who attended the 8th Annual UK Porous Materials Conference (UKPorMat) in Birmingham in June, presenting her research in the development of MOFs into microfluidic paper-based analytical devices for the detection of nitrite in water.

Niamh felt it was a very valuable experience and won a prize for her poster.



Congratulations to Professor Ali Tavassoli awarded Royal Society of Chemistry (RCS) Interdisciplinary Prize



The School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering is proud to share the news that Professor Ali Tavassoli has been awarded the 2025 RSC Interdisciplinary Prize.

This prestigious award recognises his groundbreaking work in the high-throughput intracellular production and screening of cyclic peptide libraries, which has significant implications for drug discovery and disease treatment.

Ali's innovative research combines tools from both chemistry and biology to address the challenging task of targeting protein-protein interactions within living cells. His development of techniques to generate and screen libraries of cyclic peptides directly inside disease-relevant cells has led to the discovery of new molecules that can alter the function of specific target proteins. These discoveries are now being advanced towards clinical development through Curve Therapeutics, a biotechnology company co-founded by Professor Tavassoli.

Professor Tavassoli said: "I'm honoured to receive this award from peers in the chemistry community. It's incredibly rewarding to see our work in academia and biotech recognised. I'd like to thank the brilliant people in the Tavassoli lab and those at University of Southampton spin out Curve Therapeutics without whom this would not have been possible."

Professor Andrew Hector added: "Ali's work is a great example of how chemistry makes impacts at the boundary with other subjects, and he has been able to develop new science into a successful and growing company with great potential to bring treatments into clinical settings."

Ali's achievements highlight the interdisciplinary nature of modern chemical research and its potential to make a profound impact on healthcare. His work exemplifies the cutting-edge research being conducted at the School of Chemistry and underscores our commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and improving human health.

Congratulations Ali for this well-deserved recognition and look forward to his continued contributions to the field of chemical biology.

Doctoral College Directors Awards

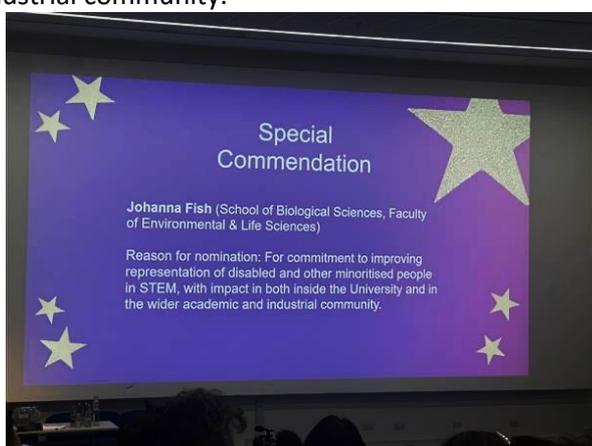
The winners of the 2025 Directors' Awards were revealed during the Doctoral Research Showcase: 3MT® Final and Award Ceremony on Tuesday 17 June. We were thrilled to celebrate the awards to postgraduate researchers from Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (PGRs)

Public Engagement and Outreach - Jacon Kleboe (see also below)

for exceptional contribution to a wide range of outreach activities and contribution to the PGR community

Special Commendation - Johanna Fish

for commitment to improving representation of disabled and other minoritised people in STEM, with impact in both inside the University and in the wider academic and industrial community.



Jo also received a Dean's Award for outstanding contribution to the wider chemical society particularly in neurodiversity and outreach in underrepresented groups (e.g., poor socioeconomic background, BAME and ethnic minorities, and general EDI commitment).

Congratulations to the Biophotonics and Imaging Group

on receiving two awards within for significant contributions to science outreach and public engagement.

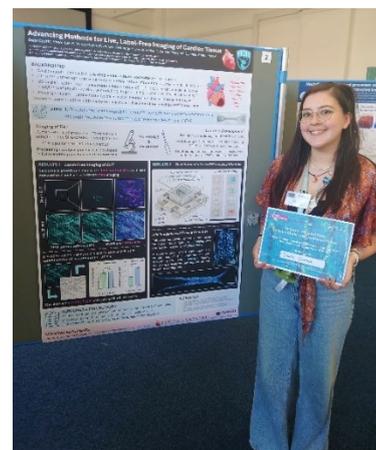


The team members awarded prizes have enabled the delivery of over 12 outreach / public engagement events, including Southampton Science and Engineering Festival (SOTSEF), SomerScience Festival, The New Forest and Hampshire County Show, Pint of Science and the prestigious Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition on a voluntary basis alongside full-time research as post-docs or PhD students.

