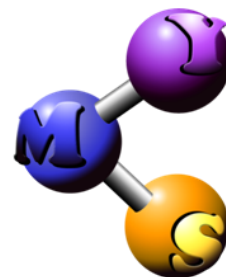




UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Post-Event Report

3rd RSC Younger Member Symposium



Tuesday 24th June 2014
University of Birmingham

chemistryworld



Lilly



1. Introduction

The 3rd RSC Younger Members Symposium (YMS2014) was organised by members of the Younger Member Network from the East Midlands, Tayside and West Midlands sections.

This report outlines the preparations for, and outcomes of, YMS2014.

2. Organisation

The structure of the YMS2014 committee is given in Table 1. This committee, whilst small, had the advantage of previous experience of project management on this scale, including previous Younger Member Symposia. We also enjoyed strong relationships with the all levels of the RSC: local, divisional and board. This experience was invaluable in our search for funding, speakers and promotion of the event.

Name	Affiliation	Role
Daniel Payne	University of Birmingham	Chair
Laura Yates	Quadralene Ltd.	Treasurer
Amy Lawrence	Safeware Quasar Ltd.	Secretary
Helen Neal	Reckitt Benckiser	Webmaster
David Foley	University of Dundee	Member
Heidi Dobbs	RSC Regional Education Coordinator University of Nottingham	Co-opted Member

Table 1 YMS2014 Committee

Additional support both on the day of the event and during event promotion was provided by Younger Member Representatives: Alex Bullock; Rajitha Hanarasinghe; Thomas McGlone; Helen Ryder; Scott Sneddon and Graeme Turnbull.

The committee was formed in May 2013 where the University of Birmingham (represented by Daniel Payne) agreed to host the event. Birmingham was an ideal location geographically; with excellent transport links to all parts of the UK and internationally. It was also a convenient location for the majority of the committee.

The committee met virtually via Skype on a roughly monthly basis, supplemented by email exchanges and the occasional physical meeting. The committee used OneDrive to share files, but other cloud based services would be equally effective. The success of YMS2014 is proof that committees can be set up to run virtually whilst maintaining effectiveness.

Once again, the promotion of the event was helped tremendously by having the RSC Regional Coordinator, Heidi Dobbs, co-opted to the committee. She played a pivotal role in communicating the event to relevant contacts and institutions, and is responsible in a large part for the success of the Education & Outreach session.

3. Symposium Objectives

The YMS2014 committee were keen to maintain the core values of the YMS series by:

- Organising a symposium by young scientists, for young scientists.
- Inviting selected speakers that, in addition to showcasing the latest advances in their research, would demonstrate the skills required for a successful career in chemistry.
- Allowing young chemists to present the latest research to an audience of their peers in an atmosphere that would be less intimidating and more personal than other conferences.
- Providing the opportunity for academic, industrial and chemical education/outreach speakers to present their work on an equal footing.
- Bringing chemical scientists from different geographical, employment and expertise areas together.

In addition, we wished to utilise the momentum built from the previous symposia in the series to:

- Increase the number of delegates by 60%, from ~150 to ~250.
- Increase the proportion of industrial delegates from ~20% to ~40%.
- Provide more oral (previously 12) and poster (previously ~ 40) presentation opportunities.
- Involve RSC interest groups and divisions in the symposia.
- Attract delegates from beyond the British Isles.

4. Preparations and Planning

4.1 Organisation

Preparations began in May 2013, with the committee being formed and roles agreed. The venue (University of Birmingham) and date (June 2014) were agreed immediately. The date was set to fall outside of the teaching term for most universities, including Birmingham (making venue booking easier), but before the typical academic “conference season”, *i.e.* late June-July.

The committee was grateful that the University of Birmingham’s Chemistry department offered the use of its facilities for free, which significantly reduced costs and provided access to the wide range of lecture rooms and display space necessary for the event.

The committee agreed to hold four parallel sessions: three scientific sessions covering the major chemical disciplines and a fourth devoted to education and outreach. This approach combined what the committee felt were the best elements of YMS2010 (broad science of general interest) and YMS2012 (who championed the introduction of an outreach session). We hoped this would ensure that YMS2014 would continue to have broad appeal, backed up by inter-disciplinary science that would be widely relevant to all researchers.

The four sessions were:

- Education and Outreach: Devoted to the latest developments in chemical education as well as examples of innovative and exciting outreach activities.
- Inorganic and Materials Chemistry: Devoted to the latest research in inorganic chemistry and material science, including the development of novel catalysts, polymers and nanotechnology.

- Organic and Biochemistry: Devoted to all areas of organic and biological chemistry including synthetic organic chemistry, organocatalysis, medicinal chemistry and chemical biology.
- Physical and Analytical Chemistry: Devoted to new techniques or emerging technologies in the physical and analytical sciences, including reaction mechanisms, kinetic studies, process chemistry and chemical engineering, mass spectrometry and NMR.

In all cases the committee sought abstracts detailing innovations and results that could be clearly presented to an inter-disciplinary, non-expert audience.

It was planned that each session would have two invited speakers and four speakers would then be chosen *via* an abstract submission process. A poster session was planned. It was felt that the number of posters could be increased to 60. Spaces would be provided for posters from each of the above themes, in proportionally to the amount of abstracts received for each theme.

A list of the key dates for YMS2012 was created in late 2013 and is shown below:

- Abstract/registration opened: 20th January 2014
- Abstract submission deadline: 17th May 2014
- Abstract review process and delegates informed of success: 24th May 2014.
- Registration closed: 6th June 2014.
- Event: 24th June 2014.

The website, RSC registration process and promotional material were organised in time to meet these deadlines.

4.2 *Financing*

The accounts from previous YMS were used to draw up a budget (see Appendix A) for an estimated attendance of 300 delegates. The major costs for the event would be catering and printing.

As with previous YMS, it was agreed that a nominal registration fee would be charged to cover the costs of catering. As catering is one of the largest expenses and is proportional to the number of delegates, using the fee to cover this cost is sensible. A small registration fee also reduces the risk of “no-shows”, especially from delegates living close to the venue on whose attendance the success of the symposium relies.

As this was an RSC event, it was decided to charge two levels of registration, £20 for non-members and £15 for members. We continued with the practice of using RSC Events to process payments, as this would allow us more fluid access to the funds and ensure a professional appearance.

Even this level of fee would be insufficient to cover the catering costs as quoted by the university’s catering supplier. We agreed to instead carry out the catering ourselves allowing us to dramatically reduce the costs and cover for a shortfall in anticipated RSC funding.

We also agreed to reduce printing costs by allowing delegates to choose between an electronic or hardcopy version of the conference booklet. Approximately 66% of delegates requested an electronic version, which dramatically reduced the printing costs.

The budget called for £5,000 support from the RSC. However, only £2,420 to cover directly incurred costs was secured. As can be seen in Appendix A, the contribution from the RSC was significantly less

than in previous years, despite the increase in size of the event. We believe it is imperative for the RSC to budget appropriately for YMS2016 so that sufficient resource is available to underwrite the symposium in the early stages. Should additional industrial sponsorship be found, we would then reduce the RSC liability at a later date.

