

Department of Chemistry Newsletter

Issue 8 (December), 2021



Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, University of British Columbia
Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory

Announcements

Congratulations to:



Viki Kumar Prasad, who successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on December 17th, 2021. Dr. Prasad was a graduate student in Professor Gino DiLabio's research group.

Facilities/Instruments News

December was an NMR news month:

- We made the national news with the helium crisis!
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/helium-shortage-western-canada-university-1.6261738>
- The 100 MHz Nanalysis NMR has finally arrived! Originally ordered in April 2109 as a 90 MHz instrument. Nanalysis made improvements to their system that allows for a 100 MHz field. Since the instrument was overdue by more than 2 years, Gino successfully negotiated that upon its arrival we would be able to keep the 60 MHz NMR, that had originally been an interim instrument to be returned when the 90 MHz arrived. The instrument will be installed and operational in time for C204 and C330 experiments during 2021W2 term. This will also allow for the 60 MHz instrument to be moved into SCI 219 to be introduced into C214. For more information please contact Lab Manager Jennifer Robison.

Welcome



Mackenzie Melvin has just started her MSc in Biochemistry. She is co-supervised by Dr. Kirk Bergstrom and Dr. Wes Zandberg.

Vignesh Kumar Roy is joining the Pranckevicius Lab for her MSc in Chemistry.

Recent publications/presentations



Robb CS, Hobbs JK, Pluinage B, Reintjes G, Klassen L, Monteith S, Giljan G, Amundsen C, Vickers AG, Hettle AG, Hills R, **Nitin**, Xing X, Montina T, **Zandberg WF**, Abbott DW, and Boraston AB: Metabolism of a hybrid algal galactan by members of the human gut microbiome. (2022) *Nat. Chem. Biol.*



Prasad VK, Pei Z, Edelmann S, Otero-de-la-Roza* A, DiLabio* GA: BH9, a new comprehensive benchmark data set for barrier heights and reaction energies: assessment of density functional approximations and basis set incompleteness potentials (2021) *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* ASAP 10.1021/acs.jctc.1c00694

Student affairs

Ph.D. comprehensive/candidacy oral examination

None scheduled for January

Thesis oral examinations

None scheduled for January

Committee meetings:

None scheduled for January

We would like to express our gratitude for accessing the land on which we gather, work, and live from which is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) People.

If you would like to contribute to, or have any suggestions for, our Department's upcoming newsletters, please contact Thuy Dang (thuy.dang@ubc.ca) editor-in-chief or her 'assistant editor' Robert Szilagy (robert.szilagy@ubc.ca).