

EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING IN COMPUTATIONAL METHODS FOR MATERIALS SCIENCE



BULLETIN ISSUE 2

The year is rushing past – though, as my father warned me many years ago, in my case this is partly a consequence of getting older. The CDT students have now finished all their coursework and written examinations and are now working full time on their MPhil research projects. Last week, they all gave short presentations detailing progress on their projects to date and outlining their plans for completing their projects over the remaining weeks before the submission date. The presentations were of a very high standard and exemplified the scientific breadth of our CDT. There was a moment of surprise when one of the speakers talked about millions of years as a ‘short timescale’ – an interesting concept for anyone in the materials realm! Somewhat reassuringly, this presentation was from a student doing the MPhil in Scientific Computing whose project was on cosmology – so my moment of panic that I had missed some critical advance in methodology was laid to rest!

We would like to send our congratulations to Professors Ali Alavi and John Robertson, both of whom are associated with our CDT. They were elected Fellows of the Royal Society earlier this year. We are also delighted that Professor Chris Pickard has been elected to the Sir Alan Cottrell Chair in Materials. He is the first incumbent of this Chair and will take up this appointment on 1st August 2015. Chris is well known to many of us in Cambridge. Over the years he has been an undergraduate, PhD student, postdoc and EPSRC Fellow in Cambridge and continued to collaborate with many people in Cambridge during his time in St. Andrews and, more recently, UCL and we look forward to his association with our CDT.

Finally, we would like to remind you all about the CDT Networking Event on the 2nd July. The students will present posters on their projects, many of the academics will be present as will members of the CDT Steering Panel if you would like to discuss any CDT related issues with them. It would be wonderful to see you there and do feel free to invite your work colleagues as well. If you and/or your work colleagues wish to attend please could you contact admin@csc.cam.ac.uk.

Mike Payne, James Elliott, Nikos Nikipforalis