The remaining funding required was secured by various industrial sponsors. The committee had a great deal of experience in securing the necessary funding. We prioritise contacting previous supports of the YMS, as well as local industry, before expanding our search to national and international companies. Where possible, we sought “no strings attached” funding – charitable donation from various companies. Where this was impossible, we offered our sponsors a range of exposure levels to suit their needs including displaying their logo on all promotional material and the website, to allowing them to sponsor specific prizes and having exhibition space on the day.

In all 8 companies agreed to support YMS2014. The amount and conditions of this support are summarised in Table 2.

Company	Amount	Requirements
Pera foundation	£500	Stand and sponsor and awarding of E&O Prizes
Asynt	£200	Stand
Eli Lilly	£500	None
RSC	£2420	To sponsor certain areas- incl stand
Chem world	£300	Sponsor of I&M poster prizes
Radleys	£250	Stand
KNF	£250	Stand
Cogent SSC	£250	Stand
ESPRC (RSC)	£250	Stand
European Young Chemists Network	€100	Poster Prize

Table 2 Sponsors of YMS2014

4.3 Promotional Strategy

Website

The URL www.rsc-yms.co.uk was passed to the YMS2014 committee from the organisers of the inaugural YMS. Helen Neal agreed to continue in her role as webmaster. Helen was given remuneration to cover time spent and URL registration costs. The website was linked to the RSC registration page, provided extensive information on the event and hosted the abstract submission and query contact forms. The website was strongly highlighted on all promotional material.

We experienced some server technical disruption (beyond our control) to the website which had an adverse impact on our ability to effectively communicate key information such as funding sources and date changes. We therefore recommend that future YMS use the RSC website as the platform for their website. CMS training is available from the RSC to allow us to manage the page ourselves, or alternatively the RSC can do that for us.

E-Mail

A dedicated email address was also set up early on (enquiries@rsc-yms.co.uk). All correspondence to delegates was managed through the YMS email address, which was monitored by Amy Lawrence. A contact form on the website linked directly to the email, as did abstract submissions and all registrations *via* the RSC website.

Flyer

An A4 flyer was produced by the committee; which was used to promote the event both in hard copy and electronically. This contained the key information about the event and was continually updated as the attendance of invited speakers was confirmed. A final version contained a second page detailing the finalised programme for the event.

University

Electronic copies of the flyer were e-mailed to Heads of School at UK and Ireland university chemistry departments. Reminders were sent at regular intervals leading up to key deadlines.

Former and current invited speakers were encouraged to promote the event in their departments. We have found this approach to be particularly successful.

Once the deadline for abstract submission had passed, we focussed our promotional efforts on universities within easy commute of Birmingham, who could practically “turn up on the day”.

Industry and Education

The SCI were contacted and agreed to promote the event on their website. Flyers were also distributed at various trade shows around the country.

Science museums from around the country were contacted specifically in relation to the Education an Outreach session.

RSC

The RSC agreed to offer free affiliate membership to all delegates, which was a useful additional benefit to highlight on promotional materials.

Local RSC secretaries were e-mailed and asked to forward the flyer and associated information to their sections. RSC News was used on several occasions as a platform to reach members, and included an interview with one of our invited speakers, Dr. Zoe Schnepf.

Industry Reps and all East Midlands Younger Members were also emailed through the RSC. East Midlands local section had an insert added to all Chemistry World mailing in their area.

The YMS was promoted at all the RSC regional meetings and included presentations from members of the organising committee where possible.

The committee benefitted greatly from the efforts of Heidi Dobbs and the RSC Regional Education co-ordinators in the general promotion of the event.

We also explored a new avenue for the promotion of the event in which we offered to sponsor RSC interest group meetings aimed at younger members in their field with a prize to speak at the YMS. We successfully sponsored the Early Career Energy Sector Symposium in November 2013 and the BMCS Postgraduate Symposium in December 2013, with the prize winners being invited to speak at YMS2014. This was a mutually beneficial arrangement and is worthy of repeating.

Other

We advertised to their members via EYCN website and distributed flyers at the EYCN delegates assemble in Romania thus reaching potential delegates from all over Europe. EYCN also allowed us to present an EYCN poster prize on their behalf (funded by them).

We also secured the support of the German and Portuguese Young Chemists Societies who promoted the YMS at their annual symposia.

Additionally, we advertised the event on as many free conference databases that we could find including: conferencealerts.com; chemistry-conferences.com; nature.com; allconferences.com; attendconference.com; papersinvited.com and conference-service.com.

5. The Event

5.1 Abstract Selection

The abstract submission deadline was set six weeks prior to the conference. This allowed the committee to meet a week later to decide which abstracts were successful or not and inform the delegates. It also gave enough time to find alternatives if delegates had to drop out or withdraw their work. It was felt the division of posters reflected the level of attendance and abstracts submitted for each session.

Submitted abstracts were reviewed electronically by the committee using a standard scoring sheet. Abstracts were judged on their **quality** (of research and research method); **novelty** (of research, method, technique, technology); **clarity** (of hypothesis, research method and abstract) and **impact** (on the field, wider science and the lay public). Scores were averaged between two judges. Final decisions were made following a committee conference call.

E-mails were then sent to all delegates who had submitted abstracts informing them of the result and any requirements needed for successful presentations.

A very high number of abstracts were submitted which exceeded our capacity of talks and posters. Thus it was again not possible to reward all submitted posters a place.

5.2 Attendance and Arrival

Over 200 delegates attended YMS2014, representing a 65% increase on YMS2012. The breakdown of the occupations of the delegates compared with 2012 is shown in **Figure 1**.

