



## Physical Chemistry Division Newsletter

### From the Chair

Dear RACI Physical Chemistry Division Members,

This is the second 2021 RACI Physical Chemistry Division newsletter. I hope this newsletter finds you well. Many Division members are in lockdown across Australia. Please take the time to support each other. Reach out and see if there is anything we can do to help.

There are great outcomes in the Physical Chemistry Community since the last newsletter in April. For awards, Physical Chemistry students have been very proactive. In July, many of our excellent students were awarded 2021 Postgraduate Travel Student Bursaries. Congratulations! Debbie Silvester-Dean and Ivan Kassal were named joint recipients of the RACI Physical Chemistry Division Lectureship. Well done, Debbie and Ivan! More information on awards is found on page 4. We are pleased to announce that applications for the Division Medal are now open (page 4), with applications due by October 15.

Owing to border closure, the RACI Phys Chem Summer Festival in late November will become a virtual event. Our organisers Chris Hansen and Alex Stuart are working hard to find ways for the community to interact in a virtual event. They have some great ideas and please support them by signing up for the event in due course. More information on this event is on page 5.

Abstract submission and registration for the 2022 RACI National Congress is now open. This large-scale event will be held in Brisbane in July 2022 and is being organised by one of our own – Debra Bernhardt. The Physical Chemistry Division is involved in 3 symposia and we will rely on support of Division members to contribute to these symposia. More information is on page 5.

In 2020, 44 papers from Australia were published in PCCP. As an owner society, the RACI received £10,454.40 (~\$20k AUD) in royalty. I will work with the RACI Head Office to use some of the funds to support our community awards and events. Please consider PCCP for your upcoming publications.

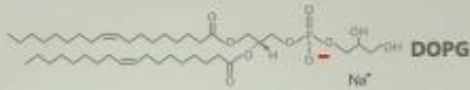
Finally, there is new content in this newsletter – sponsorship material. Lastek and NewSpec have generously agreed to support our community by sponsoring our newsletters. Please contact them to find out more about their products. Both Lastek and NewSpec have also sponsored our previous Division Meetings. Thanks to Alex Stanco (Lastek), Graeme Jones and Michael Ventura (NewSpec). Please see the sponsors' pages on page 2, 6 & 7.

Tak W. Kee ([tak.kee@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:tak.kee@adelaide.edu.au))  
RACI Physical Chemistry Division Chair  
September 2021

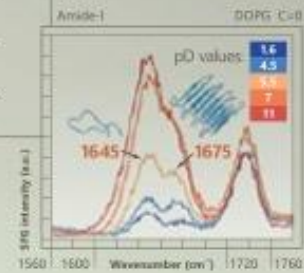
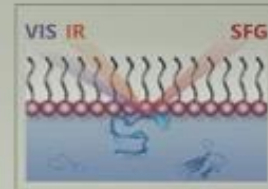
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The molecular structure of a lipid 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycerol-3-phospho-rac sodium salt (DOPG), which was used for monolayer formation (upper image). Schematic illustration of the SFG experiment (left image). The SFG spectra (right image) of hen egg-white lysozyme oligomers adsorbed to a DOPG/D<sub>2</sub>O interface taken with SSP (S-SFG, 5-532 nm, and P-P) polarization combination at different pD values.



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## From the Treasurer

The Division budget for 2021-22 has been approved by the National Office.

It is very pleasing that we have been able to fund the award of lectureships to two exceptional applicants in Debbie Silvester-Dean and Ivan Kassal. In the current environment it is likely that these lectureships will be a combination of virtual and in-person visits.

I would particularly like to highlight the success of our Division Chair, Tak Kee, in attracting sponsorship for our Division newsletters. We encourage you to engage with our sponsors, with the sponsorship supporting our community awards and events.

David Wilson ([david.wilson@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:david.wilson@latrobe.edu.au))  
RACI Physical Chemistry Division Treasurer  
September 2021

## Webinars

Thank you for the fantastic attendance and support at our PhysChem webinars. We have been blessed to hear from 16 fantastic speakers in our 8 Research Sessions, including all of our current PhysChem Division Committee and some of our great students! Eight training sessions have also been well received covering topics from which density functional should you use to analysing your own voice with Python.

Survey responses show we have been successful at meeting our goals in communicating diverse research and training through high-quality presentations delivered by a diverse cross-section of Australian (and some NZ) presenters. If you have further feedback, please let us know [here](#).

We expect to shortly announce the second season of fortnightly research sessions and monthly training sessions; we are currently looking for presenters, so please express your interest [here](#).

Laura McKemmish ([l.mckemmish@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.mckemmish@unsw.edu.au))  
RACI Physical Chemistry Division Secretary  
September 2021

## From the Student Representative

Firstly, congratulations to the physical chemistry students who received a Postgraduate Student Travel Bursary this year! For those who planned to use the bursary to travel to the division conference in December, I have confirmed with RACI that you are still able to keep the award for the virtual conference.

We have had some really great student talks as part of the webinar series since the last newsletter. Thanks to Asja Kroeger, Amy Hancock, Lorrie Jacob, and Kasimir Gregory for sharing their work with us. It would be great to see some more student presentations, so if you would like to give a talk (~15 min) as part of the upcoming webinars please let myself or Laura McKemmish know.

