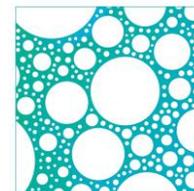


# Australasian Colloid and Interface Society

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## ACIS Newsletter – Issue 9, March 2016

### Welcome

Dear members,

Welcome to our ninth issue of ACIS News! We plan to produce a quarterly newsletter - sent around in March, June, October, and December - to keep ACIS members informed of our initiatives and for members to directly communicate with their Society. Please send your suggestions and items for the next newsletter to [C.P.Whitby@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.P.Whitby@massey.ac.nz). Please note that the new email address of ACIS is [acis.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:acis.enquiries@gmail.com)

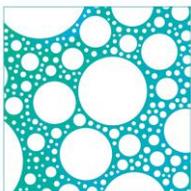
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### News

#### 30th Australian Colloid and Surface Science Student Conference

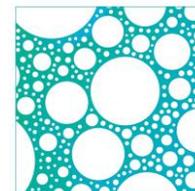
Chiara Neto (Sydney) is pleased to report that the 30th Australian Colloid and Surface Science Student Conference was a success. There lots of good talks and everyone enjoyed having breakfast with the parrots, taking time out on the beach and the campfires in the evening. She thanks her organizing committee, the plenary speaker, all the student speakers and poster presenters, and the academics that joined them, for making it such a memorable event.





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## Congratulations to our Prize Winners at the Student Conference!



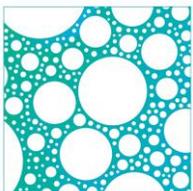
Chiara Neto (Sydney) and Laurence Meagher (Monash) would like to congratulate the prize winners from the 30th Australian Colloid and Surface Science Student Conference:

**Chris Bolton** (Melbourne) won the Hunter Healy award. The award honours Tom Healy (Melbourne) and Bob Hunter (Sydney), who organised the first student conference in 1967. It highlights and recognises the outstanding oral presentation given at the student conference. The award consists of a commemorative medal and a contribution towards Chris' travel costs to attend an international conference. It is provided by a Royal Australian Chemical Institute Award Trust formed in 1998, as a result of the generous financial support of many Australian surface and colloid science researchers.

**Virginia Mazzini** (ANU) won the ACIS/ECIS award. The award recognises the most outstanding oral presentation given by a student in the second or third year of their PhD. It consists of a contribution towards Virginia's travel costs for attending the 2016 European Colloids and Interface Society (ECIS) Conference, with the (reciprocal) agreement by our European colleagues that they will waive the conference registration fee. It was established in 2013 by the ACIS and ECIS Boards to strengthen the connections between the two Societies.

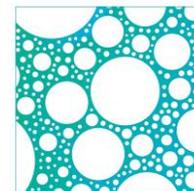
**Liam Scarrat** (Sydney) was awarded the poster prize. This award was also established by the Australian surface and colloid science community in 1998. It recognizes Liam for his presentation of the best poster at the conference.





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## Report from the Student Co-chair of the 30<sup>th</sup> ACSSSC



By **Liam Scarrett, PhD student at Sydney Uni**

The ACIS 2016 student conference was a very big part of the first year of my PhD, giving me the opportunity to engage with a team of organisers across different universities, working towards a goal that enhances the experience of students in our field. The whole organisational process was intense at times, particularly leading up to the conference, but I can confidently say that we were all very happy with how it turned out.

Compared to my Honours year and undergrad, I hadn't felt like I really had a cohort since starting my PhD. This I feel is rather common with research in the disciplines under our society's banner; your colleagues are often at another Institution and you are few in number compared to other fields. It was great to meet and see the work of so many of my peers, who I would never have had the chance to meet otherwise, reinforcing that we were all pursuing something together. The location and overall vibe of the conference made for a relaxing and friendly atmosphere, encouraging a laid back exchange of information and the formation of some comradery between students. The social activities seemed to go down relatively well too, with the introduction of PowerPoint karaoke and good Ol fashion trivia.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to co-chair this conference with my supervisor Chiara Neto, and to have the support of the organisational committee behind us. Without them, putting together such an event would not have been possible.