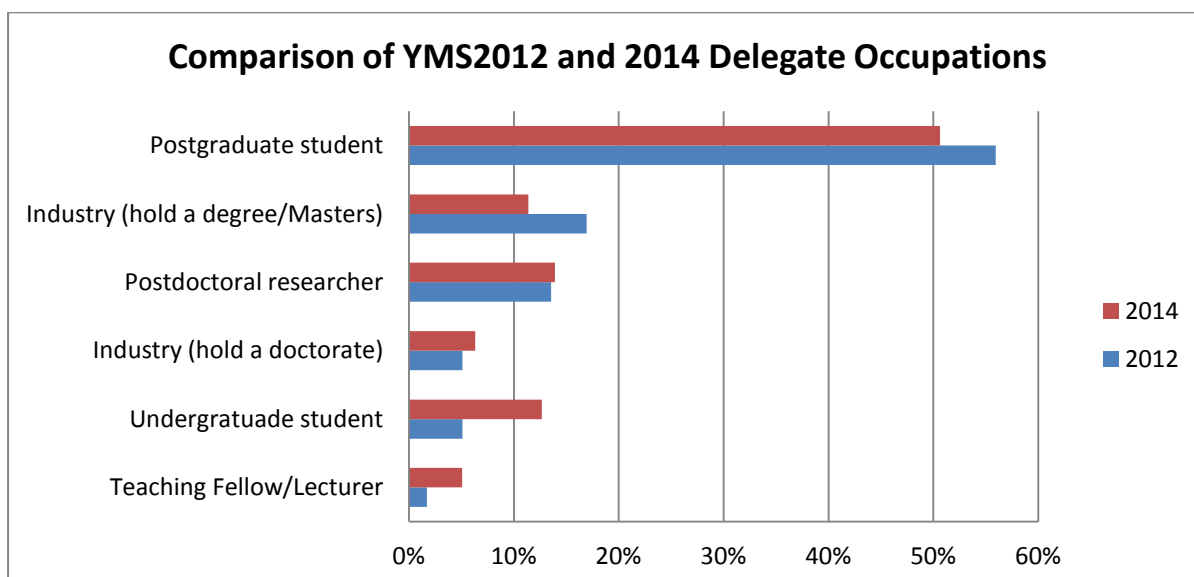
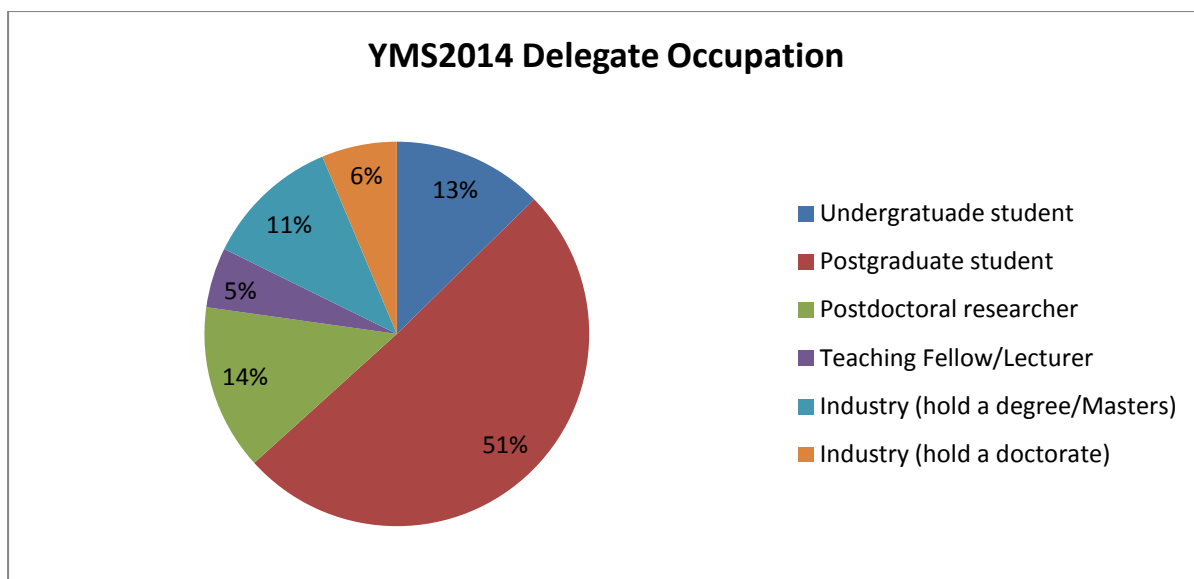


Figure 1 YMS2014 delegate breakdown alone and in comparison with YMS2012

Not surprisingly, the main group attending were postgraduate students. However, it was pleasing to see a good representation from industry with attendance maintained at the levels seen during YMS2012. That being said, we were unsuccessful in our aim to increase the industrial representation. We believe broad conferences of this type are extremely difficult to sell to industry and an alternative approach to achieving our aim of bringing chemists from all backgrounds together may be to increase the number of invited speakers from industry.

5.3 Oral Sessions

The timetable for the event is given in Appendix B. We created a timetable that ensured there was a break at least every 90 minutes. Keynote talks were 50 minutes long, invited speakers got 30 minutes and accepted talks were 20 minutes.

Room allocations were based on submitted abstracts for each session, with organic having the largest and education and outreach the smallest. It may be useful to future committees to capture

the sessions delegates plan to attend during the registration process. It is also important to note that education and outreach always has a good attendance (40-50 people) despite low numbers of submitted abstracts.

Session chairs were instructed to keep the sessions running strictly to time, and for the most part this was achieved. The chairs also ensured all presentations were preloaded onto the computers in the relevant lecture halls to ensure smooth running of the day.

Feedback on the parallel sessions was broadly positive, with requests for more time to put in the timetable to allow movement between sessions. This will be difficult to achieve as we already have a very full programme.

5.4 Poster Sessions

Poster boards were provided free of charge by the university. Ample time was allocated to poster viewing as requested in feedback from YMS2012. We divided poster slots into odd and even numbers to allow the poster presenters themselves time to have breaks and view posters. This also helped to alleviate problems with crowding, however feedback has suggested this was still an issue.

5.5 Exhibitors

Radleys, Pera, Asynt, KNF, Cogent, ESPRC and the RSC required stands at the symposium. All the industrial stands received good footfall and positive feedback.

5.6 Photography

Photographs were captured by Heidi Dobbs. Delegates were informed that photographs would be taken in the introductory remarks and could opt-out by contacting the committee. It would be best in the future if someone not involved in the event organisation was arranged for this responsibility.

5.7 Judging and Prizes

Posters and talks were judged using a standard score sheet. The criteria were similar to the abstract judging process, with an additional score for overall presentation style and quality. The committee handled most of the judging, with the exception of inorganic and materials, which was part judged by a member of the Chemistry World team, and education and outreach, which was judged by Pera.

Poster judging in particular is an onerous, thankless and time consuming task. It is vital that adequate numbers of volunteers are on hand to allow for smooth running of the conference and adequate poster judging. However, this complicates the overall assessment, as different sets of judges may rank posters differently. We attempted to mitigate this using the score sheet and two judges per poster, but is something that requires further work.

5.8 Travel Bursaries

Many RSC local sections and regional steering groups graciously agreed to support travel bursaries for delegates in their respective areas to attend the YMS. The website also directed delegates to the main RSC travel grants page. This removed the administration of the travel grants from the workload of the committee. Some local sections have already pledged to support travel to the next YMS.

6. Treasurer's Report

RSC YMS 2014 (24th June 2014)

Outgoings

Prizes	£2,000
Speakers expenses	£968.45
Administration costs	£739.05
Printing	£915.00
Catering	£2,557.47
RSC 'Group' grants	£93.71
	<u>£7,273.68</u>

Income

Delegate Fees	£2,609
Legacy from 2012	£1,521.26

Sponsors

Pera Foundation	£500.00
Asynt	£200.00
Lilly	£500.00
RSC	£2,420.00
Chem world	£300.00
Radleys	£250.00
KNF Neuberger (UK) ltd	£250.00
Cogent SSC	£250.00
ESPRC (RSC)	£250.00
	<u>£9,050.51</u>

Total money in	£9,050.51
Total money out	£7,273.68

Balance **£1,776.83** to go towards YMS2016

7. Feedback

Feedback from the symposium was obtained by directing the delegates, speakers and sponsors to an online survey generated on Survey Monkey. The possibility of a £50 prize, selected by random draw, was also offered in an attempt to encourage delegates to complete the survey. A total of 83 delegates responded (41.5% response rate).

