



VOICE OF
INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY
OF IRELAND
INSTITIÚID CEIMICE
NA HÉIREANN

21st December 2021

Dear Fellows, Members, Graduates and Associates,

Welcome to the VOICE, the annual Christmas Newsletter of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland. I sincerely hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I am conscious that our Irish Chemical News editor, Patrick Hobbs, has been keeping us all very well updated with quarterly publications so this Newsletter will endeavour to provide a brief overview of the highlights of the Institute over the past year. First, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Pat for his passion and commitment in his long-standing role as ICN editor and to all those also who contribute articles and updates. The ICN is a wonderful platform to showcase all the excellent work being done across the entire chemistry sector in Ireland. We very much welcome updates from our community and are more than happy to include these in future ICN issues and indeed publicise these also on the ICI website.

May I also acknowledge and thank our Council members who give so generously of their expertise and time on a voluntary basis to support the Institute. A special word of thanks to our honorary secretary, Dr Emma Coyle, to Dr John Keegan, our honorary treasurer, to Dr Odilla Finlayson, our registrar and to Dr Mark Kelada, our Young Chemist Representative and Chair of the ICI Young Chemists' Network (ICI YCN). We are grateful also to Ms Mary Mullaghy who continues to provide regular updates via our Twitter account (@irishchemistry). A special welcome to Professor Michael E. Lyons, Head of the School of Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin, who was elected onto Council during our most recent AGM. May I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Dr Eoghan McGarrigle, our assistant honorary treasurer, who recently stepped down from Council. We wish Eoghan all the very best in his future endeavours.

Council membership is currently as follows:

President (Professor C.J. Marmion, RCSI); Vice President (Professor P. Guiry, UCD); Immediate Past President (Professor J.F. Cassidy, TU Dublin); Honorary Secretary (Dr Emma Coyle, DCU); Honorary Treasurer (Dr. J.R. Keegan); Registrar (Dr. O. Finlayson, DCU); Irish Chemical News Editor (Mr P.T. Hobbs); International Representative (Dr. A.A. Walshe)

Ordinary Members: Dr. R. Elmes (MU); Ms M. Mullaghy (Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath); Dr. C. Quigley (GMIT); Ms. E. McCarron (State Laboratory); Dr. M. Kelada (Young Chemist Representative and Chair of the ICI Young Chemists' Network), Professor M.E. Lyons (TCD)

Additional members: Dr. S.F. Ó' Muircheartaigh



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Regional Representatives: Dr. B.A. Murray (TU Dublin, East representative); Dr. S. Donegan (WIT, South East representative); Professor J.D. Glennon (UCC, South representative); Dr. T. Kennedy (UL, South West representative); Professor P. Crowley (NUIG, West representative); Dr. S. Reidy (AIT, Midlands representative); Professor S. Bell (QUB, Northern Ireland representative)

On a very sad note and on behalf of Council and the Institute, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Maureen Moloney, RIP. Maureen was a valued member of the Institute, serving on Council over many years. She played an instrumental role in supporting our honorary secretary, the late Dr Philip Ryan, RIP, our honorary treasurer, Dr John Keegan and numerous Past Presidents. We are enormously grateful to Maureen for her dedication and commitment to the Institute and for her willingness to go above and beyond. We remember Maureen with great affection and with enormous gratitude.



Mrs Maureen Moloney, RIP

ICI Award Ceremony 2021

A highlight of the Institute each year is the awarding of several honours. For the second consecutive year, as a result of the pandemic, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences hosted a virtual award ceremony which took place on the 29th April, 2021.

Our warmest congratulations to Professor Amilra P. De Silva (Queen's University Belfast) on being the 2020 recipient of the **ICI Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and Lecture Award**. Professor De Silva delivered an inspirational award lecture entitled '*Fluorescent Sensing and Logic Systems*' during the ceremony. Special congratulations also to Professor Declan Gilheany (University College Dublin) on being the recipient of the **2020 ICI Annual Award for Chemistry – Eva Philbin Public Lecture Series**. We are very much hoping that Professor Gilheany will be able to deliver his public lectures in person at some point in 2022. If this is not possible, Professor Gilheany has kindly agreed to record his lecture and make it available on the ICI website. We will update you in due course.

Our sincere congratulations also to Professor Nicholas Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University, US and a UCD alumnus) on being the 2021 recipient of the **ICI David Brown Award**. Professor Farrell delivered an outstanding award lecture during the Inorganic Ireland Symposium which was hosted by the School of Chemistry, NUI Galway, in May 2021.

