

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## School of Chemistry Community

Part of  
THE EPS COMMUNITY



### Spring 2016

#### Greetings

As you will see from this newsletter it has been an award-winning few months in the School of Chemistry. I am excited to announce Dr Robert Neely has been awarded a £1M EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Challenge Award for his research into cancer detection. I am looking forward to seeing how this research develops and potentially translates into a technology. Prizes have also been received by our postgraduate students with Nina Vyas being awarded second place in the EPSRC's photography competition in the "Weird and Wonderful" category, and Dennis Zhao winning a poster prize at a national meeting on Nanoscale Chemistry at Newcastle University.

It's always a pleasure to hear from our alumni and I am delighted to read about Jack Lownes' start to academic life, continuing his undergraduate passion for Medicinal Chemistry as a PhD researcher at Birmingham. I look forward to hearing more about his continued successes.

Our students have also been incredibly active with ChemSoc raising over £1,200 for charity, holding a Christmas Extravaganza, careers events, visits to industry and their much-anticipated ChemBall to name just a few of their activities. They are thoroughly deserving of one of EPS Societies' Awards so please do show your support and nominate them!

As the end of the second semester approaches, and the exam season is fast approaching, I would like to wish you all a pleasant Spring, and I look forward to updating you with the latest news from the School and our students in the Summer Term.

With best wishes,

**Professor Jon Preece**  
**Head of School**

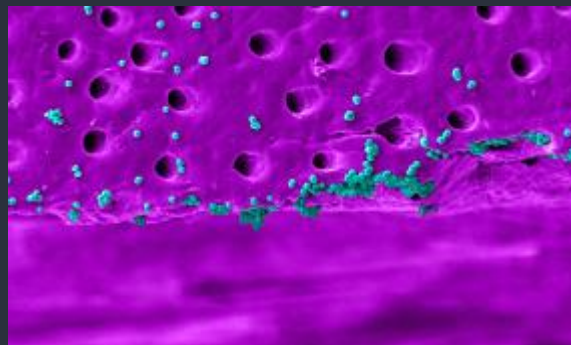


## Chemistry receives EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Challenge Award

Dr Robert Neely, Lecturer in Physical Chemistry, has been awarded funding by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) Healthcare Technologies Challenge Awards for his research into cancer detection.

Dr. Neely's research is looking to develop a new, molecular test that can be used to screen for cancer.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



## Doctoral students awarded top prizes in photography competition

Two Birmingham PhD students have been awarded second and third place in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) photography competition.

Nina Vyas has been awarded second place in the Weird and Wonderful category for her photo "On the Edge of Glory - Sub-micron particles on the surface of a human tooth"

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## Your Chemistry Reunion

Join us on Saturday 18 June for our annual Chemistry Reunion. Whether you graduated five or 50 years ago we invite you to get together with old friends and former classmates to reminisce and celebrate your experiences and friendships from the University of

Birmingham. While we do celebrate milestone anniversaries, all alumni are welcome to attend this special Reunion Day regardless of your graduation year.

Take a trip down memory lane with a tour of Chemistry and explore our beautiful campus to see what has changed, and indeed what has stayed the same, since your time at Birmingham. Why not get a group of friends together? We are happy to help contact those you have lost touch with.

50th and Golden Anniversary tickets cost £45 and include a two-course formal lunch. All other tickets are £42 and include a hot buffet lunch. All bookings made before Friday 22 April 2016 are eligible for a £5 early booking discount.



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## EPS Societies' Awards 2016

Were you a member of a student society during your time at Birmingham? Or have you been impressed reading about the activities of our [current student societies](#)?



## Societies News

It's been a busy term for our societies! Alice Sayers, Chair of [ChemSoc](#), and the [WISE](#) committee tell us about their activities over the past few months from industrial events and conferences, to charitable activities and the annual ChemBall. This term

Why not nominate them for this year's Societies' Awards?

These Awards celebrate the lengths our students go to make the University a better place to work and play. Join our celebrations by nominating your society for these Awards. Maybe your former society will win the much coveted *Society of the Year*.

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we also welcome four new societies to our community: [Drone Soc](#), [Games Development](#), [SATNAV](#) and [oSTEM](#).

The College of Engineering and Physics Sciences is home to 24 student societies. Each does fantastic work to promote employment opportunities, industrial visits, guest speakers and, of course, social events.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

## News Round-Up

There have been a number of appointments in the School over the past few months. Read a summary of our new staff [here](#).

Don't forget to wash your hands! Professor Simon Cotton comments on the the [world's five deadliest poisons](#).

Professor Dave Charlton, Spokesperson for the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN, delivered the latest [EPS Distinguished Lecture on the future of the world's largest scientific instrument](#).



## Alumni News

In this edition Jack Lownes (MSci Chemistry, 2015) tells us how he's



## Micro-Volunteering Day, 15 April

To mark international Micro-

made the transition from undergraduate to PhD student.

If you would like to share your story we would love to hear from you. Simply fill complete our online [career profile](#) or [email us](#) to tell us more.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

Volunteering Day on 15 April there's a whole range of opportunities to support Birmingham – all in fifteen minutes or less.

These bite-sized tasks can have a big impact – from offering advice to students, to sharing your opinion on our website design or celebrating with the University's newest alumni by sending in your graduation memories. In Chemistry we particularly want to hear what you've been up to since graduating and how your careers have progressed so we can share your stories with our current students.

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## Events

### [EPS Inaugural Lecture Series](#)

For information on upcoming lectures in the EPS Inaugural Lecture Series please visit our [website](#).

**Friday 6 May**

### [Mathematics in Railway Industry](#)

Join the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education for this free workshop on mathematics in the railway sector, including a technical visit to the newly refurbished Birmingham New Street Station.

**Time:** 9:30am-6pm

**Venue:** Gisbert Kapp Building, Edgbaston Campus

**Friday 13 May**

### [Alumni Reception in Singapore with the Vice-Chancellor](#)

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for an alumni reception in Singapore.

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Venue:** The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

**Tuesday 17 May**

**[Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Unlocking the immune system](#)**

In the fifth Birmingham Heroes lecture, Professor Gary Middleton, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University's Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy, will present the research and work being undertaken by the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Centre at Birmingham, and how they are developing treatments to protect, harness and enhance the immune system's response to cancer.

**Time:** 6:45pm-8:45pm

**Venue:** 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London

**Wednesday 8 June 2016**

**[EPS Societies' Awards](#)**

Celebrate with your student society as we recognise their extraordinary achievements with a gala, black-tie evening.

**Time:** 7pm-11pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Saturday 18 June 2016**

**[EPS Alumni Reunion](#)**

As a graduate of one of the nine schools in the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences, you are invited back to campus for a Summer Reunion to get together with your fellow alumni to celebrate your experiences, accomplishments and friendships at the University of Birmingham.

**Time:** 9.30am-6pm

**Venue:** Edgbaston Campus

**Thursday 23 June**

**[London Professional Network 2016](#)**

This popular network is the perfect opportunity to enhance your portfolio of contacts and to meet alumni working in related professions, whilst enjoying wine and canapes.

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Venue:** The Royal Academy of Arts, London

**Global Alumni Gatherings**

The University of Birmingham has alumni groups all over the world organising local events. A full listing of international events is available on our [website](#). To join a group and see details of upcoming please visit the [webpage](#) and select your location.



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