Feedback from the multiple choice questions was overall very positive and the survey provided a comments section, allowing more constructive feedback. The results of the survey are provided in Appendix C, but are summarised as follows:

- Delegates from all the chemical disciplines attended.

- Overall satisfaction with the conference was high and there is a strong demand for its continuation.
- Recurring issues for improvement included the organisation of parallel sessions and an increase in poster space.

8. Summary

The value of the YMS series was reinforced by the excellent attendance, positive feedback and quantity of sponsorship received. The quality of the presentations was extremely high and it was a great opportunity for all (including the committee) to see the presentations and sponsors. All the sessions were well attended and the speakers and posters warmly received. The event offered young chemists in academia, industry and chemical education/outreach to network with each other, understand work in different disciplines and get careers advice. As such, YMS2014 was an overwhelming success and the outgoing committee believes its place has been secured in the diary of young chemists.

The symposium also provided an invaluable opportunity for recruiting new members to the Society and engaging them immediately with the Younger Members Network (YMN). We were delighted to also provide Marie Chapman (RSC Member Networks Specialist) the opportunity to canvass opinion on the ongoing review of the YMN. This regular assembly of young chemists represents a valuable resource for the RSC in the future.

9. Recommendations

Based on our experience, the outgoing committee make the following suggestions for the improvement of the next Younger Members Symposia:

- Ensure a sufficient number of volunteers on the day. Ideally each volunteer will only have a single responsibility. We suggest waiving the registration fee for volunteers to show gratitude.
- Increase the number of invited speakers from industry, perhaps going as high as 2:1 industrial:academic. It is easy to get academic delegates to attend; far more difficult to attract industrial delegates. By inviting more industrial speakers you automatically gain access to companies and increase the chances of them sending additional delegates.
- Continue to work with interest groups organising their own younger member conferences. Sponsoring a prize that includes opportunities to present at the YMS is a great way of attracting high quality speakers and raising the profile of the event.
- Continue to work with other young chemists groups, particularly the EYCN.
- Stronger promotion of travel bursary opportunities, including those offered by local sections in target emails etc.
- Investigate the possibility of holding the event over two days. Perhaps an afternoon session followed by a one day session. There seems to be demand for this although it would increase the costs and organisation significantly.
- The RSC to include additional resource in its 2016 budget to accommodate the next YMS.
- The RSC President has been a very well received keynote at previous YMS – this tradition should be continued.

10. Acknowledgements

The committee would like to thank The University of Birmingham, our volunteers and speakers on the day, the RSC and all our sponsors for helping make YMS2014 a success.

Appendix A

Expenses				Income			
	<i>Actual 2010</i>	<i>Actual 2012</i>	<i>Budgeted 2014</i>		<i>Actual 2010</i>	<i>Actual 2012</i>	<i>Budgeted 2014</i>
Venue				Surplus c/f	£0.00	£0.00	£1,401.46
<i>Rooms</i>	£1,400.00	£0.00	£0.00				
<i>Security</i>	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	Sponsorship			
	£1,400.00	£0.00	£100.00	<i>RSC</i>	£3,000.00	£4,070.00	£5,000.00
Prizes				<i>Other</i>	£3,400.00	£2,650.00	£3,600.00
<i>Poster</i>	£900.00	£1,050.00	£1,200.00		£6,400.00	£6,720.00	£8,600.00
<i>Oral</i>	£800.00	£600.00	£800.00	Delegate Fees	£1,868.00	£1,665.25	£4,500.00
	£1,700.00	£1,650.00	£2,000.00				
Speakers							
<i>Expenses</i>	£600.00	£189.30	£800.00				
<i>Conference Meal</i>	£550.00	£744.59	£750.00				
	£1,150.00	£933.89	£1,550.00				
Administrative							
<i>Website</i>	£110.00	£110.59	£120.00				
<i>Poster Board Hire</i>	£201.00	£0.00	£200.00				
<i>Delegate Bags & Freebies</i>	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00				
<i>Secretarial Expenses</i>	£280.00	£232.35	£250.00				
<i>Feedback Survey Prize</i>	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00				
	£791.00	£492.94	£920.00				
Printing							
<i>Conference Book</i>	£1,587.00	£564.01	£1,000.00				
<i>Promotional</i>	£0.00	£181.00	£200.00				
<i>Signs/Namebadges etc</i>	£0.00	£52.38	£60.00				
	£1,587.00	£797.39	£1,260.00				
Catering							
<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	£240.00	£202.50	£1,470.00				
<i>Lunch</i>	£1,575.00	£1,203.75	£2,700.00				
<i>Wine Reception</i>	£382.00	£647.40	£1,500.00				
	£2,197.00	£2,053.65	£5,670.00				
Travel Bursaries	£0.00	£1,055.92	£3,000.00				
Net Expense	£8,825.00	£6,983.79	£14,500.00	Net Income	£8,268.00	£8,385.25	£14,501.46
				Difference	£557.00	£1,401.46	£1.46

Figure 2 Summary of actual YMS income and expenditure for 2010 and 2012, with budget proposed for YMS 2014

Appendix B

- Time**
- 09.30 **Tea/Coffee and Registration**
- 10.25 **Welcome**
- 10.30 **Keynote Speaker: Prof. Lesley Yellowlees, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry**
Identity, Impact and Voice or 'How did I get here?'
- 11.30 **Tea/Coffee and Posters (Even Numbers)**

	Organic & Biochemistry	Inorganic & Materials Chemistry	Analytical & Physical Chemistry	Chemical Education & Outreach
11.50	Chris Cordier – Imperial College <i>Developing New Strategies and Transformations for Preparing Biologically-Relevant Structures</i>	Zoe Schnepf – Uni. of Birmingham <i>Materials from Biomass</i>	Ruth Tunnell – QinetiQ <i>Ammonium perchlorate, friend or foe?</i>	Andy West – Pera Technology <i>Volunteering is Good for Business</i>
12.20	Darren Poole – Uni. of Oxford <i>Rhodium-catalysed ketone methylation using methanol under mild conditions</i>	Valerie Seymour - Uni. of St. Andrews <i>Application of NMR crystallography to the investigation of charge-balancing mechanisms in the aluminophosphate STA-2</i>	Thomas McGlone – Uni. of Strathclyde <i>Continuous crystallisation: A practical route towards controlling particle attributes via nucleation, growth and transport</i>	Rosanna Alderson - Uni. of St. Andrews <i>Bridging the gap - how can universities encourage female career progression in the physical sciences from an early age?</i>
12.40	Vimal Parekh – Polytherics Ltd. <i>Bridging disulfides for the formation of stable antibody drug conjugates</i>	Paul Brack – Loughborough Uni. <i>BiVO₄ thin films for photoelectrochemical water splitting</i>	Deirdre Healy – NUI Galway <i>Development and characterization of physically adsorbed thermoresponsive films for cell culture</i>	Jade Foster – Uni. of Warwick <i>Discovery of a natural product: The University Biochemistry Experience</i>