1. Dean's Award to Belle Creith, Jacob Kleboe, Hiroki Cook, Yoshiki Cook and Simon Lane for exceptional contributions to the faculty as part of the ECR Team Biophotonics.
2. Doctoral Collage Directors Award for Public Engagement and Outreach to Jacob Kleboe.



Congratulations to Belle Creith who won second prize for both the conference chairs and audience choice for her poster entitled 'Advancing Methods for Live, Label-Free Imaging of Cardiac Tissue' at the Southampton Imaging Conference 2025.



Dean's Awards 2025: Congratulations to the following for outstanding contributions

Kat Swindells-Ridley (Professional Service staff and Technical and Experimental staff)

Biophotonics Outreach Team: Dr Belle Creith, Dr Simon Lane, Dr Hiroki Cook, Jacob Kleboe, Yoshiki Cook (Early Career Researchers))

Vicky Greenacre – Southampton Science & Engineering Festival (Outreach)

Rob Bannister -Southampton Science & Engineering Festival (Outreach)

Derri Hughes (PhD Student)

Johanna Fish (PhD Student)

Congratulations to Kofi Coke (UCell team) on the STEM Outreach/Public Engagement award at the recent Faraday Institution conference (the UK's largest battery conference).

The inter-university electrochemical/environmental outreach group, UCell, for which Kofi is currently a key volunteer and led 2022-2024. In this past year, they reached an estimated 14,000 people over 30 days of outreach, and I personally attended 24 days at events totalling an audience of approximately 13,000.



You can read more about this in the blog post from the Faraday Institution here ([UCell named as STEM Outreach / Public Engagement Team Award winner - The Faraday Institution](#))

PGR Symposium June 5th, 2025

Over 80 staff and students gathered to celebrate the hard work of our postgraduate researchers at the first revitalised PGR symposium in the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

The symposium opened with an enlightening plenary talk from Professor Malcolm Levitt, followed by more than 20 talks from our third year PGRs, as well as some great posters from our second-year students. The event concluded with a prize-giving ceremony, kindly sponsored by Radleys. Huge congratulations to prize winners Andrew Obiobulu, Charlie Holsip (oral presentations), and Niamh Yates (poster presentation).

The symposium ended with pizza and refreshments to celebrate the successful event. It was great to see the whole school together and we hope to make next year's event even bigger and better.

If you are interested in helping to organise the symposium in 2026, please get in touch with George Williams (g.t.williams@soton.ac.uk)



University of Southampton launches CChES: a new gateway to Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Expertise

The University of Southampton has launched Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Enterprise Solutions (CChES), a new initiative designed to connect industry with world-class research, advanced instrumentation, and expert consultancy.



CChES provides a comprehensive solution for organisations seeking to tackle complex challenges across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, sustainable energy, defence, and advanced manufacturing. By integrating the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering's extensive capabilities—including the National Crystallography Service, Physical Sciences Data Infrastructure, and one of only two 3D electron diffraction facilities in the UK—CChES offers unparalleled access to cutting-edge characterisation and analysis tools.

[Professor Sumeet Mahajan](#), Director of CChES, said:

"CChES marks a bold step forward in how we connect our research and expertise with the needs of industry and society. It brings together academic excellence, industrial insight, and innovation infrastructure to deliver high-impact consultancy, contract research, advanced training, and access to some of the UK's most sophisticated instrumentation."

The service is underpinned by high-spec laboratories equipped with NMR, Raman and IR spectrometers, electron beam and X-ray diffraction systems, GC, LC and GC-GC mass spectrometers, and crystallisation units. Chemical Engineering facilities include a virtual control room and industry-grade process simulation software, enabling complex experimentation and process modelling. CChES builds on the school's strong record of industry collaboration, offering customised solutions that span disciplines and foster innovation. It is designed to help companies discover new technologies, accelerate product development, and contribute to economic growth both regionally and nationally.

Wedding Congratulations

We've had a few staff and students get married over the last 12 months, join us in congratulating them, here are some photos they have kindly shared with us.



Nikolay Zhelev on his wedding day



George Williams on his wedding day



Niamh Yates and George Rutt on their wedding day



Simon Coles on his wedding day



David Harrowven on his wedding day



University Challenge

You may recall from previous newsletters, that Chemistry has often been represented in the University of Southampton University Challenge team. We are delighted to again have one of our students in the team this year, Ben Hermanns.

