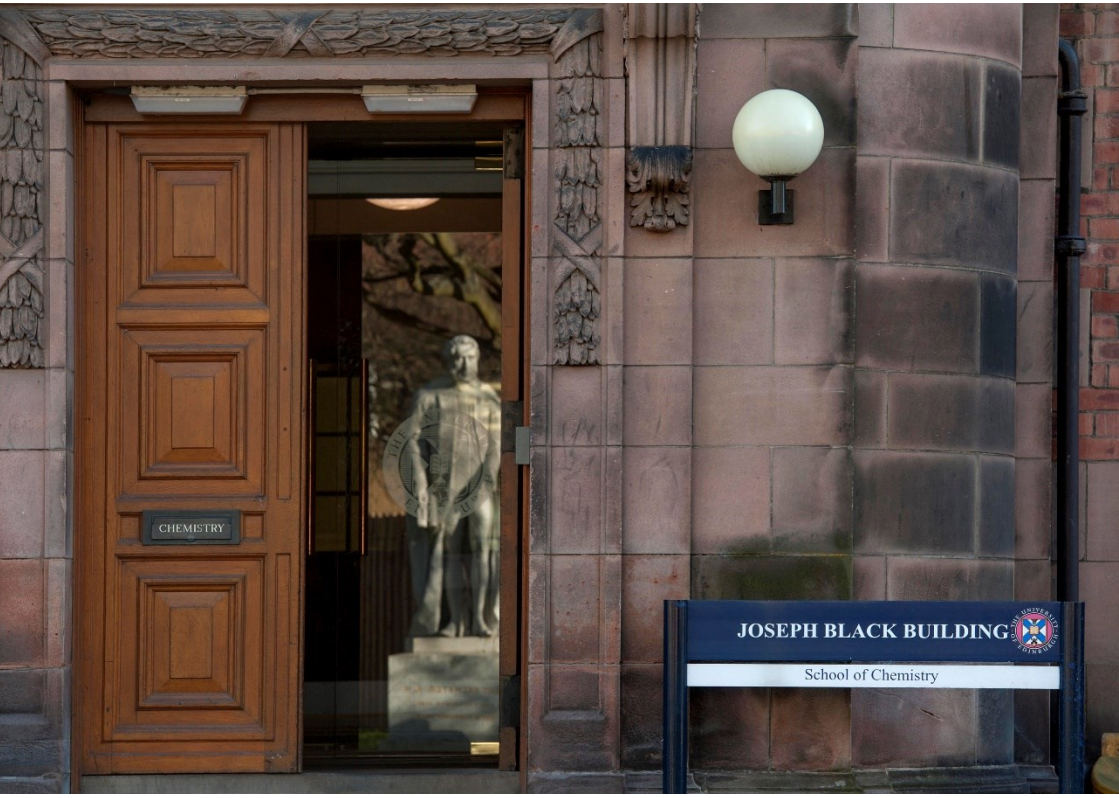
THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Chemistry

Alumni Gathering:
100 Years of the Joseph Black Building

Saturday 1st June 2024



Welcome to the Joseph Black Building

We are delighted to welcome alumni and friends back to the School of Chemistry to celebrate 100 years since the Joseph Black Building was officially opened in 1924.

On 6th July 1920, King George V laid the foundation stone for the beginnings of The University of Edinburgh's new Science campus, relocated from its former Old College premises. Although the teaching of Chemistry at Edinburgh began more than three hundred years ago in 1713, this building has now been our home for the last century. It holds great importance for every member of the School of Chemistry community, including over 6,000 former students.

Today's programme will celebrate the past, present and future of the School of Chemistry with talks about the building, current research taking place here today and the memories and work of our brilliant graduates who have studied here over the years.

You will have the option to join a guided tour of the current Joseph Black Building, Christina Miller and Nucleus facilities, led by our student ambassadors. There will also be research posters presented along the central corridor in between sessions. We warmly invite you to speak to students and staff to find out what has changed since your own time at the Joseph Black Building, and what has remained the same.