We welcome feedback from attendees to assist future organisers in running a conference that will be enjoyed by all. I will soon be sending around a short survey form and encourage you to let us know what you think.

## ACIS AGM Report

Our 2016 Annual General Meeting was held during the ACSSSC conference in Kiola. Prior to the AGM members participated in an electronic vote for five positions that were available on the board. We congratulated Chiara Neto, Vince Craig and Laurence Meagher who were re-elected to the board. We welcomed Graeme Gillies and Rico Tabor who were elected onto the Board. Graeme is a Senior Research Scientist at Fonterra. Rico is Lecturer in the School of Chemistry at Monash University. We thanked outgoing directors, Shaun Hendy (Auckland) and Catherine Whitby (Massey) for their service to our community as Board members. Shaun was involved in reorganizing the membership database. Catherine organized our first careers workshop at ACIS 2015, co-chaired the Western Pacific Colloids 2015 conference and edits this newsletter.



**Graeme Gillies**  
(Fonterra)



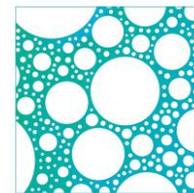
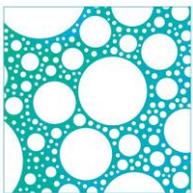
**Rico Tabor**  
(Monash)



**Shaun Hendy**  
(Auckland)



**Catherine Whitby**  
(Massey)



## Nucleating Colloids – a Column for Students & Early Career Researchers

### Microbiology to Colloid Chemistry - my postgraduate journey



**By Rajiv Thapa, PhD student at Monash Uni**

As a postgraduate student I have been part of two very different projects and I have learned from both of them and will continue to learn. I just wanted to share my experience because my postgraduate studies have not been a smooth sailing.

When I first came to Monash as a Postgraduate student, it was to study outer membrane proteins in the field of microbiology. It was an interdisciplinary project, and I soon realized that it would take a collective effort to make that work. Two years into it, my research question changed and I ended up joining Rico Tabor's group – the soft materials and colloid chemistry Lab.

Even though the project in the lab was very different from what I had done during my first two years at Monash, I jumped at the opportunity. This was mainly because I was familiar with the group's work and was convinced that this was the environment to help me achieve my goals. Before I joined the lab, most of my research experience had been in microbiology. So far, I have enjoyed the transition and the learning process in the lab and of course the supportive labmates and very enthusiastic mentor.

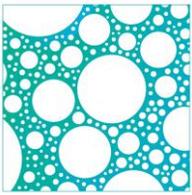
Interests change with time and experience. In this day and age where research funding is limited, it seems important to branch out into interdisciplinary research. That's not what I set out to do, but the circumstances led me to this opportunity and I intend to make the most out of it. I also believe that this experience will prepare me for what may come in the future.

When you are midway through a PhD and you realise you have to move to a new lab and start a new project, its not an ideal situation. In the beginning, I thought I was at a complete disadvantage and maybe it wasn't for me. I didn't have anything to contribute to group discussions. Then again, experts become experts through experience and I am gaining that experience now.

One of the things that I found a bit challenging is to learn to speak well in my new field of research. Its time consuming but well worth it. Being a non-traditional student is not a disadvantage. By having a unique background, you will have a different perspective to your colleagues when looking at particular research questions. In particular, I can connect the colloidal research to microbiology. For me, I was able to find common ground between the two fields. In a broad spectrum of things, the research questions are somewhat related and I was able to find some overlap that's helping me to make the transition smoother.

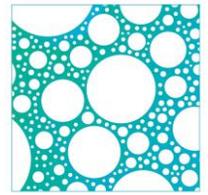
Through this experience, I have realized that science is important, but the people you work with or work for are equally important as well. So, make sure to explore the right fit.