Ben said “Last year, I had the amazing opportunity to be a part of Southampton's University Challenge team and really enjoyed it! I'd highly recommend it if you enjoy quizzes: Not only is it great fun and a chance to meet some wonderful people - my teammates were lovely, as was everyone at ITV studios, from production to makeup to Amol Rajan and Roger Tillingham (who provides the voiceover live) - but it's also a free daytrip to London for auditions, and Manchester for filming.

The first round saw us beat Bath 255-70, me get five starters, and definitely not mouth something rude as I forgot ruthenium was a catalyst in the Fischer-Tropsch process. The second round will likely air between November and January, and I hope you'll enjoy watching it.”*

** since writing this, the team appeared for their second round on Mon 17th Nov where they were sadly beaten by Imperial, although it was very close towards the end. Well done to Ben and the team.*



Photo of the team in the studio, featuring Cormac, Zayyan, Florence (captain), and Ben, Rose (our reserve) with host Amol Rajan standing behind, and the team mascot “Fluffball.”

Do you have anything you wish to contribute to a future edition of the newsletter?

Please email contributions to Julie Herniman
J.M.Herniman@soton.ac.uk

or Dawn Dunlop D.Dunlop@soton.ac.uk

We also welcome your feedback on the newsletter

Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Outreach

Outreaching ahead: 2025/2026 plans and how you can help

As the 2025–26 academic year begins, I wanted to use this article to keep you up to date on the outreach work we've got planned for the year ahead, and more importantly, how you can help.

One of my main priorities is to grow a broader, more active network of teachers and schools. I want us to be able to offer practical support, useful resources, and easy ways for schools to connect with the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. This might include lab visits, classroom activities, guest talks, or collaborative projects. If you know of a school that would be interested, please pass their details on to me so I can get in touch and invite them to join our growing network.

We'll be holding a Teacher Network evening on the 10th of December for anyone that would like to meet some of the teachers in our network look out for more details in an email.

I'm also starting early preparations for the British Science Festival, which is coming to Southampton in 2026. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase our research, creativity, and teaching to new audiences. I'm looking for ideas from across the School - whether that's hands-on demos, short talks, artistic collaborations, or something completely unexpected. If you have a concept in mind or want help developing one, now's the perfect time to start planning.

Over the year ahead, I'll also be supporting the development of new outreach activities and materials. If you're already involved in outreach, considering a new project, or want to get started, I'd love to hear from you. I'm especially keen to support work that connects with local communities, supports widening participation, or helps raise the profile of the chemical sciences.

There are all kinds of grants available to support outreach activities and ideas for the British Science Festival, so if you've got an idea, let me know and I'm very happy to help find ways to get it funded.

And finally, if you've recently done any outreach, please let me know - I'd love to help share and celebrate it across the School.

Dr Matthew Partridge
Director of Outreach and Schools Liaison



Chemistry Publications: UG contributions to research papers

Important research outcomes are the result of work undertaken by undergraduate project students and summer placement students. Recent examples include:

Siney, M.; Salehi, R.; Hassan, M.G.; Hamza, R.; Shigidi, I.M.T.A. Modelling a Lab-Scale Continuous Flow Aerobic Granular Sludge Reactor: Optimisation Pathways for Scale-Up. *Water* **2025**, *17*, 2131.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/w17142131>

UG: Siney, M.

Hughes D.J., Ng W.B., Chapman R.T., Healing G., Parkes M.A., Rigden J, Smith O.J., Springate E., Thompson J.O.F., Walmsley T., Woodhouse J.L.; Minns R.M.

The Kick Inside: time-resolved mechanistic insights into the DUV-driven interconversion of pyrazole to imidazole

Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2025,27, 19762-19771

<https://doi.org/10.1039/D5CP02684A>

UG: Ng, W.B.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

ED&I is central to the ethos in Chemistry, and we have a committed team that works hard to build a positive environment for all members of our School to be able to develop and succeed. As a school we have been involved in the [Athena SWAN charter](#) for the advancement and career progression of women in science for many years and its principles run through all we do.

Chemistry holds a Silver Athena SWAN Award that was renewed in 2023, the first department at the University of Southampton to achieve this status three times.

If you would like to know more about our work, there is lots of useful information on our website which also includes our Early Career Support Hub.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/chemistry/about/Equality/index.page>

For more information about the ED&I or to raise any issues or concerns please contact Dr Julie Herniman.