- 13.00 **Lunch and Posters**
Even numbers from 13.30-14.00; Odd numbers from 14.00-14.30
- 14.30 **Keynote Speaker: Jamie Gallagher, Public Engagement Officer, University of Glasgow**
Chemistry on the centre stage

	Organic & Biochemistry	Inorganic & Materials Chemistry	Analytical & Physical Chemistry	Chemical Education & Outreach
15.30	Mustafa Gabr - Mansoura Uni. <i>Novel EGFR kinase inhibitors as anti-cancer drugs</i>	Alexander Kilpatrick – Uni. of Sussex <i>Titanium 'Double-Sandwich' Complexes for the Activation of CO₂ and CO</i>	James McDonagh – Uni. of St. Andrews <i>Can we predict solubility accurately and efficiently from theory?</i>	

15.50	James Walton – Durham Uni. <i>Catalytic SNAr of unactivated aryl chlorides</i>	Jayne Ede - DSTL <i>Development of a synthetic skin surrogate to evaluate Immediate Decontamination efficacy</i>	Femi Oloye – Uni. of Aberdeen <i>Synthesis and characterization of xMo/ZrO₂ based catalysts for hydroisomerization of linear alkanes to branch alkanes</i>	
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16.10 **Tea/Coffee and Posters (Odd Numbers)**

	Organic & Biochemistry	Inorganic & Materials Chemistry	Analytical & Physical Chemistry	Chemical Education & Outreach
16.30	Tim O' Riordan – Syngenta <i>The Discovery of Agrochemicals</i>	Paul Staniland – Croda Europe <i>What's In Your Sunscreen? Inorganic Materials and 'Natural' Sun Care</i>	Andrew Baldwin – Uni. of Oxford <i>'Molecular heavyweights: NMR of molecules in the mega-dalton limit</i>	Sid Rodrigues – SoHo Skeptics <i>How to Make Friends and Illuminate People</i>
17.00	Niall McCreanor – Uni. of Bristol <i>Carbonyl directed carbonylative ring expansions of aminocyclopropanes: Rhodium catalysed multicomponent synthesis of N-heterobicyclic ketones</i>	Olga Efremova – Aston Uni. <i>Octahedral metal cluster complexes and their hybrids with organic polymers</i>	Katherine McKee – DSTL <i>Detection of the organophosphorus nerve agent VX and its hydrolysis products in white mustard plants grown in contaminated soil</i>	David Foley – Uni. of Dundee <i>Reap What You Sow – The Benefits of Volunteering for the RSC</i>
17.20	Gemma Bullen – Uni. of Birmingham <i>Using an anthracene derivatised peptide to control biomolecular recognition</i>	Sarah-Jane Richards – Uni. of Warwick <i>Glycosylated nanomaterials: Detection and neutralisation of pathogenic bacteria and toxins</i>	Joscelyn Sarsby – Uni. of Birmingham <i>A multidimensional approach for identification of isobaric lipids detected in direct mass spectrometry analysis and imaging of human liver</i>	Thomas McGlone - EYCN <i>A European Network for Young Chemists</i>

