

Eva Philbin and Boyle-Higgins Awards 2012

Council has recently selected the speakers for the Eva Philbin Annual Award Lecture Series 2012 and the Boyle-Higgins Lecture 2012. The recipients are **Professor Lesley Yellowlees** of Edinburgh University, (www.chem.ed.ac.uk/staff/academic/yellowlees.html), and **Professor Malcolm Smyth** of Dublin City University (www.dcu.ie/chemistry/ssg/malcolm_profile.shtml), respectively.



Professor Yellowlees works in the area of Photovoltaics for Solar Energy, and was recently elected President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the first woman to hold the position. Malcolm Smyth should need no introduction, but anyway we intend to give him three: following the success of Frank Hegarty's tour this year, we intend to keep the three-lecture format for the Boyle-Higgins in 2012.

New Awards for Chemists Practicing in Ireland in 2012

The Eva Philbin Award is typically given to a distinguished chemist, usually from abroad, and the Boyle-Higgins is typically given in recognition of a career in Irish chemistry. As part of IYC2011, Council has decided to institute **two new awards** that are aimed specifically at chemists practicing in Ireland. One will be for an **industrial chemist**, with a second intended for those in **academic research/teaching**. A condition of the awards will be that nominees must be a member, though interested candidates can join ICI and apply for an award at the same time. As well as a Certificate and Prize, it is intended that the Winners would give a public lecture and contribute a related article to ICN. If these awards prove popular and competitive, as we expect they will, we hope to roll out additional awards in later years. Details of these two new awards, and the application procedures, will be available early in the New Year.

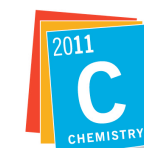
Separately, ICI will give a new prize at the Universities Colloquium open to GradICI members.

Finally, **ICI Annual Congress 2012** will be held in UCC. Dates, Theme and Programme will be available soon on our website, www.instituteofchemistry.org

For a full list of Council members and Area Representatives, see your diary.

My Compliments of the Season, and all the Best for 2012. Your suggestions for ICI are always welcome.

Dr. Brian Murray President brian.murray@ittdublin.ie



International Year of
CHEMISTRY
2011

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Welcome to Voice, the occasional newsletter of the Institute. Your 2012 ICI Diary is enclosed with this mailing, and I am taking this opportunity to fill you in on some of our activities in a busy 2011, and to look forward to 2012, when we will help celebrate Dublin – European City of Science (www.dublinscience2012.ie), a series of events intended to raise the profile of science throughout the island.

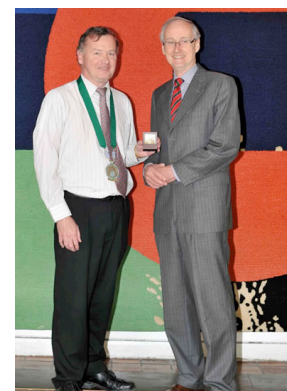
Please see the important note about the new electronic format of Irish Chemical News: you need to email us to be able to receive it.

Our New Patron

We are delighted to confirm that the new President, Michael D. O'Higgins, has accepted our invitation to act as Patron of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland. This continues a long tradition in which all but one of the Presidents of Ireland have honoured the Institute in this way.

International Year of Chemistry 2011, Boyle-Higgins Lectures & Eva Philbin Award 2011

January marked the Official Opening in Paris of the International Year of Chemistry (www.chemistry2011.org), though Cork – in typical fashion – got the Irish launch in first at Discovery 2010 in Cork 13-14 November 2010, including Graeme Jones and his “Megamolecules” appearing for the first time in Ireland, and a related workshop, “MakeItMolecular”, with sponsorship from BASF. www.corkcity.ie/discovery/discoveryexhibition2010



ICI were actively involved in IYC2011, through a committee coordinated by PharmaChem Ireland and chaired by Paraic James as ICI President (and later myself), with representatives of the RSC, RIA, Discover Science & Engineering and other groups. To increase the number and reach of ICI activities over the year, Council asked our Boyle-Higgins Lecturer 2011, **Professor Frank Hegarty** (left, with Paraic James), to give his lecture “**A Journey through Organic Chemistry**” three times (rather than the usual once). January at UCD coincided with the Paris launch of IYC. He also gave the lecture in April in UCG, and in UCC in October, entertaining his audiences with his career's intersection with geopolitical events such as student riots in Paris, and in California (including an attack on a bank: banks must have been held in low esteem then!).

Eva Philbin Lecturer, **Dr. Malachy McCann** of Maynooth, was also up for a journey or two, giving his lecture “**Syphilis, MRSA, and Cancer – Cures with Metal Ions**” at our AGM in RCSI in April, then twice in one day in WIT in November (once for a schools group, and then for staff and students), and finishing up at QUB. Surveying the range of medicinal uses of metals, he then described silver in detail, highlighting its long anti-microbial history: “**born with a silver spoon in one's mouth**” didn't just indicate wealth, but also parental awareness of silver's prophylaxis.



As part of ECTN (the European Chemistry Thematic Network: <http://ectn-assoc.cpe.fr/network/index.htm>), ICI was asked to guest-edit its e-Newsletter for June 2011: a different chemical society did each month in 2011 in honour of IYC2011. You can read ICI's issue at http://www.ectn-assoc.org/news/letter/2011/05/1205_201106.htm

Honorary Fellows 2011, other AGM business, and Annual Congress 2011

Our AGM also saw the election of two Honorary Fellows of the Institute, **Professor The Lord Jack Lewis** (left) and **Dr. Máire Walsh** (shown receiving her award from Brian Murray and Paraic James).



