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## Message From the Chair

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It is with great pleasure that I write my first Newsletter message as Chair of IBDG. I am well aware that I follow some great names from the UK's bioinorganic chemistry community, past and present. My first duty is, of course, to publically thank my predecessor, Emma Raven, for the great work she did over several years as Chair. This included, amongst other things, writing quite a few highly entertaining newsletter messages. We are fortunate that Emma has agreed to remain on the committee. Whilst I'm at it, I would also like to thank Julea Butt and John Viles, two long-standing committee members who recently stepped down after many years of excellent service.

After eight months in the role, I am very much enjoying working with the committee in (hopefully) promoting the interests of our community as broadly as possible. One of the first important decisions we made was to re-instate the much loved (well, at least enjoyed) IBDG meetings, with a general plan to run them alternately with the Dalton Division Interest Groups meeting (held in Warwick). Particular enthusiasm for this came from some of the younger members of the committee and I am delighted to say that the first of these IBDG meetings will be held in April this year in York, organised by Alison Parkin and Lars Jeuken. At the meeting, our 2014 Young Investigator Prize will be handed over to Erwin Reisner and, by a happy coincidence of timing, we are also playing host to a number of overseas RSC prize winners who are on tour at that time, so our speaker line up has a strong international flavour. Further details of the meeting can be found below.

This is a great time to be a bioinorganic chemist, or indeed anyone with interests in the roles of metals in biology. To borrow a line from Nigel Robinson, approximately a third of all proteins contain a metal cofactor, and so ours is undoubtedly a mainstream research theme. We have at our disposal (or at least can gain access to) a spectacular array of tools with which to study them, provided by today's molecular biology, spectroscopy, crystallography, rapid reaction kinetics, mass spectrometry, etc etc. As well as traditional

interests in metalloproteins, which remain as important as ever, we have seen an explosion of interest in, and understanding of, metal ion trafficking/metabolism and an exciting thought (at least for me) is that we are really only just beginning to understand the complexities of the systems that have evolved.

Of course, we've all known from our first days in the lecture theatre and laboratory that nature selected metals as cofactors because of their ability to do things other elements cannot. Now, some amongst us are following nature's lead in exploiting the great versatility of metals in developing novel uses for metalloproteins as part of the major growth of synthetic biology. We live in exciting times.

Nick Le Brun  
UEA, Jan 2015.



## 2014 IBDG Young Investigator Award Winner

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Dr Erwin Reisner, University of Cambridge, receives the 2014 IBDG Young Investigator Award for his work at the interface of Bioinorganic and Sustainable Chemistry.

Erwin's cross-disciplinary laboratory focuses on the understanding of metalloproteins, development of metalloprotein-semiconductor hybrids and synthesis of bio-inspired synthetic analogues of these enzymes for utilisation in solar energy conversion. Erwin obtained his PhD degree under the supervision of Professor Bernhard K. Keppler in Vienna for his work on the elucidation of a possible *in vivo* electron-transfer activation pathway for investigational ruthenium(III) anticancer agents. He joined the laboratory of Professor Stephen J. Lippard at MIT as an Erwin Schrödinger postdoctoral fellow to work on synthetic biomimetic models of the diiron hydroxylase component of soluble methane monooxygenase, followed by postdoctoral research with Professor Fraser A. Armstrong at Oxford, where he developed a hybrid metalloenzyme-nanoparticle system capable of reducing protons to H<sub>2</sub> during visible light irradiation. He is currently a University Lecturer, EPSRC Career Acceleration Fellow and Head of the Christian Doppler Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. More information about his research can be found at <http://www-reisner.ch.cam.ac.uk/>

Erwin will give his award lecture and receive his prize at the 2015 Spring IBDG meeting at the University of York (April 9-10<sup>th</sup>).