Obituary: Derek Pletcher

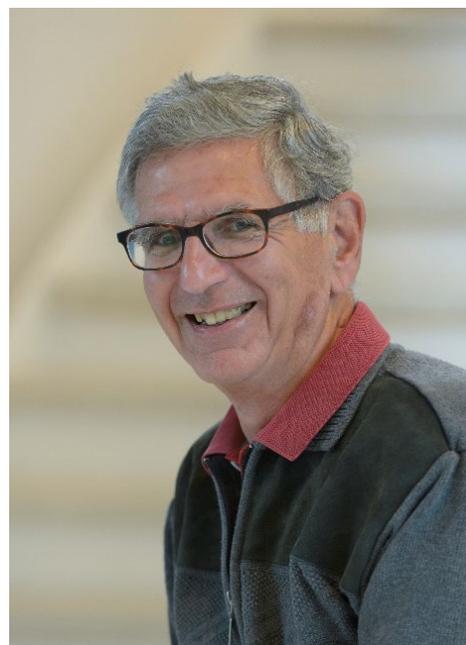
by Prof Andrea Russell

We have the sad duty to inform the UoS community that Prof. Derek Pletcher of the University of Southampton passed away on 11 July 2025, aged 82.

Derek was born in North London and studied Chemistry at the University of Sheffield, receiving a BSc in 1964 and a PhD in 1967. After graduation, he immediately joined the Electrochemistry Group in the School of Chemistry in Southampton. He was promoted to a Chair in 1993 and became a Professor Emeritus in October 2008. His research interests ranged from fundamental electrochemistry, through electrochemical engineering to the industrial applications of electrolysis (electrosynthesis, gas sensors, fuel cells, batteries, metal deposition, and effluent treatment).

Derek will also be remembered for his commitment to electrochemistry education. He was one of the founders of the Southampton electrochemistry summer school, which he ran until 1997. This school has been attended by over 1000 scientists and engineers since its founding in 1969. His textbooks are still used widely and include *A First Course in Electrode Processes* (1991,2009 and 2013), *Industrial Electrochemistry* (1984 and 1990), *Instrumental Methods in Electrochemistry* (1984 and later editions), and *A First Course in Ion Permeable Membranes* (1997).

His colleagues at Southampton will remember him as a true gentleman scientist, a mentor to so many, and a dear friend.



Prof Derek Pletcher

PSDI Showcase 2025: Raising the Profile of Data Infrastructure in the Physical Sciences

In September, the University of Southampton and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) co-hosted **PSDI Showcase 2025** at the Library of Birmingham, celebrating the progress of the Physical Sciences Data Infrastructure (PSDI). PSDI is an integrated data infrastructure that empowers researchers across the physical sciences community. By providing access to data, services, and training, it helps scientists connect, discover, and reuse information faster, accelerating research in chemistry, materials science, and related fields.



Dr Nicola Knight (left) and Professor Simon Coles (right) discussing the vision and progress of the PSDI

The Showcase brought together researchers, funders, and industry representatives to experience firsthand how PSDI is transforming the way science is done. Attendees explored live demonstrations of core PSDI services, including **Data Revival Service, Data Conversion Service, Bio Simulation Database, Knowledge Base and Cross Data Search** - each designed to make data more FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). By connecting datasets, tools, and expertise, PSDI helps researchers move faster from ideas to discovery, breaking down barriers between labs, institutions, and disciplines.



Professor Jacqui Cole delivering her keynote talk on advancing data-driven materials research

Keynote speaker **Professor Jacqui Cole** (University of Cambridge) highlighted the power of integrating data, computation, and experiment. “By bringing these elements together,” she said, “we are creating an ecosystem where discovery can happen faster and smarter- and that’s what initiatives like PSDI make possible.”

Other speakers, including **Santiago Molina** (UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Programme) and **Paul Richards** (UKRI Open Research Strategy Lead), discussed how PSDI fits into a broader national vision for open, connected, and reproducible research.

The afternoon featured lightning talks from PSDI’s new partner projects, selected through the **PSDI 2025 Funding Call**. These projects focus on areas such as AI-driven materials modelling, advanced data pipelines, machine learning for experimental techniques, and open repositories for research data. They demonstrated how PSDI is supporting ambitious, cutting-edge research and extending its impact across the physical sciences community.

The Showcase also highlighted PSDI’s broader mission to transform research culture. By providing accessible, reproducible, and connected data alongside tools, guidance, and training, PSDI enables researchers to collaborate more effectively, accelerate discovery, and tackle today’s scientific and technological challenges.

