



## FYI EDI



*Each month, we will highlight a UCD/School EDI policy or initiative to make sure that staff and students are aware of all the supports available.*

UCD recognises that a supportive employer responds flexibly and can support employees who are caring to identify ways to balance work, their career and care.

Did you know that UCD has a suite of options which make it possible for employees to balance caring responsibilities and work more easily and fulfil both obligations?

Learn about your entitlements and how you can apply for a variety of leave types including: maternity leave, paternity leave, study & exam leave, parental leave, carer's leave, adoptive leave, force majeure leave, career breaks, research sabbatical leave and leave of absence for research.

**Visit UCD HR Website for more information on the UCD Carer Friendly Flexible Working Leave Options here: <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/support/supportsforcarers/ucdcarerfriendlyflexibleworkingandleaveoptions/>**

# congratulations

## New Doctors in the House

STUDENTS PASSED THEIR VIVA



*Well done, Donal*

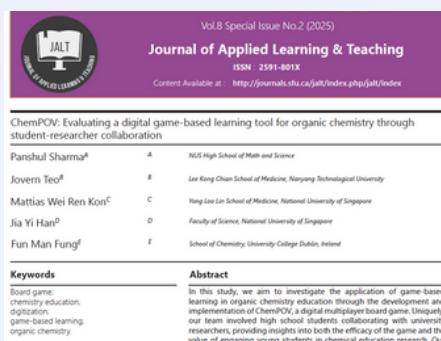
Huge Congratulations to Donal Whelan who passed his PhD viva voce exam on February 18th. Thanks to the exam committee Prof. Bhavik Patel (extern), Dr Leila Negahdar (intern) & Dr Joe Byrne (chair) pictured here with Donal and his supervisor Robert Johnson.

*Congratulations, Rosa*

Huge Congratulations to Rosa Fernández Pisón who passed her PhD viva voce examination February 13th! Thanks to the exam committee Dr Leila Negahdar (Chair), Dr Joe Byrne (Intern) and extern Prof. Mats Tilset Of Univ. of Oslo.



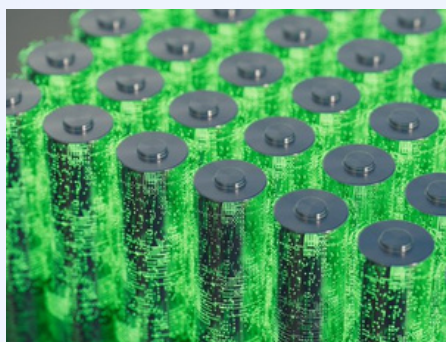
# Publications from staff and students in the School



## *ChemPOV: Evaluating a digital game-based learning tool for organic chemistry through student-researcher collaboration*

\*Applied Learning & Teaching\* documents the student-researcher relationship via an award-winning Game-Based Learning app \*ChemPOV\* in Organic Chemistry. Student researchers presented their work and treasured wonderful experiences at American Chemical Society National Meetings, The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Congress, and ICCE2024. Congrats to lead authors Panshul, Jovern, Mattias. Jovern has started his UG at LKCMedicine Research, Mattias began his training at Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Panshul is US-bound in 2026. Open Access

Read more at <https://journals.sfu.ca/jalt/index.php/jalt/article/view/2787>



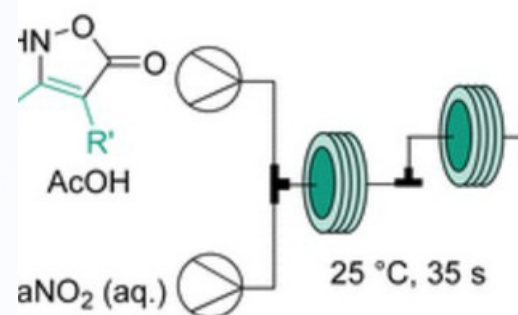
## *UCD spinoff Licovolt has developed a new way of recycling spent lithium-cobalt batteries at a fraction of the cost and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of current methods*

"University College Dublin spin-out Licovolt and Australia-based Pure Battery Technologies have signed a joint development deal that aims to transform the production of sustainable battery materials for the electric vehicle industry. Licovolt was co-founded by UCD scientists Associate Professor Tony Keene, UCD School of Chemistry and Associate Professor Steven Ferguson, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, with the support of NovaUCD".