**ACIS needs its members to be actively engaged. Please email us your articles together with a photo of yourself if you would like to contribute.**

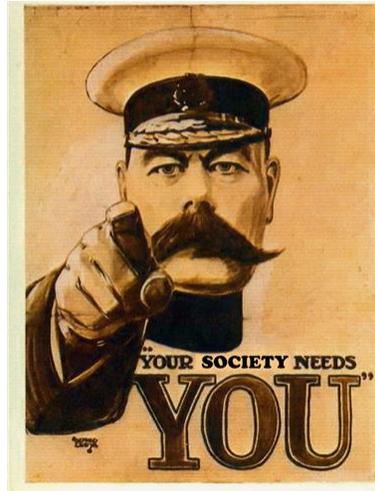


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## STUDENTS!



### By Rico Tabor (Monash)

One of the positive changes that we intend to make after the AGM held at the ACIS student conference this year is to have greater representation from our PhD student members within the society.

This begins with seeking student representation on our committees, namely:

- Membership
- Communications
- ACIS2017 conference (Coffs Harbour)
- Awards
- Long term conference planning

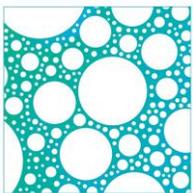
If you are a student and keen to participate more in the society, this could be your chance! Not only does it give you an opportunity to positively contribute to our community, develop relationships with potential future colleagues, collaborators and even employers, but it will also demonstrate service and leadership on your CV.

From our perspective, input from PhD students is central to ensuring that the society offers activities and opportunities that have broad appeal and engages all members of the colloid community, from students to academics and industrial colleagues.

If you would like to become involved, please send an email with your details, brief background (current role, supervisor, location, etc.) to: [acis.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:acis.enquiries@gmail.com)

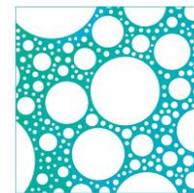
ACIS is committed to achieving a gender balance across our society, conferences and committees.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



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### Announcing: Visit to Dulux R&D labs for ACIS members



**From: Tim Davey, Dulux**

Have you ever wondered how colloid and interface science is used in industry to develop new and improved materials and products? A program of site visits is commencing in 2016, to allow ACIS members to gain an understanding of how fundamental science is translated into applied outcomes. These events will involve tours of industry R&D labs and production areas (depending on the sites involved), as well as the opportunity to hear from industrial scientists about how they use colloid and interface science in their field.

The first event will take place in April:

When: Tuesday 19th April, 2016, from 1:30–4:00 pm

RSVP by: Wednesday 13th April, 2016

Where: The R&D labs of the paint company Dulux Australia at 1956 Princes Highway, Clayton, Melbourne

Colloid science plays a critical role in paint and the visit will allow ACIS members to learn more about the chemistry of paint, in particular the role of surfactants and other stabilisers in paint. This visit would be of particular value to PhD students and early career researchers who have had little or no contact with industry.

Note that attendees must be current paid up members of the ACIS, with membership costs starting at \$50 per annum for students. To become a member of the ACIS go to the website. For more information and to register for this event, visit the ACIS website at: <https://acis.wildapricot.org/event-2187881>.

### National Survey of Particle Sizing Techniques



**From Stuart Prescott (UNSW)**

The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is seeking input from industry, government and researchers who are interested in measurement of particle size.

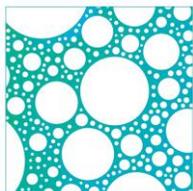
They are conducting a survey of practitioners about how NMI could share its technical expertise and experience to help you get the best value from your particle size measurements. The survey closes on Friday 8th April at 5.00pm, and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCK5PQF>

NMI has worked with industry, researchers and government to develop validated methods for accurate measurement of particle size distribution. This has provided them with extensive practical experience to help decide what techniques are particularly suited for different applications and different samples, and how to avoid some of the more common pitfalls when measuring and interpreting particle size distribution. For further information, please contact the NMI training team at [training@measurement.gov.au](mailto:training@measurement.gov.au).

