

ChemSTEP News: March 2023

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What is ChemSTEP?

ChemSTEP, is a network to support chemistry careers information for Students-Teachers-Employers-Parents. This RSC-funded project forms part of the [Chem4All](#) programme and is run by the [Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry](#) at the University of Strathclyde. The project aims to increase the uptake in STEM fields in high school students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and other under-represented groups. Although our primary focus is the West of Scotland area, we are providing support throughout Scotland.

ChemDiverseVlog Project Update

Based on your feedback regarding the time constraints you are currently facing in delivering your curricula, we have relaxed the participation window for our RSC-funded ChemDiverse Vlogs project. **If you now wish to participate, please send an email to chemistry-chemstep@strath.ac.uk**, with the heading "ChemDiverse Vlogs", and we will release the participation instructions to you. After which, you can participate in your own time - just let us know what timeline suits you! If you want to know more, just reach out and we'll explain what's involved!

Below is a blurb from one of our Vlog partner Scientists, Sir David MacMillan, 2021 Chemistry Nobel Prize recipient:



Professor Sir David MacMillan is a Scottish chemist and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University, USA. He shared the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Benjamin List "for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis".

David was born in Bellshill, North Lanarkshire in 1968. He attended the local state-funded schools, New Stevenston Primary and Bellshill Academy, and credits his Scottish education and upbringing for his success. He gained his undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Glasgow. In 1990, he left the UK to begin his doctoral studies at the University of California.

Links to Similar Projects in the Community

- Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) [have a new resource for arranging talks with industry professionals](#).
- RSC has [opened their grant funding for 2023](#), providing up to £3,000 to run practical investigative projects in schools.
- ScotCHEM [is looking for chemists to inspire the next generation](#) of scientists in Scotland.
- [SmartSTEMs](#) aims to inspire 10-14 year olds to further their education in STEM fields through online events developed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The [Social Mobility Foundation](#) aids high school students from low-income backgrounds in attaining places at top universities across the country.
- A joint project between ScotCHEM and the RSC called [Molecule Zone](#) provides a space for students to talk to and ask questions to industry scientists, with their 2022 event bringing in more than 1000 students to talk with over 30 scientists.

Help with Careers Activities

We've got over 80 schools in our network, but not all of you have reached out to us for assistance with careers-related queries yet! We'd love to be able to help everyone with at least one request so please reach out to us! If we've helped you form a connection, do let us know too.

Contact us at: chemistry-chemstep@strath.ac.uk