Safety Inspections

Over the last month or so, all labs in the School have been inspected by two teams from the Safety Committee (EZC/PAC and RAA/IAS). Supervisors will soon be receiving a detailed report of any matters of concern within their area, but, overall, I would say there were no major problems. However, I would like to draw attention to the following issues which came up quite frequently:

Flammable solvent storage
Large (>1 L) containers of flammable solvents must be kept in a fire-proof cabinet at all times, except when actually being dispensed. Many labs were observed to have large numbers of such containers lying on benches, on stools (see picture) and on the floor. If any group requires more fire-proof cabinets for this purpose, contact me. Only store the minimum required amount of such solvents in labs. Some groups were observed to have vastly excessive amounts.

General tidiness
Many fume-cupboards and glove boxes, where the most hazardous work takes place, are impossibly cluttered, so that any mishap will result in rapid escalation. Always have as few items as possible present in the area where you are doing potentially hazardous work. Completely clearing each work area on a regular basis is recommended.

Fire doors
Designated fire doors must not be propped open at any time. This includes those in write-up areas and adjacent to the common room. If you observe such a marked door propped open, please close it.

Needles and waste disposal
The dramatic change in the rules regarding needle use has been implemented smoothly in most groups and I am pleased with the current situation. However, continuing vigilance is needed here and other instances of improper disposal continue. In particular, please note that waste solvents can only be accepted in plastic bottles, not glass, and used toner cartridges should be disposed of by handing in to the main store, not placing in the waste electrical equipment area. Please notify me of special waste needing disposed of regularly. Some groups known to be generating such waste have not sent any for disposal for at least 2 years.

RAA
School Safety Coordinator

School of Chemistry Colloquia

ScotCHEM Seminar
Monday 22nd, 3.30 pm, Lecture Theatre C
Prof Geoffrey Coates (Cornell) – In Pursuit of the Perfect Plastic

Synthesis Seminar
Tuesday 23rd, 1.00 pm, Lecture Theatre B
Sisi Gao (JHN) – The interaction of leader peptide and peptide binding domain in cyanobactin oxidase
Chenfei Li (EZC) – Copper (I) complexes for photoredox catalysis

EaStCHEM Colloquium
Wednesday 24th, 3.30 pm, Lecture Theatre C
Prof Andrew Lawrence (Edinburgh) – Biomimetic Natural Product Synthesis

External Colloquium

Public Lecture
Wednesday 24th, 5.30 pm, Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre
Wally Broecker (Columbia University) - How can we counter a bad CO2 trip

Horizon 2020 Coffee Break

As part of the series of monthly Horizon 2020 Informal Coffee Breaks, the next one will be held in the Boswell Room, School of Art History from 2.00 – 4.00 pm on Tuesday 30th May 2017. Tea and cakes will be provided.
New Faces

Antoine Limou comes from France and is currently a student at the IUT in Materials Science and Engineering, University of Rennes 1. He is spending a research period with JTSI and is interested in sports, especially football, basketball and tennis.

Lorena Fernandez Afonso comes from Tenerife and is currently a PhD student at the University of La Laguna there. She is spending a research period with JTSI and is interested in photography, music and cinema.

Conferences

20th European Symposium on Organic Chemistry
To be held at the University of Cologne from 2nd-6th July and covering all aspects of organic chemistry. For more information see the conference website: [www.esoc.uni-koeln.de](http://www.esoc.uni-koeln.de)

26th International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry Congress
To be held at the University of Regensburg from 3rd-8th September and covering all aspects of heterocyclic chemistry. Earlybird registration is open until 31st May and short talks and posters are still being accepted. For full information see: [http://www.ishc-web.org/](http://www.ishc-web.org/)