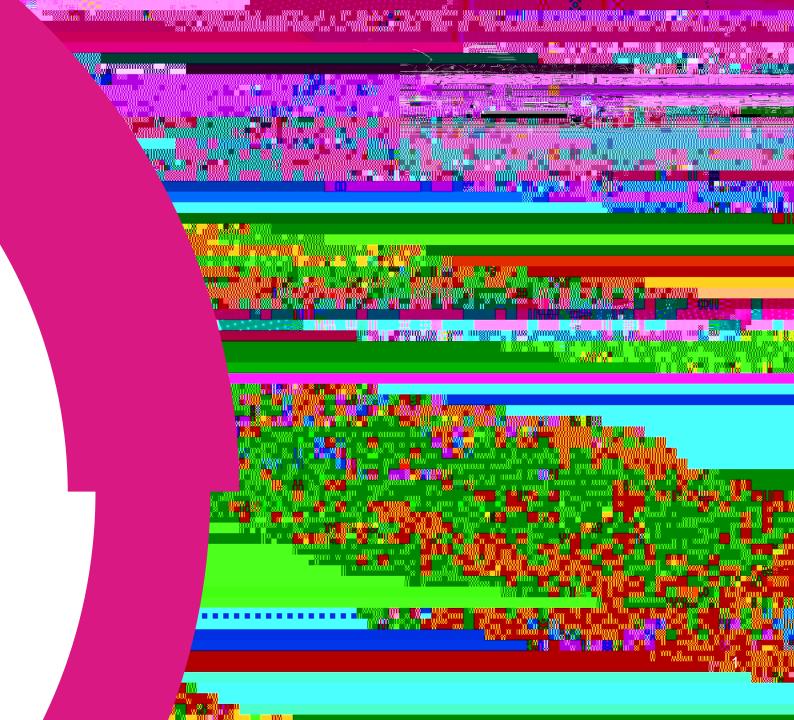
RSC Member Networks Conference 2023

# International Local Sections Meeting

17 October 2023

**Professor Patricia Forbes** 

Chair, International Local Section Representative, Member Networks Committee



Impact of Open Access on authors from low- and middle-income countries

#### **Laura Fisher**

**RSC Member Networks Conference** 

17 19 October 2023



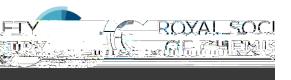
#### About me

2003 – 2011 Undergraduate degree and PhD at University of Bath, UK

**2012 – 2013** Postdoc at Stellenbosch University, South Africa

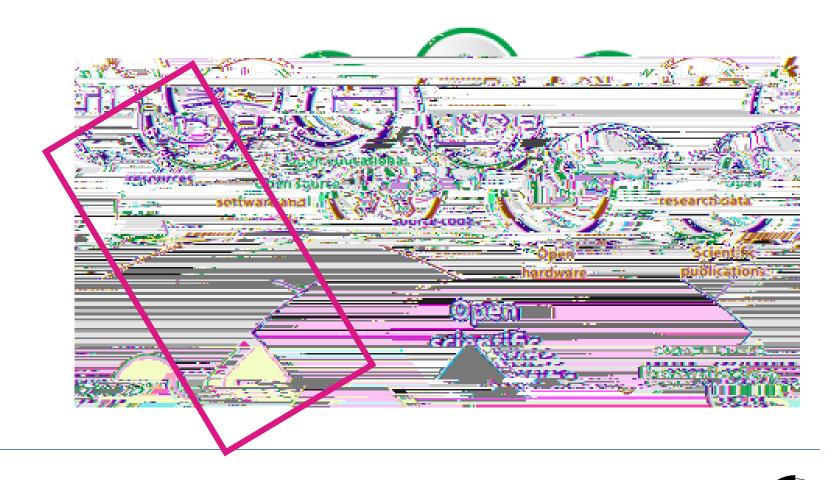
**2014 – 2015** Publishing Editor, Soft Matter, Biomaterials Science, Polymer Chemistry, Reaction Chemistry & Engineering, and MSDE

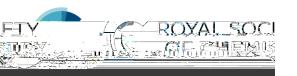
Sept 2015 – March 2016 Supplier Relations Executive



# Open Science & Open Access

Open Access to scientific publications is a key component of Open Science





### What is Open Access?

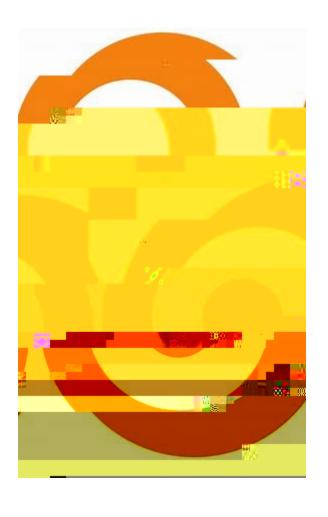
A research output is Open Access (OA) if it is:

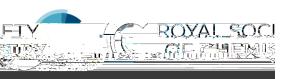
Digital

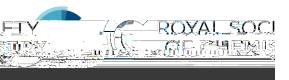
Online

Available to access free of charge

Free of most copyright and licensing restrictions





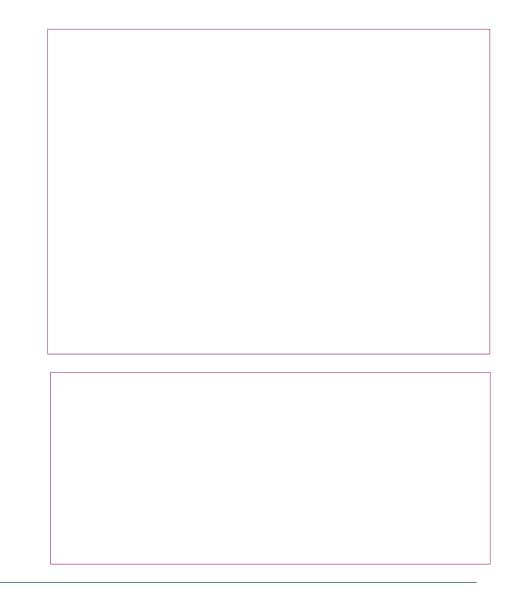


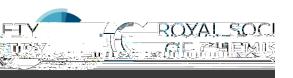
### Open Access is the future

The publishing landscape is moving further and further towards a fully Open Access environment





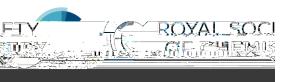






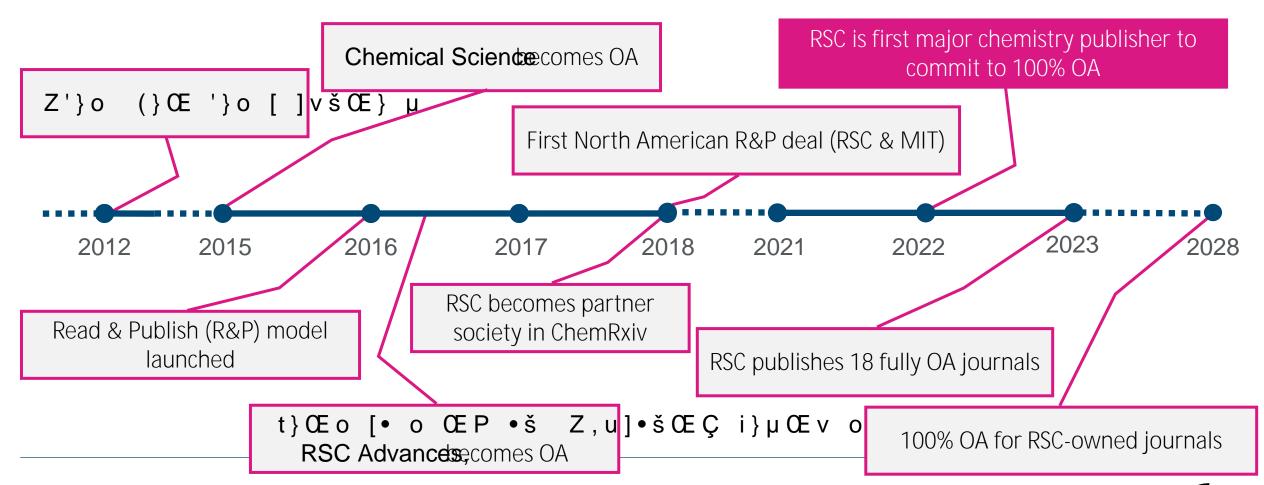
Everyone, everywhere has the same potential to access critical knowledge and build upon it, accelerating the pace of innovation and discovery

Authors should not pay for Open Access; libraries, governments and funders

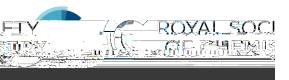




### RSC Open Access Timeline





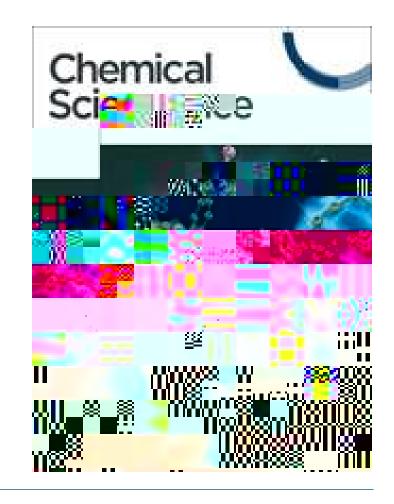


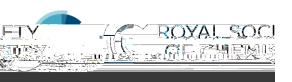
#### Chemical Science; Diamond OA

Chemical Science, our flagship journal, is Diamond Open free both to read and to publish in Chemical Science.