A particular highlight during the annual award ceremony was a lecture delivered by Dr Conor Crawford, joint recipient of the **ICI Postgraduate Award 2020** and currently postdoctoral researcher, Max Planck Institute of Colloids & Interfaces, Berlin, Germany. Conor delivered an excellent presentation on '*A quest for a cryptococcal vaccine*'. Dr Priyanka Ganguly, the other joint recipient of the **ICI Postgraduate Award 2020** and currently Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher, University of Glasgow, Scotland, was unfortunately unable to attend due to circumstances beyond her control. We were delighted and grateful that one of her PhD supervisors, Professor



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Suresh Pillai (IT Sligo) was able to step in at very short notice and provide a wonderful insight into Priyanka's research and extensive outreach contributions.



Professor A.P. De Silva
Queen's University Belfast
**ICI Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and
Lecture Award 2020**



Professor Declan Gilheany
University College Dublin
**ICI Annual Award for
Chemistry - Eva Philbin Public
Lecture Series 2020**



Professor Nicholas Farrell
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
ICI David Brown Award 2021



Dr Raymond Leonard
*In recognition of his enormous
contribution to the ICI*



Dr Priyanka Ganguly
Institute of Technology, Sligo
ICI Postgraduate Award 2020



Dr Conor Crawford
University College Dublin
ICI Postgraduate Award 2020

We were also delighted during the annual award ceremony to **pay tribute to Dr Raymond Leonard, a long standing member of Council and also Past-President.** We are enormously grateful to Ray for all that he did during his time on Council to promote chemistry in Ireland. He is to be particularly commended for establishing the ICI Annual Award for Chemistry (Eva Philbin Public Lecture series) in 2005 during his tenure as President. Ray was presented with an Ogham print from the ICI. We were particularly pleased to welcome members from Ray's family who were present during the ceremony.



Another particular highlight during the ceremony was **an update provided by the ICI YCN chair, Dr Mark Kelada.** As outlined by Mark, the ICI YCN, which was established in 2020, aims to build a community 'by young chemists for young chemists'. It has simply gone from strength to strength since its establishment, providing an important platform for young chemists to build their communication skills, develop their professional networks, and gain career insights. The YCN has also built into its activities mental health awareness and support. Further details in relation to the activities of the YCN are provided later.



Dr Mark Kelada
Chair of the ICI YCN

I was also pleased to announce during the ceremony that our ICI nomination of **Professor John Wenger**, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry, University College Cork was accepted by Minister Ryan from the Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications for appointment to the **Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Committee**. We wish Professor Wenger every success in this important role.



Professor John Wenger
School of Chemistry
University College Cork

ICI Honorary Fellowship

I am particularly delighted to inform our community that **Professor Dervilla Donnelly**, Emeritus Professor of Phytochemistry, UCD, **was awarded an ICI Honorary Fellowship** during the ICI AGM, which took place immediately following the ICI Award Ceremony on the 29th April, 2021. Professor Donnelly has not only had a highly distinguished career in academia but has also contributed significantly to the wider community serving in a variety of important leadership roles.



Professor Dervilla Donnelly
DSc MRIA
ICI Honorary Fellowship

ICI Boyle Higgins' Gold Medal and Lecture Award 2021

For such a small country, we can be so very proud of the many and varied scientific and professional achievements of our scientific community, across all levels and sectors, both nationally and internationally. A special word of congratulations to **Professor Tadhg Begley**, an Irish chemist, UCC alumnus, **Distinguished Professor, Derek Barton Professor of Chemistry and Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair, at Texas A&M University**, who is the recipient of the **ICI Boyle Higgins' Gold Medal and Lecture Award 2021**. Professor Begley is not only an outstanding and internationally recognised leader in the field of chemical biology and natural product synthesis but he has also inspired generations of chemists both here in Ireland and indeed internationally. We are very much hoping that Professor Begley will be able to deliver his award lecture in person in 2022.



Professor Tadhg Begley
Texas A&M University, US
ICI Boyle Higgins
Gold Medal and Lecture
Award 2021

ICI Annual Award for Chemistry – Eva Philbin Public Lecture Series 2021

With thanks to our community for submitting nominations for the above award. The nominations are currently under review by independent, external experts in our field. We hope to announce the recipient of this award in early January, 2022. A notice will be added to the next issue of the ICN as well as on our ICI website.

ICI Postgraduate Award 2021

Our warmest congratulations to **Dr Ioannis Mylonas Margaritis, School of Chemistry, NUI Galway** on being the 2021 recipient of the ICI Postgraduate Award 2021. Our congratulations also to Ioannis' supervisor Dr Constantina Papatriantafyllopoulou and to those, including Professor Patrick McArdle, who have mentored and supported him on his journey to date. Ioannis received his award during the 45th Annual Congress of the ICI in September of this year. It was a double celebration for Ioannis that day – not only receiving his ICI award that morning but successfully defending his PhD thesis that afternoon!

