



Welcome to your 2021 Chemical Engineering Alumni Newsletter



Dear Alumni,

This year has been full of challenges as the School has continued to navigate COVID-19. Lectures were delivered to students largely online, with staff making tremendous efforts to develop and deliver new content. It has also been a year of change, not only as a result of the pandemic but also for me personally as my time as Head of School has come to an end and Professor Gary Leeke has taken up the mantle.

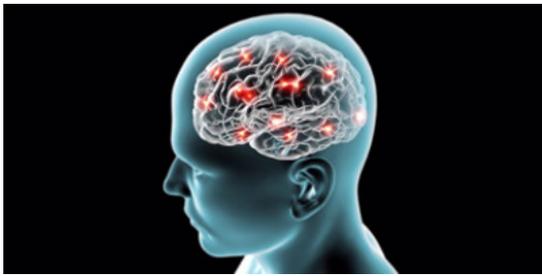
Read more from Mark Simmons and Gary Leeke



Our response to the COVID-19 crisis

From hand sanitisers and nasal sprays to improved PPE, the University of Birmingham's School of Chemical Engineering has made significant contributions to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are immensely proud of our colleagues' and students' contributions and hope you are too. Thank you to everyone who's been involved.

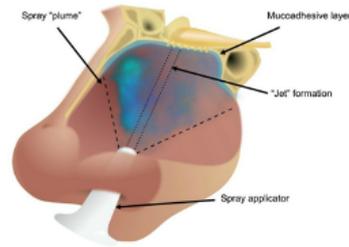
Find out everything we're doing to support the global effort



New Device for Detecting Traumatic Brain Injury

A method for detecting traumatic brain injury at the point of care has been developed using chemical biomarkers released by the brain.

[Find out more](#)



Anti-COVID-19 nasal spray 'ready for use in humans'

A nasal spray that can provide effective protection against the COVID-19 virus has been developed by the University's Healthcare Technologies Institute.

[Find out more](#)



Cold storage and renewable refrigeration technologies enable greener cooling future

Experts in the School of Chemical Engineering and Centre for Energy Storage are working on novel cold storage and renewable refrigeration technologies to address global energy challenges.

[Find out more](#)



A scalable process for the chemical recycling of PET using ionic organocatalysts

Professor Joe Wood has teamed up with researchers in the School of Chemistry to study the chemical recycling of polyethylene terephthalate, with the award of a new grant of £1.17 million.

[Find out more](#)



Innovative 'EPS Futures Foundation Year' programme supports young people from underrepresented groups to study STEM

Every year, 69,000 jobs for engineers and skilled technicians in the UK go unfilled. We are seeking to address this with the 'EPS Futures' foundation year. Through the generous support of donors such as Martin-Baker Aircraft, EPS Futures will provide life-changing opportunities for young people. Alongside mentoring and professional expertise from

alumni and corporate partners, we will help unearth future engineers and scientists who otherwise may not have the chance to fulfil their potential.

Find out how we're supporting young people study science and engineering



A virtual year with BUCES

The Chemical Engineering Society have gone above and beyond to give their members the BUCES-fun they know and love! With an online Frank Morton and virtual International Women's day, the committee share their year with you.

[Read what BUCES have been up to](#)



BES vs COVID!

Although this past year has been very difficult the Energy Society has adapted by offering a number of exciting online talks and launched a new campaign to reduce energy consumption within University and partner-owned accommodation.

[Find out more about the Energy Society](#)



Success for our students at the annual Societies' Awards

For the second year running we took the EPS Societies' Awards online to celebrate our remarkable student groups. The celebrations were not halted and watch parties were held across our societies and Schools! Congratulations to the Women in Science and Engineering Society who were named Society of the Year, and well done to all the nominees, shortlisted students and worthy winners!

[Watch the 2021 Virtual Societies' Awards](#)



Alumni perspective: Ndaindila Haidongo

Since graduating in 2019, Ndaindila has worked as a Food Safety Specialist and



Eamonn Ridgley: Roads to water

In February 2021, Eamonn touched down in Mexico City to start a new life. Since

Bioeconomy Consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Here she shares some of her favourite memories of the University.

[Read Ndaindila's alumni profile](#)

then he has worked for Caminos de Agua, a non-profit organisation which aims to improve health through adequate and affordable access to clean water.

[Find out more about Eamonn's work](#)

WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

Help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. What will you share?

[Share your Birmingham story](#)

MENTORING

Could you be a mentor?

We all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, especially when it comes to our careers. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, we'd love to hear from you.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)



Seventy graduates take part in 'Meet your alumni' series

In March 2021, the EPS Community launched the first event series aimed at introducing students to Engineering and Physical Science alumni from a broad range of sectors. More than 70 graduates and professionals took part in 'Meet your alumni', each with a different experience to share. From Chemical Engineering alone we were fortunate to be joined by 17 graduates across three events, including SHE Engineers talks and a 'Meet BUCES Alumni' event for current students to hear from recent graduates and grill them on their careers.

[Find out more about the Series](#)

News roundup

It is with deep sadness that I write to let you know we have recently learned that [John Bridgwater](#), Head of the School in 1983-89, passed away in May 2021, aged 83.

Professor Paula Mendes [awarded the Sharma Medal](#) for outstanding contribution to chemical engineering.

The Birmingham Energy Institute would like to congratulate Professor Yulong Ding on his [IChemE Clean Energy Medal Award](#).

Birmingham researchers confirm [speed, simplicity and sensitivity for new COVID-19 test](#).

[New hardship grants for students funded by Birmingham graduate](#), Emeritus Professor Barry P Hughes

Dr Pola Goldberg Oppenheimer is one of four Birmingham scientists to [win prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry Awards](#).

[Supporting students](#) into engineering and physical sciences at Birmingham.

The [new Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain \(ACES\)](#) has taken a major step forward in Rwanda with a \$3.5 (£2.4 million) million funding boost.

Birmingham energy experts [develop sustainable routes and technologies](#) for UK's zero-carbon heating and cooling future.

UK's [Universities Minister visits University of Birmingham](#) to learn how students have been supported through the COVID-19 pandemic.

New centre will [drive industrial decarbonisation](#).

University spinout lands funding for [rapid development of fluorescent dyes](#).

[New podcast](#) discusses how Birmingham researchers are helping to improve global physical health.

University of Birmingham to partner with GKN Aerospace in [developing hydrogen propulsion system for aircraft](#).

Chemical Engineering PhD student Morgan Lowther crowned [world's best young lecturer](#).

Birmingham leads on [green cooling technologies programme](#).

[New mouth spray](#) could benefit patients with painful genetic skin condition.

Do we have the correct contact details for you?

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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