Our President for 2009-11, **Dr. Paraic James**, passed on the baton, and a medal was presented to **Dr. Donal Coveney** (President 2007-09) for his service to the Institute.



One of the livelier discussion items was Irish Chemical News, with its format under review by Council (*see below*). Its glossy hard-copy format is expensive to produce, and advertising revenue is scarce in the current climate. A strong case for ICN becoming an electronic/web journal was made,

though several members were reluctant to lose the hard copy, and a combined approach was urged on Council.

In late May, DIT Kevin Street was the venue for our Annual Congress, **“Commercialisation of Chemistry”**, at which Dr. Declan McCormack and his staff had organised a stimulating programme on commercial, legal, and intellectual property issues for chemists seeking to bring products and ideas to market.

Irish Chemical News

Council has decided to produce ICN in electronic format, following consideration of the difficulties of producing regular hard-copy issues. The problems are mainly financial, and the decision to change was not taken lightly, as the most recent issues published under the editorship of **Stephen Cannon** of TCD were excellent in both content and format. The main reasons for the change were the expense of glossy colour hard-copy, the difficulty of securing advertising to defray the cost, and in particular the difficulty of producing timely issues given the problems of timing advertising and content production. Electronic format has virtually no publication cost for the medium, and timely issues of any length can be published whether or not advertising is included. But we do hope to make available hard-copy to those who want it, perhaps as an “omnibus/selected articles” format.

Council is conscious that producing ICN is an onerous task, and put out a call for not just an Editor, but people to help as part of an Editorial Team. Dr. Bob Baker of TCD has come forward to help develop ICN in its new format, and I would like to call on all members to consider whether they might be able to add their talents to the Team. There are many skills involved, and the more that come forward to help, the more the effort can be shared. Please contact Bob at bakerrj@tcd.ie if you would like to join the Editorial Team, or have suggestions for ICN generally, or for specific articles that you could contribute.

To make the new “e-ICN” available to members generally, we have decided initially to send the next issue to members by email: this will either involve a PDF-type attachment, or a link to a website location. For this reason, we need all members to send us their email address if they wish to receive ICN in the future. Although some members have previously registered an email address with us, it may be out of date, so **please send an e-mail NOW to: info@instituteofchemistry.org using a suitable email address i.e. one that you are likely to monitor regularly indefinitely into the future, and which will allow you receive attachments.** So a work email address may NOT be the most appropriate one, as you would have to change it if you move employment. The email you send should have “**e-ICN registration**” as the subject line, and should include the following 4 items: 1) Your full name; 2) Membership # (if you have it to hand); 3) Postal address registered with us (for confirmation; i.e. this should be the address on the mailout of this “Voice” newsletter; 4) Permission to send emails to you from third parties (i.e. YES or NO): if “YES”, we may use your email address to send you emails from third parties of material that may be of interest to members; if “NO”, the address will only be used by us for emails to you of e-ICN issues and other notifications of ICI events/business.

Sample email content: **1) Joe Bloggs 2) M9999 3) 99 Chemistry St, Dublin 99 4) YES**

Other Events Supported in 2011

ICI continued to support many of its “regulars” in 2011, including:

- the Schools Newsletter Competition (jointly with the RSC & SCI);
- the European Analytical Measurement Competition (with EuraChem Ireland and the Heads of the Schools of Science in the IoTs), held this year in WIT in April (winners = WIT, runners-up= DCU);
- the Irish Science Teachers Association schools quiz (Midlands);
- the Irish Universities Chemistry Research Colloquium, held this year at UCD.

We also supported a special event, the Robert Boyle Science Festival in Lismore Castle 18-20 November, celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the publication of “The Skeptical Chymist”. Lectures included Boyle’s Life & Times (Duncan Thorburn Burns, QUB), and several speakers on Boyle’s contributions to atmospheric science, all delivered in the Pugin Hall of the Castle, where Robert Boyle was baptized.

Young Chemists

Our Young Chemists were active this year, with Joint Coordinators Aurora Walsh and Lisa Phelan (left & right photos) networking as part of EYCN (European Young Chemists Network: www.eycn.eu), a division of EuCheMS; main photo: www.chemistryireland.org/docs/EYCN-DA-2011-Report.doc EYCN coordinators meeting in Poland). Aurora also helped launch the EuCheMS roadmap for chemistry in Brussels (*see below*).



EuCheMS General Assembly 2011; General Assembly 2012 for Dublin City of Science.

On behalf of the ICI, I attended the General Assembly 2011 of EuCheMS (the European Association of Chemical & Molecular Sciences), the umbrella body for Chemical Societies for here to the Urals, representing over 250,000 professional chemists. EuCheMS has recently published a roadmap for chemistry in Europe (available at www.euchems.org), and its Secretariat has been relocated to Brussels, to facilitate greater contact with the EU. In a reflection of tight economic times, some member societies were suspended for non-payment of fees. The rise in the cost of ICI subscriptions to EuCheMS of recent years has been more or less halted in its budget for 2012.

It was also announced that ICI’s bid to bring the General Assembly to Dublin for European City of Science 2012 was successful. Now we have to start planning for this prestigious event ...