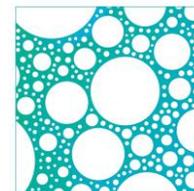


**Don't forget you can use our LinkedIn Group  
to tell people your news**



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## Future Events

**16<sup>th</sup> Food Colloids Conference (10 – 13 April, 2016, Wageningen, the Netherlands)**

<http://www.foodcolloids2016.nl/home>

**PARTEC 2016 (19 – 21 April, 2016, Nuremburg, Germany)**

<https://www.partec.info/>

**10<sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Conference (17-22 May, 2016, Montreal, Canada)**

<http://www.wbc2016.org/>

**90<sup>th</sup> ACS Colloid and Surface Science Symposium (5-8 June, 2016, Cambridge, USA)**

<http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/colloids2016/about>

**Surfactants in Science Symposium (5-11 June, 2016, China)**

[http://www.sis2016.org/about\\_conference/invitation\\_message/](http://www.sis2016.org/about_conference/invitation_message/)

**6<sup>th</sup> International Colloids Conference (19 - 22 June, 2016 Berlin)**

<http://www.colloidsconference.com/>

**EUFOAM 2016 (3 - 6 July, 2016, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland)**

<http://eufoam2016.iopconfs.org/home>

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Controlled Release Society (17-20 July, 2016, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A)**

<http://www.controlledreleasesociety.org/meetings/annual/Pages/default.aspx>

**27<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Rheology (8-13 August, 2016, Kyoto)**

Abstract submissions close in April 2016 (<http://icr2016.com/>)

**30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Colloid and Interface Society (4-9 September, 2016, Rome)**

Abstract submissions close on 24 April 2016 (<https://ecis2016.org/>)

**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soft Matter (12-16 September, 2016, Grenoble)**

<http://www.ismc2016.org/>

**International Session at the 67<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting on Colloid & Interface Chemistry (22-24 September, 2016, Hokkaido, Japan)**

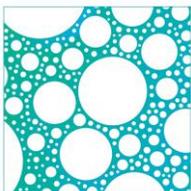
Information will be posted shortly on the Japanese Chemistry Society webpage (<http://colloid.csj.jp/>)

**20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Miniaturized Systems for Chemistry and Life Sciences (9-13 October, 2016, Dublin, Ireland)**

Abstract submissions close on 19 April, 2016 (<http://www.microtas2016.org/>)

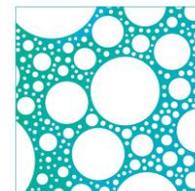
**8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology (12-16 February, 2017, Queenstown)**

Abstract submissions close on 31 August 2016 (<http://www.amn8.co.nz>)



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## Job Ads

Please email us ads for PhD and postdoc positions in the area of colloids and interfaces.

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## Activities

### Join our Awards, Communications, Conferences and Events Committees

ACIS needs its members to be actively engaged. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in the committees that will run the activities of the Society: *Awards; Communications; Conferences and Events*. Or if you would like to propose other activities we should be running. **We especially invite students and early-career researchers to become involved.** Please email your interest to [acis@wildapricot.org](mailto:acis@wildapricot.org).

### Sponsorship of Events

ACIS Sponsorship is available for events (symposia, workshops, industry networking events, and short courses) held in Australia or New Zealand and organised by ACIS members for the benefit of the colloids and interface science community. Prospective event organizers, who wish to request ACIS endorsement and sponsorship, should supply the information requested in the form available on the website <https://acis.wildapricot.org/> at least three months in advance.

### Visiting Scientist Register

Are you planning to host a visit by an outstanding scientist in the colloid and interface field? Why not let ACIS members know about the visit? We aim to keep track of visiting scientists, to facilitate their introduction to the Australasian scientific community. Please email details of the visit to [acis@wildapricot.org](mailto:acis@wildapricot.org).

### ACIS Membership

Please encourage your colleagues, students and industrial partners working in the field of colloids and interface to join us. General membership is \$100 per annum. The membership year is from 1st July each year. Memberships paid after this date are valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June of the following year. More information is available on our website <https://acis.wildapricot.org/>.

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### The Newsletter team is:

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Chiara Neto - [chiara.neto@sydney.edu.au](mailto:chiara.neto@sydney.edu.au)

