



## Cheers to 2021!

We embarked on our Ph.D. journeys within the last couple of months. This included the Core Course, moving to different destinations, and demonstrating our resilience in adapting to challenging times. While managing to establish effective working relationships and showing scientific nous to produce meaningful work from the get-go. The excitement of moving to a foreign country, new city, and a different lab environment proved to outweigh the general gloom of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ESRs of the CCIMC Network

### Core Course Online (19<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2020)

The first Core Course was organized by the LCC in Toulouse using virtual platforms (thank goodness for fast internet speeds!). This served as an opportunity to interact with the ESRs and members of the

network. While we were looking forward to traveling to Warsaw, as initially planned, we were able to overcome the difficulties to have a fruitful experience and successfully complete the Core Course.

Starting postgraduate studies can always be challenging and the Core Course was a great transition to build on our previous knowledge. Helping to bolster skills across the experimental and theoretical facets involved with catalysis. This included lectures pertinent to coordination chemistry such as advanced coordination, the various ligands involved in catalysis, and analytical methods such as NMR and DFT. This was also supported by transferable skills training such as the importance of outreach, networking, ethics, intellectual property, and, of course, how to manage chemical risk.

This allowed us to get a grasp of the impact of our research on the wider scientific community. If the Core Course was an indicator of future events, we look forward to tutorials and workshops, especially to strengthen our knowledge and impact as young scientists (with the possibility of more social coffee breaks, restrictions eased). Following the completion of the Core Course, we began our research work at our respective institutions.



A final picture of all the ESRs after completion of the core course

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## ESRs presenting at the Inorganic MRes and 1st Year PhD Introduction (24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2020)

To continue the trend of virtual platforms featuring prominently in our presentations, we would like to

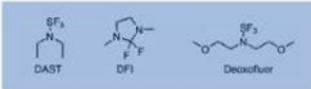
congratulate Sara Bonfante, Aswin Chandran and Paven Kisten, who presented an introduction of their doctoral project at the University of York. Sara presented her work on, 'Metal-mediated C-F bond activation and C-F bond formation'. The work of Aswin is related to 'Reactivity and catalytic chemistry of Ge/Si-H bonds at metal centres' and Paven's one to, 'Polar substrates asymmetric hydrogenation and associated processes: role of the base'. The Inorganic Virtual seminar was an opportunity to connect with other researchers at the university and to gain some insight into the research conducted at York. This was attended by numerous inorganic departmental members at York, and helped to expand awareness of the CCIMC ITN project and our objectives.

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## Synthesis of fluorinated organic compounds

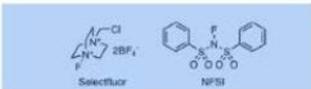
Sara Bonfante

- Selective fluorination of non-fluorinated substrates (using fluorinating agents)
 



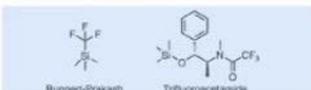
DAST    DFI    Deoxofluor

Nucleophilic agents



Selectfluor    NPSF

Electrophilic agents



Ruppert-Prakash    Trifluoroacetamide

Reagents to introduce CF<sub>3</sub> groups
- Selective defluorination of polyfluorinated molecules

3

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### Introduction - Hydrogenation catalysis

- Why catalysts?
  - focus on selectivity
- A number of key metrics to determine effectiveness
- Asymmetric hydrogenation is dominated by three main functional groups: (C=C, C=O, C-N)
  - focus on ketonic hydrogenations



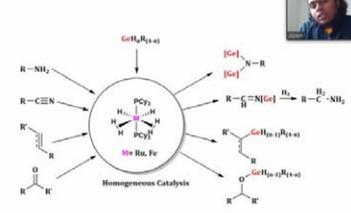

4

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### My Project - an Overview



$H(\eta^5-C_5R_5)GeR_6$   
R = alkyl, aryl, vinyl



Homogeneous Catalysis



$M(PCy_2)_2$   
M = Fe, Ru

5

Sara Bonfante (ESR 5), Paven Kisten (ESR 8) and Aswin Chandran (ESR 14) participating in the Inorganic MRes and 1st Year PhD induction

## Welcome to our new Project manager!

We would also like to wish a warm welcome to our new Project Manager Alida Lefter. Alida started as a European project manager for the CCIMC on the 1st of December 2020, to replace Candice Georges who had another professional opportunity. She is located at the LCC in Toulouse and she is part of the management team along with Anne-Marie Caminade and Rinaldo Poli.

## Upcoming events

**03.05.2021**

### **1st Network Workshop**

This one-day meeting, online or hybrid depending on the sanitary conditions, will consist of 30-min oral presentations by the 15 Early Stage Researchers on their first results, delivered in front of the Network members and notably the Academic board and the Supervisory board. This workshop will provide an opportunity for us to establish collaborations with each other and to interact with the other advisors and the industrial partners. This workshop is not only a forum to evaluate the research progress but also constitutes in itself part of the training in oral communication skills.

**04 – 06.05.2021**

### **1st International Workshop – Cutting-edge Homogeneous Catalysis**

This event will be open to scientists beyond the perimeter of the European Joint Doctorate network, which will broaden the scientific discussions to a wider forum. We will have the opportunity to present our posters during the online poster sessions, continuing to hone communication skills. In parallel with the international workshop, internal meetings will take place and the Student Union will gather for the second time.

**07.05.2021**

### **Mid-term check**

The Mid-term check is a constructive dialogue between the network participants and the Research Executive Agency project officer and is a valuable source of feedback to both the consortium and the REA. We will give presentations to introduce ourselves as well as our research programme to the project officer. The scientists from the network will also take this opportunity to present themselves and their teams.

**We would like to wish you all the best for 2021!**

Anastasiia Sherstiuk & Paven Kisten

[Learn more about the Consortium](#)



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