## Meeting Reports

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### RSC Dalton Interest Groups Meeting

University of Warwick, UK 15-17<sup>th</sup> April 2014

In April, the second joint meeting of the Dalton Division Interest Groups was held at the University of Warwick and hosted by Jon Rourke. David Cole-Hamilton (Dalton Division President) presided over some of the proceedings and there was representation from all subject groups – IBDG, the Coordination and Organometallic Chemistry Discussion Group, the Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms Group and the Main Group Chemistry Group. Keynote speakers included Paul Walton (York) and Jonathan Worrall (Essex) for IBDG, Theodore Betley (Harvard), Jennifer Love (UBC Vancouver),

Zhenyang Lin (Hong Kong) and Ingo Krossing (Freiburg). There were also talks from several RSC prize winners: Tom O'Halloran (Northwestern) – Bioinorganic Chemistry Award, Richard Layfield (Manchester) – Sir Edward Frankland Fellowship, Rebecca Melen (Toronto) – Dalton Young Researcher Award, Mike George (Nottingham) – Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms Award and Kit Cummings (MIT) – Ludwig Mond Award. In addition, parallel sessions composed of short talks from each subject group gave delegates the opportunity to jump between sessions to experience the full diversity of research involving metals. The meeting was a big success, attracting over 250 delegates, leading to great atmospheres at the poster sessions, during the Banquet and the drinking and socializing (until late) in the bar.



## Forthcoming Meetings

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### **IBDG 2015 Spring Meeting** **University of York 9-10<sup>th</sup> April**

IBDG is organising a Spring meeting to be held at the University of York. Registration for the meeting is free and the deadline to register is **13<sup>th</sup> March 2015** (<http://ibdgmeeting2015.eventbrite.co.uk>). Oral presentation slots for early career scientists are available. To be considered please send an abstract (max. 250 words) to [ibdg-group@york.ac.uk](mailto:ibdg-group@york.ac.uk) by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2015**.

Confirmed speakers include – Amy Rosenzweig (Northwestern USA), John Reglinski (University of Strathclyde UK), Kogularamanan Suntharalingam (MIT USA), Janneke Balk (John Innes Centre UK), Erwin Reisner (Cambridge UK), Marcellus Ubbink (Leiden University The Netherlands), Ged Parkin (Columbia USA).

### **Call for topics of future IBDG sponsored meetings**

The IBDG has been very active in organising many successful and stimulating meetings in the field of inorganic biochemistry in the UK. We would like to invite members of IBDG to put forward their suggestions of topics that they would like to see discussed in future IBDG meetings. Ideas and topics can be mentioned informally to any member of IBDG committee or sent to the Chair of the Group.



## Nominations for Election to IBDG Committee

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IBDG would like to invite nominations for election to its committee. We are looking to elect two new members in 2015. Anyone interested in joining the committee will need to be nominated by two IBDG members. Nominations, which should include information about why the nominee wishes to join the committee, should be submitted to Jonathan Worrall ([jworrall@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jworrall@essex.ac.uk)) by **30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**. Depending on the number of nominations received, it may be necessary to hold a ballot of the membership.



## Young Investigator Award 2016

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### Nominations Invited!

The Inorganic Biochemistry Discussion Group Young Investigator Award is designed to highlight and promote the next generation of outstanding UK-based inorganic biochemists. The award is made every two years for outstanding contributions to any area of biological inorganic chemistry or inorganic biochemistry.

IBDG is therefore seeking nominations for the 2016 award. The award winner will receive a prize and present a lecture at an IBDG sponsored meeting in the following year.

To be eligible for the award nominees must:

- normally be under the age of 35 on the 1st January 2016, although appropriate allowances will be made for career breaks or other circumstances
- be currently employed in the UK

Nominations for the IBDG Young Investigator Award must be made electronically by the nominee to Jonathan Worrall ([jworrall@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jworrall@essex.ac.uk)) and should include:

- a letter from the nominee which summarises their principal achievements in inorganic biochemistry or biological inorganic chemistry and which includes the names of two referees
- the nominee's current CV and list of publications, highlighting the 5 most significant
- the nominee is also responsible for arranging for electronic supporting letters from the two referees (to be e-mailed separately to Jonathan Worrall) describing the area of work undertaken and highlighting the nominee's achievements in inorganic biochemistry or biological inorganic chemistry.

**Nominations for the 2016 Award will close on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**



### IBDG Committee

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**Chair:** *Prof. Nick Le Brun*, University of East Anglia. **Secretary:** *Dr Jonathan Worrall*, University of Essex. **Treasurer:** *Prof. Dave Evans*, University of Hull. *Dr Jon McMaster*, University of Nottingham. *Prof. Andy Munro*, University of Manchester. *Dr Lars Jeuken*, University of Leeds. *Dr Claudia Blindauer*, University of Warwick. *Dr Alison Parkin*, University of York. *Prof. Emma Raven*, University of Leicester, *Prof. Paul Walton*, University of York.

Newsletter edited by: Jonathan Worrall ([jworrall@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jworrall@essex.ac.uk))