Read more at <https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2025/0129/1493572-licovolt-and-pbt-team-up-on-sustainable-battery-project/>

## *Continuous flow synthesis of alkynes from isoxazolones*

Congratulations to Aisling, Rosa and Marcus on this work. This study is aimed to investigate the application of game-based learning in organic chemistry education through the development and implementation of ChemPOV, a digital multiplayer board game. Uniquely, our team involved high school students collaborating with university researchers, providing insights into both the efficacy of the game and the value of engaging young students in chemical education research.



Read more at <https://journals.sfu.ca/jalt/index.php/jalt/article/view/2787>

The McGarrigle group's latest work has been reported on ChemRxiv, congratulations to Katie, Di and Joe on all the hard work that went into this research.

On the Influence of Remote Substituents on Stereoselectivity: alpha-Galactosylation via Intramolecular Hydrogen-bonding to beta-Triflate <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2025-m0xsd>

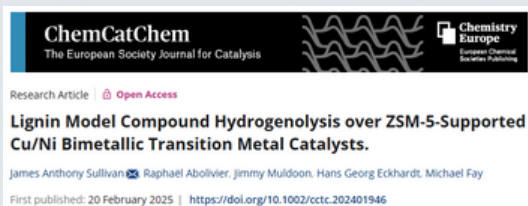
Assoc. Prof. McGarrigle visited Univ. Louvain la Neuve and Univ. Namur in Belgium gave an invited lecture at the Exo-Glycal Project Mini-Symposium alongside Profs. Michael Smietana (Montpellier) and Laurence Grimaud (ENS Paris).



# Publications from staff and students in the School

A paper from Raphaël's PhD has been accepted for publication in ChemCatChem. "Lignin Model Compound Hydrogenolysis over ZSM-5-Supported Cu/Ni Bimetallic Transition Metal Catalysts." James A. Sullivan; Raphaël Abolivier; Jimmy Muldoon; Hans Georg Eckhardt and Michael Fay.

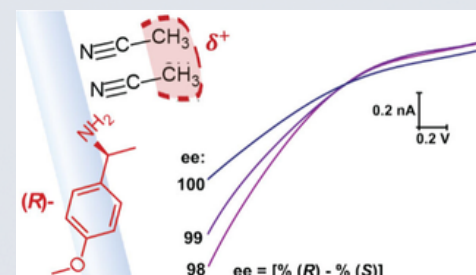
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/cctc.202401946>



The article results from a collaboration between UCD and the University of Nottingham funded by a CDT within Biorbic.

Well done to Fionn for his work with the Johnson group on the Determination of Enantiomeric Excess in Confined Aprotic Solvent, which was recently published in ACS Electrochemistry:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsel.4c00219>



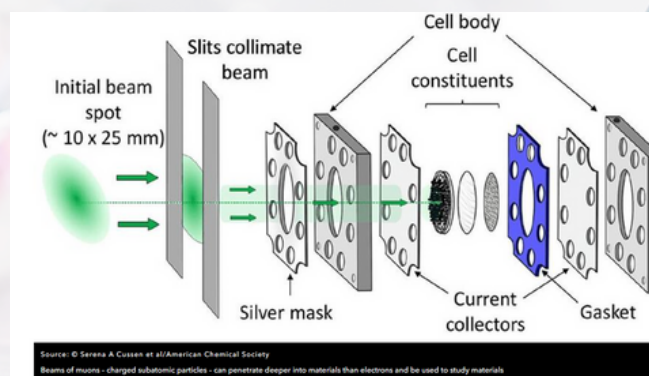
Serena Cussen and her postdoc Innes McClelland's work on developing operando muon spectroscopy techniques to investigate ion diffusion properties during battery cycling has been highlighted in Chemistry World. You can check out their interview here:

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/features/studying-materials-in-action/4020872.article>

Additionally, their research was featured as part of the Battery 2030+ International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

For more details, visit

<https://battery2030.eu/news/happenings-events/international-womens-day-women-in-battery-research/#:~:text=February%2011th%20is%20the%20United,and%20equality%20in%20these%20fields.>



Amber was named the recipient of the 'Excellence in Education & Public Engagement (EPE) Person of the Year Award' within the BiOrbic Bioeconomy Research Centre! Amber hosted many lab tours and demonstrations for primary, secondary and third level students, giving students the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiments and engage with science in an exciting way.