17.40 **Wine Reception**

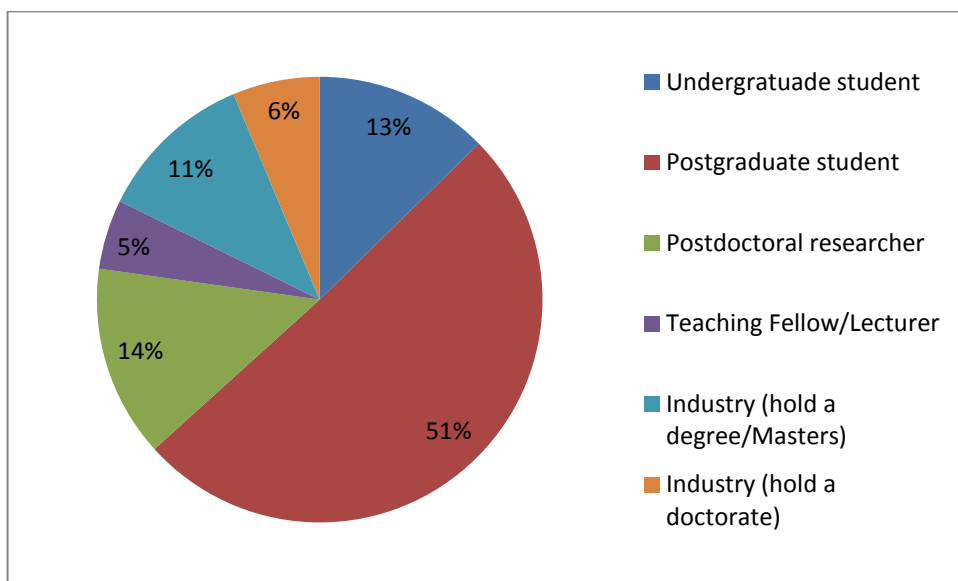
18.30 **Closing Remarks and Prizes**

18.45 **Symposium Ends**

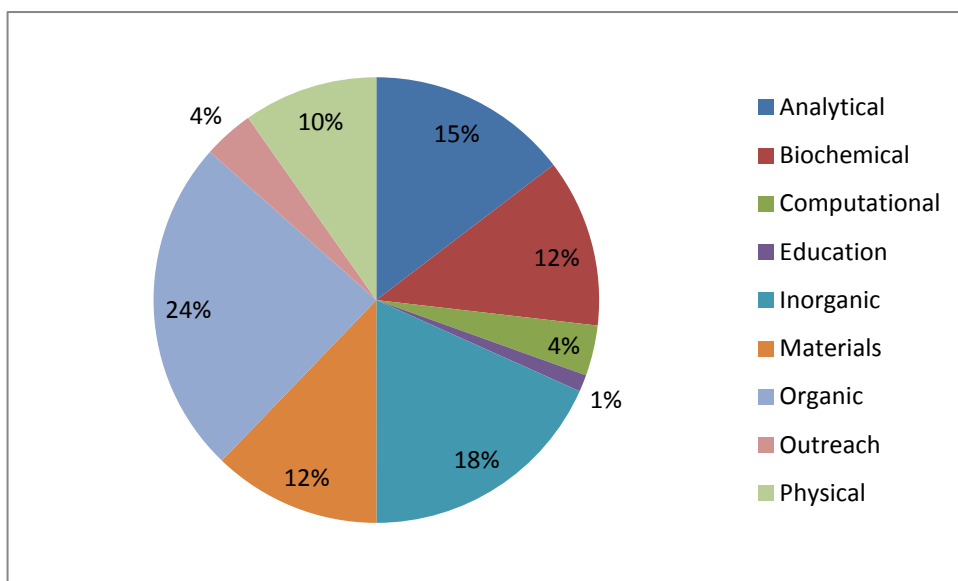
Figure 3 YMS2014 Programme

Appendix C

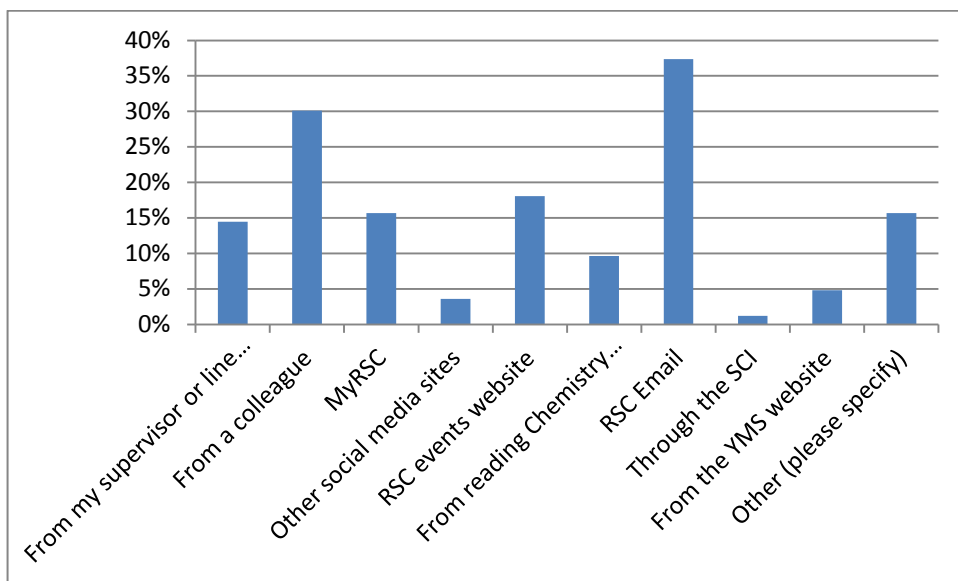
1. What is your occupation?



2. What area of chemistry do you work in?



3. How did you hear about this symposium (select all that apply)?



Other:

NEPIC convention

Orgnet

By email from the organisers, as part of an invitation to speak.

From Heidi Dobbs

Rsc local section

As a member I was sent the email, and therefore contacted the relevant colleague.

Was contacted and asked to present.

Direct email from the organising committee

Invited as a speaker.

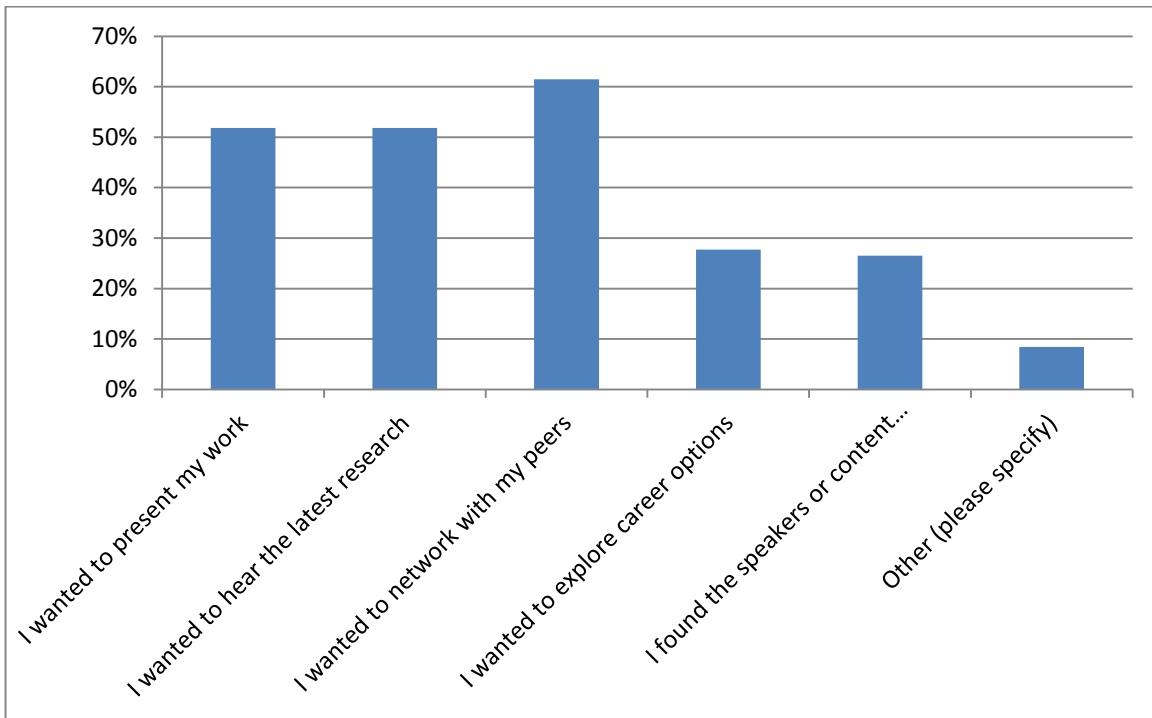
Invitation to speak and knowledge of previous events.

An A4 sheet of paper (from my local section) inserted in my Chemistry World/RSC News pack which was posted to me.

Departmental email

Younger Member representative

4. Why did you choose to attend this symposium? (select all that apply)



Other:

I am a big fan of Lesley Yellowlees

Experience of the environment

To experience a conference within a safe environment

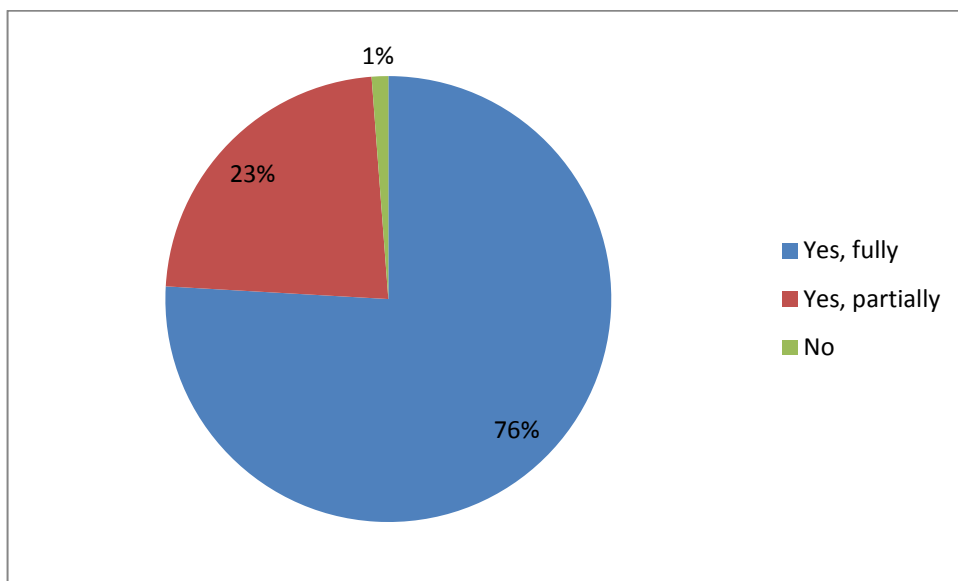
Was asked to present

Attended because other members of my group did too and thought it might be interesting