The Showcase marked a milestone for PSDI, UoS and the UK’s physical sciences landscape, demonstrating how the infrastructure is accelerating discovery, fostering partnerships, and transforming data into insight.

Learn more about PSDI and its partners at www.psd.ac.uk or get involved by contacting psdi@soton.ac.uk



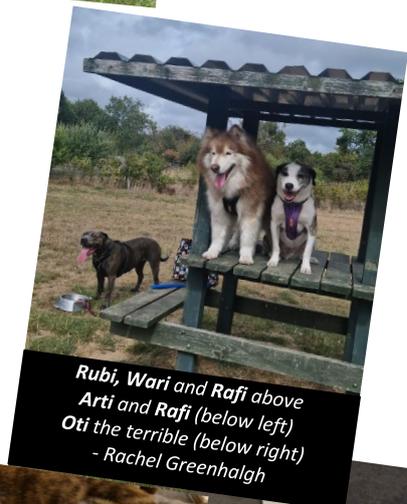
Prof Jeremy Frey

PSDI Mascot: SharkCat



Pets of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

We have had a wonderful response to our call for pictures for our “Pets corner” section of the newsletter! So much so, it’s grown to a larger feature – you obviously all love your pets!



If you missed it this time, please do send me your pictures for the next newsletter in Spring/Summer 2026.

New Feature for Spring 2026!

It's clear we all love your pets, and we look forward to more pictures!

Coming in the Spring newsletter, a new feature on those of us that love our gardens. Would you like to share pictures? Any seeds or plants to swap or give away?

I (Dawn) always have homegrown tomato plants to give away each Spring – look out for them in the common room!

Beyond Chemistry

Meet Will Harper – 1st year Undergraduate who enjoys American Football

Hi, I'm Will, a first-year undergraduate Chemistry student.

Outside of studying electrons and protons, I really enjoy watching American football. I originally got into the game due to some of my friends and was immediately hooked.

I found the variety of tactics and concepts on offence and defence fascinating. Another aspect of the game that really interests me is the different statistics used to quantify a player's performance during a game or even the season. These detailed stats allow for intense player comparisons and endless debates as to who's the better player!

Although I have only watched one American football game in person, it is up there as one of the greatest sporting atmospheres I have ever experienced with the sheer number of fans and the different chants.



I was lucky enough to watch Vikings-Jets at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium with one of my friends, and this only cemented my interest in the game.

Having tried out a couple of taster sessions with the Stags, I have come to understand the mental and physical aspect of the game and just how fast-paced it is. I am looking forward to trying out the sport some more in the coming weeks!

Mentoring



If you are a PhD student and would like to receive mentoring support from a more experienced researcher who obtained their PhD not too long ago (such as a postdoc or other early career staff), then join our new mentoring scheme by emailing: mentoring.chemistry@soton.ac.uk.

Mentoring relationships can be very beneficial for your personal and professional development, and we have prepared useful [mentee guidance](#) documents with tips and advice on how to build helpful mentoring conversations.

The topics of the mentoring conversations can be very varied, from talking about difficult relationships with a supervisor or collaborator, to future career plans and ambitions, or work-life balance and wellbeing. Your mentor will listen with respect, under complete confidentiality, and they will share, when appropriate, their personal experiences and advice.

If you are a postdoc, or other early career staff, and would like to receive mentoring advice from a more experienced academic, please see the list of [specialised mentoring topics](#) for which a number of academics, particularly skilful in that topic, have volunteered to give advice.

Feel free to contact these academics directly or ask mentoring.chemistry@soton.ac.uk to make the connection.

If you are a postdoc, or other early career staff, and would like to become a mentor of a PhD student, please email mentoring.chemistry@soton.ac.uk. Becoming a mentor can be highly fulfilling, due to the important benefits that it brings to the mentee, and we have prepared useful [mentor guidance](#) documents to help you to become a great mentor.

Student Resources - Study tips and support for semester one exams and assessments

With the exams and assessments period for semester one coming up which we know can be a stressful time, here are some useful resources from the University - sharing tips and practical guidance to help you head into your exams and assessments with confidence.

Optimise your revision with help from the Library

For top tips on how to get ahead this exam season, take some time to discover The Library's Exams website.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/sash/exams>

From managing your time effectively to getting the most from your reading material, the study skills tab is a great resource for optimising your revision sessions.

Use GenAI responsibly

It's important that you align with our position on using Generative AI (GenAI) to supplement your studies. Check out the University website for guidance on how to use GenAI effectively and responsibly throughout your time here.