# CLOSING WORKSHOP OF SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY ROLL-OUT OF DIGITAL BADGES IN UNIVERSAL DESIGN



Digital Badge Awardees: Leila, Helen, Kirsty, Tom, Joe, Colin, Marina, Ray, and James with Daniel Elliot (University for All)

Since last summer, the School of Chemistry has been engaged in a local roll-out of the Digital Badge in Universal Design in Teaching and Learning (UDL) and Universal Design Beyond the Classroom. To celebrate the completion of this training by most of the participants, the facilitators Joe and Leila recently hosted a UD Workshop. The aim of these Digital Badges is to embed more inclusive and accessible approaches, technologies and techniques into the student experience in the School of Chemistry. Daniel Elliot from University for All (who were involved in developing the Digital Badge) welcomed the School's engagement and spoke about the importance of this initiative. Joe Byrne presented some samples of anonymised student and staff feedback collected through two focus groups before and after the rollout. Case studies of new implementations of UD in teaching in 2024 were shared in an Interim Report, and a few of these were presented by Marina Rubini, Marcus Baumann and Tom Hooper. There was open discussion with other attendees about how to continue use UD for further positive change in our School. Badges were awarded to four technical officers and eight academic staff, some of whom are pictured below. A few more are expected to finish the training in the near future. The workshop concluded with a focus group facilitated by Aoiffe Kenny, as part of an on-going research study into the impact of this UD training, supported by a UCD Faculty Partnership.



Left: Aoiffe Reilly, Leila Negahdar, Joe Byrne – UDL Research Project team/facilitators; Right: Some of the speakers at the UDL Workshop

# Events Organized/Attended by Students

Fourth Year Students, Emily Kelly and Emilia Kazek, organised two meet-up sessions with Stage 3 & Stage 4 Medicinal Chemistry and Chemistry classes. These provided an opportunity for students to connect, make new friends, discuss Fourth Year Projects, and offer advice to Third Year students about their following year ahead.



The Guiry group had a lovely trip to University of Nottingham earlier this month to the SFI-EPSC Winter School. Congratulations to Niamh for giving a fantastic talk, and to Aoibhínn, Ava and Liam for presenting posters. Well done to Liam also for winning a poster prize.





# DATE FOR THE DIARY

## Wednesday March 12, 2025 - Theatre D (SCIH 1.13 - Icon Th D) Science Hub, O'Brien Centre, UCD

### Michael McGlinchey 80th Birthday Symposium (Organiser: Grace Morgan)

14.00–14.40 Dr Elizabeth Hillard, Director of Research, ICMCB and University of Bordeaux  
Exotic chiroptical properties of coordination complexes in the solid state  
14.40–15.30 Professor Didier Astruc, University of Bordeaux  
Title tba  
15.30–16.00 Coffee  
16.00–17.00 Professor Michael McGlinchey, University College Dublin  
From Steroid–Chromium Complexes to Ferrocenyl Quinone Methide  
Anti-Cancer Drugs: Four Decades of Bioorganometallic Chemistry  
17.00–18.00 Wine Reception  
All welcome to attend!

## THE WOMEN IN SCIENCE MENTORING AWARDS

### Women in Science Mentoring Awards Nomination

These awards were very well received by our colleagues, research staff and students last year, acknowledging their efforts in mentoring.

The nomination process details:

Who can nominate: Any UCD College of Science member can nominate another member for this award.

Who can be nominated: Any UCD College of Science member who has been particularly active in mentoring women could be nominated.

How to nominate: [Nomination Link](#)

Deadline for the nomination: March 3rd