

University Research Centre in Catalysis and Intensified Processing**URC Directors:****Prof. Ian Metcalfe**

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Funding is now available for Students – up to £250 can be awarded to cover conference fees and travel expenses. All presentations and posters must include the URCCIP Logo. Postdoctoral Researchers may also apply. (1 per group).

Anyone wishing to apply for funding should contact Mrs I Lamb Ext 7102 or e-mail Isobel.Lamb@ncl.ac.uk

Renewal of URCCIP Funding

The proposed meeting, which was planned for January was postponed. This will now take place on 15th March. A copy of the presentation has been sent to all URCCIP members and Prof Steve Bull for comments.

Visitors

There were quite a number of visitors to both Schools during January and February.

Richard Pike and Dave Garner of the Royal Society of Chemistry made separate visits to Chemistry, and members of both CEAM and Chemistry Staff gave presentations.

Visit by Richard Pike, RSC

Richard visited the School of Chemistry, and School of Chemical Engineering and Advanced Materials. The objective was to get first-hand experience of the wide range of research topics being progressed there, and to discuss wider issues with senior staff within the two Schools. Various issues were discussed including regional co-ordinators which RSC is funding, and the need to link all activity to our "roadmap". Other issues were the need for more equipment in schools, greater emphasis on the practical aspects of chemistry, and the deficiencies in the examination system. Altogether this was a very successful day, which illustrated some great research opportunities and brought home issues associated with running a large chemistry department and its related disciplines.

Ray Oliver, a member of the Industrial Advisory Board, visited CEAM.

David Prest & Barry Murrer of Johnson-Matthey visit Chemistry and again staff from both Schools took part in the presentations that were given.

Henny Beaumeester visited CEAM on 16th February to give a Seminar

Visit of Professor Henny Bouwmeester, 15-18 February

Professor Henny Bouwmeester visited the URC in Catalysis and Intensified Processing between Monday 15 February and Thursday 18 February. Henny is in the Inorganic Membranes/Membrane Technology Group at the University of Twente. Henny's interests are in solid state thermodynamics and electrochemistry, defect chemistry, oxygen surface exchange, electrode kinetics, and sol-gel derived nanoporous membranes. His world-leading research is primarily directed towards the use of oxide ion and mixed conductors in applications as oxygen transport membranes and solid oxide fuel cells, and nanoporous membranes for gas separation. In these fields, he has authored and co-authored several book chapters and more than 100 research papers. On Tuesday he gave a seminar on 'Oxygen separation using mixed ionic-electronic conducting perovskite membranes' and during his visit he spent time talking with a number of URC members and their research groups including Professor Metcalfe, Dr Harvey, Professor North, Professor Akay, Dr Boodhoo, Professor Bull and Professor Thomas. On the Thursday Henny was escorted to Cambridge University by Dr Alan Thursfield with a view to starting a Newcastle/Cambridge/Twente collaboration on NMR investigations of perovskite materials.

Summer Studentships

URCCIP has been awarded £15K of running costs and summer studentships. The 12th April is the deadline for submission of projects. There will be a general meeting of URCCIP members to discuss projects on 23 March between 11 – 2pm in the Faraday Room, Bedson Building. A buffet lunch will be provided.

*** * * Diary * * ***

Newcastle University will host a meeting on 29th March at 10.30 a.m. which will include representatives from both York, Leeds and Durham Universities. A buffet lunch will be provided.

More details will be circulated nearer the time.

The next meeting of the URCCIP Executive Committee will be held on the 16th April. (Details to follow).

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the URCCIP Newsletter, please contact Isobel at isobel.lamb@ncl.ac.uk

URCCIP Website: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/catalysis>