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100 Years of the Joseph Black Building: Programme

Saturday 1st June 2024

10:00	**Arrival and registration with refreshments**
10:30	**Welcome and introduction** *Professor Jason Love*
10:40	**The Joseph Black Building past, present and future** *Dr Andrew Alexander and Dr David Brown*
11:00	**Research showcase** *Dr Claire Hobday, Dr Ben Bhawal, Dr Nicholle Bell*
11:30	Break
11:40	**JBB 50 years** *Professor Lesley Yellowlees*
12:00	**Molecular glue degraders: fantastic drugs and where to find them** *Dr Zuzanna Kozicka*
12:30	**Lunch**
13:30	**My journey with Chemistry and the RSC - via Edinburgh!** *Professor Gill Reid*
13:50	**What Happens if we 'Burn all the Carbon'? Carbon Reserves, Carbon Budgets, and Policy Options for Governments** *Dr Kevin Parker*
14:10	**There may be photos…** *Dr Mary Doherty*
14:30	Break
14:40	**Panel: What's next? The next 100 years at the School of Chemistry**
15:30	**Tours of the School of Chemistry and Nucleus Building** *School of Chemistry student ambassadors*
16:30 – 18:00	**Drinks reception** Dinner from 19:00 at South Hall for those who have pre-booked.

Poster presentations

We invite attendees to speak to PhD students during the breaks to learn more about current research taking place at the University of Edinburgh School of Chemistry. Posters will be available to view along the central corridor between the lunchtime session and networking reception.

Poster titles and presenters are available at:
https://edin.ac/4akHFok

With thanks to our speakers:

Professor Jason Love CChem FRSC

Jason is Professor of Molecular Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh and Head of the School of Chemistry. His primary research interests focus on the recovery and recycling of valuable and critical metals, making use of an in-depth chemical understanding to deliver new technologies and processes, a research effort that is supported by UKRI and industry funding. Love has published 158 peer-reviewed articles and patents and has delivered over 90 international, national, and public invited lectures, including 'Mining the Scrapheap' at New Scientist Live (2018). He was the winner of the 2020 Ekeberg Prize for his work on tantalum recycling.

Dr Andrew Alexander and Dr David Brown

In this talk, Andrew and David will give a brief outline of the history that led up to foundation of the 'New Chemistry Department'; along with some anecdotes, facts and unusual features about the Joseph Black Building itself.
Andrew Alexander did a BSc in Chemical Physics at University of Edinburgh (class of '94) and is currently Head of Physical Chemistry in the School. David Brown did a BSc in Immunology at the University Edinburgh (class of '92) and is currently the Estates and Technical Manager of the School.

Dr Claire Hobday

Claire hails from Cumbernauld, Scotland and started her chemistry career at the University of Strathclyde with an MChem degree (2013). She then pursued a PhD at the University of Edinburgh under Dr Stephen Moggach (2017). Claire's PhD focused on using crystallography and simulation to understand the mechanical properties and adsorption properties of metal-organic frameworks. She then completed a PDRA with Prof Tina Düren at the University of Bath using simulation to understand flexibility in MOFs and zeolites. Claire moved back to Edinburgh in 2019 to begin her independent academic career as a Christina Miller Fellow, followed by a Chancellor's Fellowship in 2021 and UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship in 2022, working on sustainable solid state refrigeration.

Dr Ben Bhawal

Ben undertook both his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge, completing his PhD under the supervision of Prof. Steven Ley. Subsequently, he undertook postdoctoral appointments with Prof. Fabien Gagosz at École Polytechnique and Prof. Bill Morandi at both the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung and ETH Zürich. He started his independent research career at the University of Edinburgh as the recipient of a Christina Miller Research Fellowship and currently holds a Chancellor's Fellowship. His research group design novel catalysts with the aid of digital technologies to tackle unmet challenges in organic synthesis and provide new approaches for pharmaceutical discovery.

Dr Nicholle Bell

Nicholle graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MChem with Environmental Chemistry degree in 2011, followed by a PhD in Chemistry in 2015. In 2016, she obtained a 3-year NERC Soil Security Research Fellowship to start an independent research group examining peatland health. In 2019, she was awarded a 5-year NERC Independent Research Fellowship to utilise molecular and metagenomic techniques to unravel the synergies between the drivers of carbon cycling in peatlands across the UK, Canada and Sweden. Nicholle has a passion for outreach and has set up a number of outreach programmes in Scotland, including the RSC Spectroscopy in a Suitcase scheme.

Nicholle is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Chemistry, leading research projects to deepen our understanding of peat, its roles in the environment and in the production of Scotch whisky.