Academic Responsibility and Conduct

In addition to aligning with our position on GenAI, it's important that you understand and adhere to The University's Academic Responsibility and Conduct Regulations. They outline policy on topics such as plagiarism, cheating and collusion—breaches of which could negatively impact the outcome of your exam.

You have a responsibility to act in accordance with these regulations, so it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with them ahead of the next exams and assessments period. You can read our Academic Responsibility and Conduct Regulations on our website here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yk2dc46z>

Where to find support

Academic Skills Hub/Drop-in

The Academic Skills Service offers a variety of resources to help you develop your academic and study skills, including guidance on getting smart with online academic integrity.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/sash>

You can join a writing café or drop-in to an academic skills 1:1 during the times below, or book a 1:1 online appointment at a time that works for you.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/appointment>

Fridays – Writing Café. Building 38, Lounge Cafe Space, 14:00-16:00

Tuesdays & Thursdays – Academic Skills Drop-in. Academic Skills Hub, Hartley Library, 13:00-16:00.

Wednesdays – Maths and Stats Drop-in. Academic Skills Hub, Hartley Library, 14:00-16:00.

Additional academic support

Your Personal Academic Tutor can provide one-to-one support throughout your time at university and help you to resolve any challenges you may be facing.

You can find out who your Personal Academic Tutor is, and how to get in touch with them, visit the Knowledge Base. Plus, get instant access to other additional support, including guidance on exam arrangements and Special Considerations, if things do not go to plan.

What to expect on the day

If you're sitting an exam or assessment in person, there are a few things you should know before heading into the exam room. We've covered everything, from standard process and what to bring to best practice and top tips, on the Exams and Assessments SharePoint <https://tinyurl.com/42zm7nye>

We'd recommend taking some time to read it over and watch our helpful exams and assessments tips videos before the semester one period starts.

Exams and assessments guidebook – available here:

https://issuu.com/university_of_southampton/docs/exams_and_assessments_guide_for_students

And remember...

You've got this!

Remember to take frequent breaks, get lots of fresh air and plenty of exercise—check out activities from BeActive, on the MySouthampton App to help get you moving. If you need any further support with exam and assessment queries or if you just need someone to chat to The Student Hub is here for you 24/7.

Reach us in person, using the online chat, by emailing studenthub@soton.ac.uk or calling 02380 599 599.

Student Wellbeing Resources

Here are some resources that may help students' find support with their Wellbeing and Mental Health.

Student Hub, Student Wellbeing Sharepoint:
<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/support-wellbeing.page>



With Semester 1 exams period approaching, see these guides for managing stress before, during and after your assessments; and a guide to what you need to know about your assessments.

Wellbeing – Before, during and after exams
<https://rb.gy/0r93q6>



Managing Assessments, Study and Wellbeing
<https://tinyurl.com/yszrhwhp>



Exams and assessments: A guide of what you need to know
<https://tinyurl.com/42zm7nye>





Code of Conduct

School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering

- We are resolute in our commitment to provide a supportive environment in which we value differences, respect diversity and treat each other with equity and respect.
- We ensure individuals are treated equitably regardless of gender and gender identity/ expression, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, race, physical appearance, age or disability.
- We do not condone or tolerate intimidating behaviour, including harassment (verbal, non-verbal or physical), bullying or victimisation.
- We collaboratively preserve a community in which positive working relationships are forged and everyone feels valued, encouraged and supported.
- We strive to maintain an environment free of inappropriate or offensive language or behaviour, where individuals consider their own behaviour and the impact that this can have on others.
- We are dedicated to fostering a culture that empowers all members of our community to act promptly to challenge unacceptable behaviour.
- We provide support to staff, students and visitors who feel they have been subjected to, or have witnessed, harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- We ensure that allegations of harassment, bullying or victimisation are addressed fairly, with respect for the rights and dignity of all those involved.
- Every member of the community is committed to playing an active role in creating and maintaining an environment that does not tolerate harassment, bullying and victimisation.

Together we can continue to ensure Chemistry & Chemistry Engineering is an outstanding and inclusive place to work and study.

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

Martin Luther King, Jr

➤ **If you have experienced or witnessed abuse, bullying, or harassment at work or study, the university Harassment Contacts can offer support, and guidance for further action:**
www.southampton.ac.uk/hc

For further information please read the University Dignity and Work and Study policy, Embedding Collegiality and Whistleblower policy.