As mentioned above, the division conference this December is now going to be (mostly) virtual, but we still aim to dedicate a significant portion to student talks and posters. If we are lucky we may be able to also have some local hubs so you can have the opportunity to present in front of a virtual and in-person audience. Conferences are a really great way for students to network, practice their communication skills, and get valuable feedback. The current generation of students have really missed out on conferences over the last 20 months, so we hope this can make up for that loss.

Lastly, you may have noticed that the RACI postgraduate student membership is currently reduced to \$60 (usually \$73). So, it's a good time to join if you know any students who are thinking about it.

If you have any talk or conference suggestions, or any student-related issues feel free to get in touch.

Alex Stuart ([alexandra.stuart@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:alexandra.stuart@adelaide.edu.au))  
RACI Physical Chemistry Division Student Representative  
September 2021

## Division News

### Awards

#### 2021 RACI Postgraduate Travel Student Bursary

The Division would like to formally congratulate (and brag about!) seven of our amazing students who have been awarded the 2021 RACI Postgraduate Travel Student Bursary.

- Anna-Maree Syme, University of New South Wales
- Asja Kroeger, University of Western Australia
- Jessica de la Perrelle, University of Adelaide
- Juan Camilo Trujillo, University of New South Wales
- Maria Perez-Pena, University of New South Wales
- Nisha Mehta, University of Melbourne
- Rohan Hudson, University of Adelaide

These students have each received \$500 to support their attendance at conferences in the next year. All have been active members of the division for at least 12 months, frequently attending and even presenting at our online PhysChem webinars.

#### 2021 RACI Physical Chemistry Lectureship

Debbie Silvester-Dean (Curtin) and Ivan Kassal (Sydney) are jointly awarded the 2021 RACI Physical Chemistry Lectureship. Congratulations to Debbie and Ivan.

The Physical Chemistry Division Lectureship provides funding for these outstanding physical chemists to promote their research and research in physical chemistry in general. It is anticipated that the presentations will be given as either webinars or, wherever possible, in-person lectures. Please ensure that your seminar coordinators are aware of the lectureship in order to help Debbie and Ivan showcase their research around Australia and New Zealand.



#### 2021 Physical Chemistry Medal

The Division of Physical Chemistry now invites nominations for the 2021 Physical Chemistry Division Medal. The Medal will be awarded by the Physical Chemistry Division in recognition of outstanding contributions by an individual within the field of Physical Chemistry in Australia. Contributions to any or all of research, education, industry, and service to the Division will be considered in making the award.

Nominations may be made by the person seeking the award, or by any member (or members jointly) of the RACI. Nominations made by a third party must be accompanied by a signed acceptance of nomination by the candidate.



Nominations should be submitted to the Division Secretary, Dr Laura McKemmish, by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. For further information regarding the 2021 Physical Chemistry Medal, including the selection criteria and application requirements, visit the [Phys Chem Division website](#).

## Community Advocacy

**ARC “no preprint rule.”** The Australian Research Council recently rejected a number of applications due to citation of pre-prints. The RACI has raised concerns about the new ARC “no preprint rule” in a joint letter with other professional societies. Read this letter [here](#). A number of our Division members were signatories to the letter as Heads of Schools/Departments.

**Cost of Pacifichem Registration.** The RACI has also raised concerns regarding the high cost of registration fees for Pacifichem. See [here](#). A joint statement with the NZIC was submitted to the executive committee of Pacifichem. Pacifichem, however, chose to maintain the fee structure, arguing (1) A real-time hybrid conference is prohibitively expensive, (2) That the fees are in line with other hybrid meetings of similar magnitude.

## Future Events

### RACI PhysChem Summer Festival December 2021

We are excited to announce the RACI PhysChem Summer Festival will go ahead for the 29th Nov–3rd Dec! Given current restrictions the conference will be held virtually, aiming for approximately 4 to 5 hour-long days of online talks, posters, and opportunities to catch up with the community. Presentations will be held over five days (hopefully at times that are inclusive to those in Perth and NZ), with the first half dedicated to student talks and posters.

We are also exploring the possibility of having local hubs at campuses in some states for part of the conference, where attendees can watch talks together, chat over the breaks, and have the opportunity to present to a live audience, if restrictions allow and it is safe to do so.

More information coming soon!

Alex Stuart & Chris Hansen

### RACI National Congress 2022

The next [RACI National Congress](#) will be held in Brisbane from 3-8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.



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Royal Australian Chemical Institute  
National Congress 2022  
Brisbane | Australia

Sun 3 – Fri 8  
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Brisbane Exhibition & Convention Centre

Abstract submission is now open - [here](#). The Division of Physical Chemistry is involved in 3 [symposia](#): (1) Physical Chemistry Symposium, (2) Physical and Computational Chemistry Education Symposium & (3) Future/Green Energy Materials Symposium.

The first symposium will have a structure similar to our division meetings. Alongside the main symposium, the PhysChem and Chemistry Education Divisions are joining together for a “Physical and Computational Chemistry Education Symposium”. The third symposium is a joint effort by the Physical, Inorganic, Electro & Materials Chemistry Divisions to promote cross divisional exchange and collaboration.

Debra Bernhardt is the chair of [the organising committee](#) and we look forward to an exciting Congress in mid 2022.



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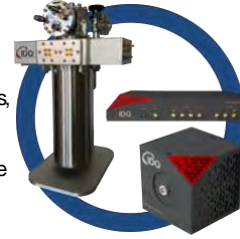
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