

Malcolm Reid, Martine Poffet, Mihoko Numata, Brook Nunn, Chris Cornelson, Lucy Jack, Eike Breitbarth and Linn Hoffman. All were externally funded.

Staff of the Centre have supervised over 30 PhD students to completion, and there are currently 16 PhD students at various stages of their studies. Growth in overseas PhD numbers has been spectacular since the government's eligibility rules changed in 2006. MSc numbers have increased in a similar way.

The Centre has been awarded eleven Marsden grants, the first in 1999, with four grants currently operating. It has also received significant funding from FRST (now Ministry of Science and Innovation, MSI) in two NIWA-driven

programmes, "Effects-Based Protection and Management of Aquatic Ecosystems", \$6.2M annually; and "Drivers and Mitigators of Global Change", \$5.3M annually (now part of NIWA core funding). Its members have also received over 20 University of Otago Research Grants. Other external funding has been received from MFish, DOC, Biosecurity NZ, Animal Health Board, and AMHA.

Senior staff of the Centre have also been involved in a number of international scientific bodies.

### Reference

1. Top 30 research institutions in oceanography **2011**, May, <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=416012>

## Report on the 2012 International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry (ISMSC-7) at the University of Otago

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This high-profile, long-standing international conference series came to New Zealand for the first time, and was hosted by Professors Sally Brooker and Keith Gordon at the University of Otago, Dunedin, from Sunday 29 January to Thursday 2 February 2012 (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** The conference logo was kindly designed by Michael Crawford (Dunedin) based on an idea provided by Sally Brooker. It depicts the North, South and Stewart Islands of New Zealand threaded through the 'O' of Otago, resembling the way an axle is threaded through a macrocycle in the stepwise preparation of a rotaxane.

The annual International Symposia on Macrocyclic Chemistry (ISM) conference series began in 1977, in Provo, Utah, chaired by Reed M. Izatt and James J. Christensen. The biennial International Symposia on Supramolecular Chemistry (ISSC) series began in 1980, in Warsaw, Poland. Then in 2006 the two symposia combined to hold a conference in Victoria, Canada. The decision was made to merge, and a meeting is now held every year under the banner of the International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry (ISMSC), in a different nation each time. Each conference covers all aspects of macrocyclic and supramolecular chemistry, including all of the traditional core areas of chemistry as well as interfacing with biological, nanotechnological and materials fields.

The ISMSC-7 conference began on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Dunedin with a welcome from the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Enterprise at the University

of Otago, Professor Richard Blaikie. This was followed by a full afternoon of lectures, including a very well received lecture by Emeritus Professor Neil Curtis (Victoria) on "The advent of macrocyclic chemistry". The afternoon concluded with the Cram Lehn Pedersen Prize being presented to Dr Jonathan Nitschke (Cambridge) and his Award Lecture, which was then celebrated with the welcome mixer. The Izatt Christensen Award Lecture was presented by Professor Kimoon Kim (POSTECH, Korea) on Monday. The delegates, from 23 countries (Fig. 2), were also treated to keynote lectures by 26 international stars, as well as a plenary public lecture by Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart (Northwestern, Fig. 3), 11 session and 19 flash presentations. A special issue of *Supramolecular Chemistry* is being published to mark ISMSC-7 (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/gsch>).



**Fig. 3.** Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart and Professor Richard Blaikie. (Photo: Scott Cameron, Brooker group)



**Fig. 2.** ISMSC-7 delegates in front of the University of Otago Clocktower, Sunday 29 January 2012. (Photo: Scott Cameron, Brooker group)

The poster sessions were vibrant and the poster judges had a hard task to select the prize-winning contributions. The RSC best student poster awards (book plus journal subscription) went to: Jean-Francois Ayme (Edinburgh), Jessica Holmes (Melbourne) and David Hvasanov (UNSW). The Wiley/Emersons best student poster awards (book plus a three-pack of Emersons) went to: Matthew Cowan (Otago), Thomas Faust (Manchester) and Lujia Liu (Massey). The Springer best postdoctoral fellow poster prize (book) went to Dr Alan Ferguson (Canterbury).

The conference dinner, held at Otago Museum, featured a Haggis ceremony, in which three of our delegates agreed to participate (Fig. 4). Our hearty thanks to all of our delegates for contributing to making this a conference to savour, both scientifically and socially.



**Fig. 4.** Left to right: Professor Peter Tasker (Edinburgh), Emeritus Professor Neil Curtis (Victoria) and Professor Christine McKenzie (Southern Denmark). (Photo: Scott Cameron, Brooker group)

### Acknowledgements

The organising committee, Professors Sally Brooker and Keith Gordon, Pip Jack and Ali Copeman (akB Conference Management Limited), would like to acknowledge and thank Michael Crawford (Dunedin) for designing our conference logo, and Scott Cameron (abstract template), Matthew Rooney (abstract upload), Elliot O'Sullivan (website design and updates) and Lisa Bucke (book cover design) for their effective and cheerful assistance with computing matters. We also thank Dr Nigel Lucas and Dr James Crowley for stepping up to be co-editors of the special ISMSC-7 issue of *Supramolecular Chemistry*, and the research groups of Professors Brooker and Gordon for their timely help with many and various tasks. Particular mention is made of: Scott Cameron, photos; Rajni Wilson, t-shirts & delegate poster printing; Raphael Horvarth, Humphrey Feltham, Matthew Cowan, Sebastian Dhers, Michael Fraser, Reece Miller and Rajni Wilson for technical support.

Finally, we are also extremely grateful to all of our sponsors, as they helped us to make this a meeting to remember; they were: University of Otago; MacDiarmid Institute; Royal Society of Chemistry; Wiley; American Chemical Society; Taylor Francis; Oxford Instruments/Agilent; French Embassy (NZ); AJ Park; New Journal of Chemistry; New Zealand Institute of Chemistry; Division of Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society; Springer; Office Max.