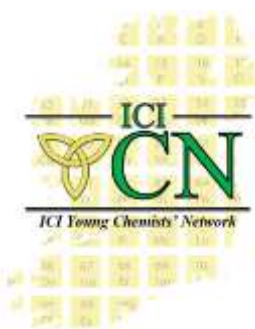


Mr Ioannis Mylonas Margaritis
NUI Galway
ICI Postgraduate Award 2021

ICI Young Chemists' Network (ICI YCN)

<https://www.chemistryireland.org/young-chemists-network/>

As stated earlier, the ICI YCN, a relatively new Division of the ICI representing the interests of all young chemists in Ireland, was established in 2020. A sub-committee of the ICI Council oversees all the activities of the ICI YCN. It is chaired by the ICI's Young Chemist representative and Council member, Dr Mark Kelada, and membership includes postgraduate scholars from third level institutions across Ireland. Building on the success of its **inaugural ICI Postgraduate Research Symposium** which was held virtually in September, 2020 during the height of the pandemic, the YCN organised their **inaugural ICI YCN meeting** which was held virtually on the 27th January, 2021 entitled 'Building your Community'. This involved an informal discussion and escape room challenge! We are also enormously grateful to the YCN for hosting a really informative **Career Session for Young Chemists** on 24th November, 2021.



ICI Young Chemists' Network
Career Session

Join us for a panel discussion providing insights into career paths available to young chemists

CV workshop and Recruiter advice for tips to make you stand out!

Panelists include:

- Ben Miles, PhD
CEO of Spin up Science
- Celaine Johannie, MSc
QC Analyst, BioMarin
- Rachael Heath, PhD
Process Chemist, Pfizer

For more information contact:
youngchemists@instituteofchemistry.org

Wednesday, November 24th
4 – 6 pm on

INTRODUCING THE
ICI Young Chemists' Network
Inaugural Meeting

Join us for an informal discussion & ESCAPE ROOM challenge!

'Building Your Community'

6 pm, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th, 2021

Watch event on **zoom**

Register through our website: **ICI Young Chemists' Network**

The ICI YCN also launched a **photography competition** more recently via their Twitter account (@ICIYCN) with short-listed submissions being put to an open vote on Twitter! The winning photograph was of a microscopic image of a porphyrin crystal taken by postgraduate scholar, Karolis Norvaiša, TCD. Congratulations to Karolis on his incredible photograph and to the other short-listed finalist, Sean McKenna, also from TCD, who submitted a photograph of crystals which had developed upon cooling a Gabriel synthesis.



The ICI YCN also played an instrumental role in co-hosting the **45th ICI Annual Congress** in September 2021. A comprehensive overview of the Congress is provided in the next section.

45th ICI Congress 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry'

I had the privilege, alongside Professor Donal O'Shea, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, of co-hosting the 45th ICI Annual Congress with the ICI YCN. The Congress theme was 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry' in honour of Sir Charles A. Cameron. For those interested in learning more about Sir Charles Cameron, please visit: <https://www.rcsi.com/cameron/index.html>

		
<p>Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Congress 2021 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry' in honour of Sir Charles A. Cameron on the centenary of his death https://www.rcsi.com/cameron/index.html</p>		
<p>Co-hosted by the ICI Young Chemists' Network (ICI YCN) and RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences</p>		<p>Sir Charles A. Cameron (1836-1901)</p>
<p>Thursday, 30th September, 2021 09.30 – 17.00 Virtually (Zoom)</p>		

The Congress was divided into two parts with the scientific session taking place in the morning and comprising a series of outstanding talks from **Professor Stefan Oscarson, University College Dublin, Professor Silvia Giordani, Dublin City University, Professor Donal O'Shea, RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor Paul Murphy, NUI Galway, Professor Joanna McGouran, Trinity College Dublin, and Professor Steven Bell, Queen's University Belfast.** The afternoon session focussed on career enhancing talks and networking opportunities to support our young chemists. We were also delighted that Dr Priyanka Ganguly, one of the 2020 ICI Postgraduate awardees and Dr Saoirse Dervin, the 2019 ICI Postgraduate awardee joined Dr Mark Kelada, the YCN chair, in an insightful panel discussion during the afternoon session in which they shared their highlights and challenges on their research journeys to date with the delegates present. A particular highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the ICI Postgraduate Award 2021 to Mr Ioannis Mylonas Margaritis, School of Chemistry, NUI Galway as stated earlier. We are enormously grateful to all who contributed to the success of this 45th ICI Annual Congress and we look forward to what we sincerely hope will be an in-person Congress in 2022.