Professor Lesley Yellowlees CBE

Lesley completed both her BSc in Chemical Physics and her PhD in Inorganic Electrochemistry at the University of Edinburgh. After completing research positions in Brisbane, Australia and Glasgow she returned to an academic position in Edinburgh in 1986 and gained a personal chair in Inorganic Electrochemistry in 2005. Lesley was Head of the School of Chemistry and then Vice Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh. Lesley was President of the Royal Society of Chemistry from 2012-14, their first woman President in 175 years. Lesley was awarded an MBE in 2005 for services to science and a CBE for services to Chemistry in 2014. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Dr Zuzanna Kozicka

Zuzanna graduated from the University of Edinburgh (MChem in Medicinal and Biological Chemistry with a Year Abroad, spent at ETH Zürich) in 2018. She then pursued a PhD in biochemistry and structural biology at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Basel, Switzerland focusing on novel mechanisms of drug-induced protein degradation. Zuzanna is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard Medical School and the Broad Institute, where she is further exploring the therapeutic implications of modulating the ubiquitin-proteasome system with small molecules.

Professor Dominic Campopiano

Dominic completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Glasgow before upping his roots and moving to the University of Edinburgh for his PhD. This was followed by a three-year post-doc at the University of Leicester and another three years back at Edinburgh before being promoted to Lecturer in 1998. In 2006 Dominic became a Royal Society of Edinburgh/Scottish Executive Research Fellow, and was subsequently promoted to Reader in 2013 and most recently to Professor of Industrial Biocatalysis in 2015. He lives in Edinburgh with his wife and young family.

Professor Gill Reid FRSC

Gill graduated with BSc (hons) in Chemistry in 1986, followed by a PhD in inorganic chemistry (1986-89) and PDRA position at the University of Edinburgh, before taking up a lectureship in Chemistry at the University of Southampton in 1991. Her research is in coordination chemistry, exploring the properties of novel complexes, including metal-macrocyclic scaffolds for binding radiofluorine towards applications in positron emission tomography imaging, and precursors for the controlled growth of 2D metal chalcogenide semiconductors via chemical vapour deposition and electrodeposition. She is the current President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Dr Kevin Parker

CO_2 emissions from proven fossil fuel reserves are already enough to bust the IPCC carbon budgets (RCP2.6 - RCP6.0). Why are fossil fuel companies still exploring/developing reserves, and what can governments do about it? Kevin's career has included being a product specialist at BP, followed by 25 years of Independent Technology Transfer consulting/training. He is currently Science Advisor for a London Think-tank, working closely with the current Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Dr Mary Doherty

Mary graduated (twice!) in the 1990's and has enjoyed a varied career, working in academia, government, and industry. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Mary's time at Edinburgh provided a platform to travel the world, meet interesting people, and undertake diverse research. She now leads the skills programme at IBioIC working with the innovators of the future, and supporting access to education for students from non-traditional backgrounds.

Dr Chris Mowat

Chris joined the School of Chemistry as an undergraduate in 1992 (BSc 1996), stayed for a PhD (graduated in 2000), and after some postdoctoral research began as a Lecturer in 2006. Since then, Chris has taken on the role of Senior Personal Tutor, Director of Internationalisation, and now Director of Teaching since 2021.

Be part of our next 100 years…

Volunteer your time

By sharing your time, expertise and connections, you could make a valuable difference to future generations of students.

From inspiring others through sharing your personal journey to offering industry insights, there are lots ways that you can get involved with our activities as a graduate of the School of Chemistry. Whether you graduated recently or many years ago, we would love to hear about your experiences and any wisdom you have to share.

Support future chemists

Access bursaries mean a student's ability, not their background, determines whether they can pursue their dreams and study at university.

Many alumni and other donors have kindly supported our students over the years through the Chemistry Tercentenary Access Bursary. These bursaries enable School of Chemistry students who face financial barriers and educational inequalities to spend more time in the lab and focus on their coursework.

Scan the QR codes or visit the link below to find out more about opportunities to get involved in supporting our activities and shaping the next 100 years at the School of Chemistry:

https://chem.ed.ac.uk/community/alumni/get-involved

Stay in touch!

As a former student, you will always be an important part of the School of Chemistry community. If you haven't heard from us in a while, please get in touch to update your alumni contact details. We will ensure that you receive all future event invitations and news from the School and wider University.

Contact: chemistry.alumni@ed.ac.uk