I wanted to improve my researcher personal skills

I was interested to attend an RSC activity

5. Did the conference fulfil your reason(s) for attending?

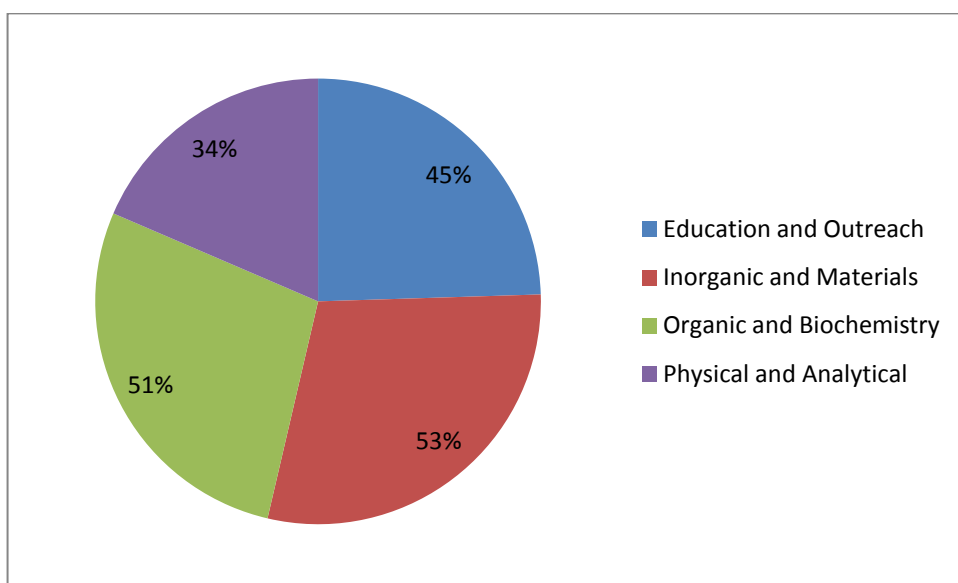


Comments:

- It was really interesting seeing others research and networking and some fantastic talks. Maslow got a chance to meet some industry people.
- There was a good amount of talks which interested me; All of which were good in detail. It helped very much in deciding a future career path for myself, I was originally going for a organic oriented path but now I am leaning more towards inorganic(with some organic of possible)!
- Attending the conference gave me the opportunity to meet with other like-minded early career researchers.
- Some excellent presentations, very friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Catering was top notch. Only slight negative was that the posters were crammed into a small space, which meant it was difficult to move around in the poster sessions, that aside an excellent conference!
- I would have liked to see more possibilities of careers for early starters and fresh graduates. I would also have like to see or participate in a seminar that focuses on how to network and build contacts, i.e. whom to approach and how? when starting out as a new scientist after completing a degree as I find that the hardest thing to do. But overall the symposium was amazing, and the speakers were great and I learnt a lot from it.
- The conference presented the perfect opportunity for me to gain insight to a general running programme, and a perfect platform for me to present my work. However, as my work is quite 'unusual' the broad coverage of chemistry covered by other delegates was interesting, but not very relevant to my field. The education and outreach section was amazing and seemed to explode everyone's interest in promoting science to the wider audience. The overall laid-back attitude of all delegates and organisers made this conference particularly appealing, and I'll definitely be there in 2016!
- It was fantastic to see a conference that combined cutting edge research and outreach in an accessible and lively environment!
- I found having never attended a function like this before it really did help me understand how to develop in the future.
- Having a program with all the topics before the symposium is very helpful.
- The event is an excellent networking opportunity and a great way to find out about a lot of varied research across the chemical sciences
- The plenary lectures from Professor Yellowlees and Jamie Gallagher were fantastic and inspiring.
- Some of the content I was interested in turned out not to be that relevant and some were more interesting than I expected. I felt that the area of my work (total synthesis) was completely underrepresented. It is difficult to know what the poster presentations and the non-invited speakers are in advance but it would be good to know before booking the event.

- Despite there being a number of people there I found myself presenting to only 8 people. Several of which were colleagues. 4 parallel sessions is too many for the small number of people involved. I have been to other conferences of similar size and they have 1 or 2 parallel sessions, and a conference with 7000+ delegates still only had 6 parallel sessions. It is an achievement to be awarded a oral presentation however when presenting to so few it is really disheartening.
- I have met new people, and the talks/poster were very interesting.
- I wanted to see more career options.
- I think the conference was very good, a lot of good talks that inspired me as a scientist and my research work.
- The keynote speakers were excellent and I found it well worth coming to hear them alone. I was glad to be a part of the chemistry community again and present my work as a poster to them, since I moved to engineering recently. The breaks weren't long enough to be able to chat with other younger members. By the time I'd been to the toilet and got a cup of tea, it was time to go over to the talks again, so I only had time to look at posters at lunch time, before it was my turn to present my poster. Even then I had to look round at all the poster titles to find the one that would be most helpful to me due to limited time, and I felt rude walking past people. I understood that it was only a 1 day conference and it should stay like that because it was affordable and I got plenty from it.
- When presenting my poster the posterboards were very close together leaving not much room to stand and explain your work. There was not much time for networking as when it came to the coffee break and the lunch break there was nowhere to sit down and have a chat to people. The organic speakers were all lecturers or so it seemed so it would of been nice to have some phd students or postdocs speak as it would have been more interesting to hear about their experiences.
- Excellently pitched posters for a general chemistry audience. Great talks and good size theatres. 3 whole cheeses!
- I was able to present my work, and receive constructive feedback from both early career academics and other postgraduate students, which was particularly fulfilling.
- The area I research in is very niche and there was little there which directly applied to it. However, it was interesting to hear a range of topics. The ability to choose which branches to listen to was a great idea.
- It was a really good meeting, which I enjoyed attending. It nice to hear outreach being recognised.
- The symposium was a really good experience, however, as a material chemist, i would have expected more spot on topics, some of the sessions in the IM, where alot electrochemistry/biology oriented.

6. Which session(s) did you attend (tick all that apply)?



7. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the conference

	Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
Conference Overall	1%	4%	10%	57%	29%
Keynote Speakers	4%	2%	1%	28%	65%
Invited Speakers	4%	4%	11%	54%	28%
Other Speakers	5%	2%	26%	51%	16%
Poster Presentations	1%	6%	22%	48%	23%
Networking Opportunities	5%	7%	29%	40%	19%
Venue Facilities	1%	12%	35%	39%	13%
Ease of travel to the venue	1%	7%	13%	39%	40%
Catering	4%	2%	10%	35%	49%
Registration Process	2%	5%	12%	36%	45%

8. What would you like to see added/changed to improve future YMS symposia? If you have any other comments or suggestions please add them here.