International Chemistry Olympiad 2021

The Institute was so very proud of four young chemists who represented Ireland at the most recent International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in 2021. The IChO is an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at secondary school level. In 2021, there were 312 students competing from 85 countries. Two students, **Oisín Ó Feinneadha from St. Peter's College Secondary School, Wexford** and **Tong Wu from Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare** were awarded silver medals, placing them in the top 10-30% of Chemistry students in the world. One student, **Oscar Despard from Sandford Park School, Ranelagh, Dublin** received a bronze medal and the fourth student, **Aoife Morris, St. Aloysius' College, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork** who completed the extraordinary success of *Team Ireland* by getting an honourable mention award. To put this into context, previous cumulative success of Team Ireland at IChO since 1997 has resulted in a total of 20 bronze medals, four honourable mentions and two silver medals. A special congratulations also to their teachers, parents and Schools. On behalf of the ICI, may I also acknowledge and thank the academic staff from five Irish Institutions for giving of their time and expertise in training and supporting these exceptional students in preparation for the IChO.

Major success of 2nd level students at International Chemistry Olympiad 2021



SILVER MEDAL

Oisín Ó Feinneadha,
St. Peter's College
Secondary School,
Wexford



SILVER MEDAL

Tong Wu,
Clongowes Wood College,
Clane,
Co. Kildare



BRONZE MEDAL

Oscar Despard,
Sandford Park School,
Ranelagh,
Dublin



HONOURABLE MENTION

Aoife Morris,
St. Aloysius' College,
Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork

IChO 21 was attended by 312 students from 85 countries. Ireland has participated since 1997

Expert training and support was provided by academic staff from 5 institutions across Ireland

AIT (Dr. Brian Murphy), TCD (Dr. Carl Póree, Dr. John O'Donoghue, Professor Mike Lyons),
UCC (Dr. Elizabeth Gáchrist, Dr. Tim O'Sullivan), DCU (Dr. Pat O'Malley, Dr. Níshan Kerrigan,
Dr. Hasim Ibrahim, Dr. Odilia Finlayson) and GMT (Dr. Cormac Quigley)

Webinar entitled 'COVID – A Year Like No Other, Where Next?'

In May 2021, the ICI, together with the Irish Biological Inorganic Chemistry Society (IBICS), were delighted to jointly host a webinar entitled 'COVID A Year Like No Other – Where Next?' delivered by Dr Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Consultant Microbiologist, Beaumont Hospital. Fidelma gave a very personal account of the enormous challenges faced by COVID patients and their families and the challenges and impact of the virus on front-line staff. She also presented the latest evidence on vaccine developments during her incredibly insightful presentation. We are enormously grateful to Fidelma for giving of her time and expertise at such an incredibly busy time for her and her colleagues.



Dr Fidelma Fitzpatrick
Consultant Microbiologist,
Beaumont hospital, Dublin

Postgraduate Chemistry Research Symposium

The Postgraduate Chemistry Research Colloquium falls under the aegis of the ICI. As a result of the pandemic, the 72nd Irish Universities Chemistry Research Colloquium, which was due to take place in UL in June 2020, had to be



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deferred to 2021. Congratulations to the UL organisers for hosting an excellent, virtual Colloquium on the 17th – 18th June, 2021. Further details may be found here: <http://chemistrycolloquium72ul.com/>

EuChemS Congress 2024

As you know, the ICI is an affiliated 'Member Society' of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS). We won the bid to host the EuChemS Congress in 2022 which, as you know, because of the pandemic, had to be deferred to 2024. Preparations to host this Congress are well underway by the Institute. In the meantime, may we encourage you to support EuChemS and the Portuguese Chemical Society (SPQ), who, together with the support of the Portuguese Electrochemical Society (SPE), are hosting the Congress in Lisbon, Portugal, from 28th August – 1st September, 2022. Further details may be found here: <https://euchems2022.eu/>

ICI Website and Twitter

May we encourage you also to keep abreast of latest developments by reviewing our ICI website which also includes the most recent issues of the Irish Chemical News: <https://www.chemistryireland.org/>

Please also consider following the Institute on Twitter: @irishchemistry

ICI Centenary 2022

This is an exciting time to be part of the Institute and the chemistry community here in Ireland. The ICI is fortunate in having records of all its meetings dating back to the very first meeting, which was held on 15th May, 1922. In 2022, the ICI will celebrate its 100th anniversary! Plans to mark this impressive milestone are currently under way. We will be in touch with you soon with an update.

Finally, on behalf of Council, may I thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing support. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones every happiness and good health this Christmas and in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Celine Marmion".

Professor Celine J. Marmion FICI
President, Institute of Chemistry of Ireland