- It would be nice to have some rolls, fruit, cheese or at least biscuits at the morning tea break. Many people, me included, travelled a fair distance that morning and by the time tea break rolled around, breakfast was already very far away, and by lunch we were very hungry. Lunch was delicious, as was the cheese at the wine reception. Also, with the talks being in two different venues, we could have done with just slightly longer breaks, most of the break disappeared in travelling between rooms.
- Longer poster session times or more judges I was waiting well over my session time for judges and did not get long to look at the other posters. Otherwise fantastic job and thoroughly enjoyed it!
- A bigger venue if possible to accommodate poster presentations and have more space for people to walk around. Found lack of facilities or seats at lunch time disappointing.
- Make it a few days long. A category per day - inorganic day 1, organic day 3, education day 2 etc.
- It was a great day overall, not much to be added or changed.
- a more open venue with more space
- I found the keynote speakers to be a bit long and not of much relevance to me personally but I can understand why they would be of interest to others
- Registration process could have been more organized, e.g. by stapling the register pages rather than spending ages trying to find the loose page with your name on
- There was no wifi code which made life more difficult, it was also generally a little panicked.
- Perhaps leave slightly bigger gaps between talks to allow for travel between rooms.
- More talks concerning Undergraduate Students
- Be easier to keep all talks to the same building, at least. Also the tea/coffee area was a bit cluttered and resulted in long queues.
- More space around the posters so that it's easier to move around and look at them.
- Networking and early career opportunities
- An extra session for computational and theoretical chemistry may attract additional delegates.
- Overall I had an extremely enjoyable day - thank you. In terms of how I feel it could be improved, I would say: - There was too little time to go between talks, considering the tight timescales and the fact that the lectures weren't all in the same building. This meant I did have to skip on a couple of oral presentations as I didn't want to walk in 10 minutes late. I think a 5 minute buffer would be appropriate between talks. - The venue was good in terms of lecture theatre size, however the poster and lobby area was very cluttered (pillars everywhere) and difficult to get around, as well as being a main thoroughfare for the University students and staff which added to congestion. - We were not informed of poster requirements until it was too late! I know it's very minor but

please make sure this is really clearly established (size and orientation) early on as, for people in industry, we often have a lengthy 'Permission to Publish' process to wrestle with.

- The tea and coffee queue was very long!
- Signs from the train station, although it allow me to speak to other delegates that were also slightly lost!
- Given that there was no time between many of the presentations, it was sometimes unfeasible to switch rooms which is a shame as I was unable to see a few presentations that I would have really liked to see. A shorter lunch or an earlier start and then 5 minutes between each presentation would be good.
- Conference was very well organised. Although I wouldnt have normally have chosen to attend I have recommended that we send someone to this conference in future.
- I really enjoyed the Speakers site of the symposium, also opportunity to meet my colleagues who work in different types of the 'industry' was excellent. If I would have a suggestion for improvement, probably It would be to get a bit better information what to do after the registration process. For young, not experienced members the beginning could be a bit confusing - what to do, where to go ? so having a bit better info which building etc (especially when the parts are organized in different buildings as it was last week) could be a small progress in the future. Not sure if having the symposiums in the different buildings is a good idea. Sometimes I had to rush myself between one and another building - and not always I had a chance to hear the beginning of the symposium. Hope my suggestions will help improve the process in the future.
- Nothing comes to mind
- Better Organisation and better networking opportunities
- It was a shame that the streams were in 2 separate buildings, made it difficult to jump between talks
- The posters were very cramped, making if difficult to get around and read them
- The different sessions could be held in the same building or closer together with 5 minutes between talks to allow time to easily swap. More involvement from young chemists in industry at future symposia.
- I thought that Leslie Yellowlees should have pitched the part of her talk about her research to a more general audience. I struggled to understand the significance of her work coming from another area of chemistry. Also, it would be nice to ask the invited speakers to adjust the pace a little bit as some of the talk felt like rushing through as much material as possible.
- Reduce the number of sessions so that speakers can have a larger audience. Far to many prizes, One poster and one oral, as this is what other conferences do and brings distinction. There was so many prizes that I was beginning to feel there were more people with prizes than without. Really no need for 2nd, and 3rd.
- Nothing to add. Talks were about different areas, which was very good.
- A larger more open venue
- More career options.
- Exact location/areas of university campus of the conference given. Would be nice to have a longer after party.
- Hi, I would like to see more organization in terms of transport to the conference. Also, I suggest to increase the time gap between two speakers. Thank you
- The prize and award session should be more fair.
- Having the conference split over two buildings with no time to move easily between talks made it difficult to change sessions. A 5 minute changeover time would have been really beneficial.
- Longer breaks to get a chance to see more posters (1/2 h ?).
- Perhaps having lunch in a larger area would promote networking. Since we were asked to leave the room where the food was due to lack of space, everyone started scattering around the Chemistry building and outside, ultimately reducing the chances for this activity.
- Timings were difficult given the location of the different sessions - this made it hard to change sessions.
- more chances for phd students to speak, more chances to sit and network with peers, more room for posters and poster prizes split into year groups of phd students (1st, 2nd,3rd years and then postdocs).
- Give out the directions sheets when participants are registering/have better signposts for finding rooms. When theatres were so far apart (inorganic and physical), have 5 mins between talks and get the chairs to be really strict about keeping to time for changing over.

- Try to have different disciplines in lecture theaters closer together or have a slightly larger gap between lectures as at one point I had to run between two different buildings and still missed the start of the lecture. Also the poster presentation could have happened in a slightly larger area as it was very cramped and thus made it difficult to view the posters. Otherwise it all ran very smoothly, I enjoyed a good variety of talks and the lunch buffet and drinks reception were also very good so thank you.
- More space for posters
- More and shorter speaking slots; would prefer to see 10 or 15 minute talks, allowing more PhD students a chance to speak. Would also be good to divide poster/speaker prizes into separate categories for postdocs and PhDs.
- Possibly stretched over 2 days with more keynote speakers. The keynote speakers of this year were AMAZING-TRULY INSPIRATIONAL!
- Some further presentations, perhaps from the RSC, on chemistry careers would be great in the future.
- I think that the posters should be designed in such a way that they are more simpler to read and understand. I found the posters that were positioned around the chemistry department contained too much information. Perhaps keeping it light on the content should make the posters more appealing and directing anyone who is interested in the conference to the RSC YMS website. The website should contain all the information that people need. Keynote speakers, date of conference and conference price should, of course, remain on the poster.
- Options for dietary requirements. I felt that the quality of the Education and Outreach section varied greatly: some were excellent, but others were clearly pitched to a different target audience to the majority of attendees, or seemed a little underdeveloped. The Inorganic seminars I attended were excellent.
- Congratulations to Organizers!