This is possible because we, the RSC, cover the cost of publication in *Chemical Science*.

The costs associated with this are covered by the revenue we make from our other journals either via subscriptions or Open Access charges.



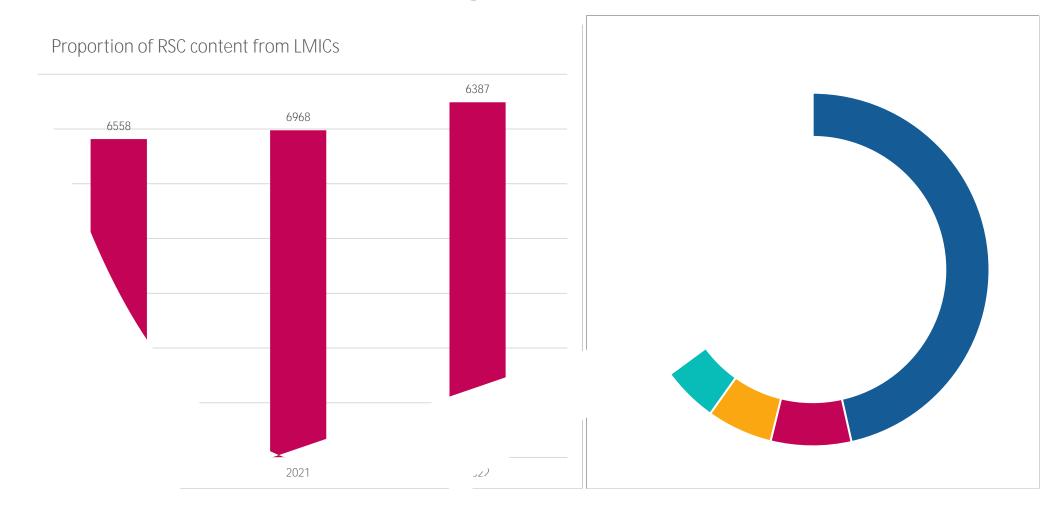


## RSC publications from LMICs



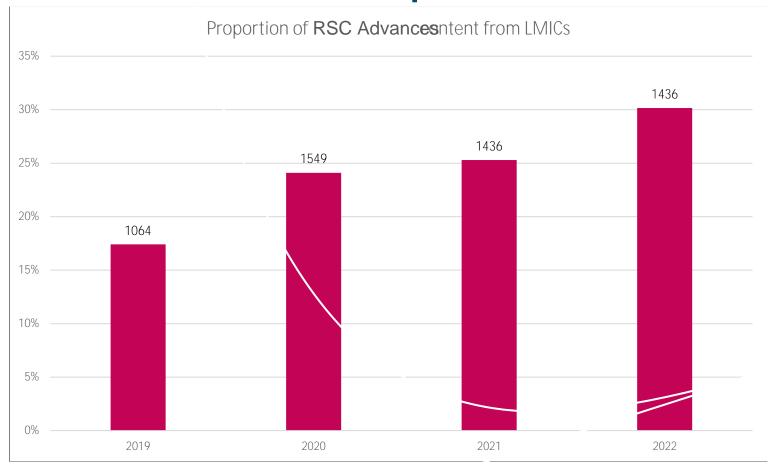


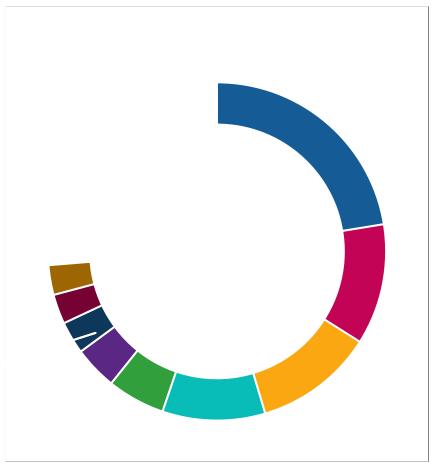
#### blications from LMICs

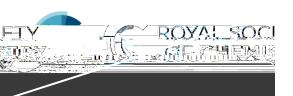




### RSC Advances publications from LMICs







#### How the RSC supports LMIC authors now

#### Waivers and discounts:

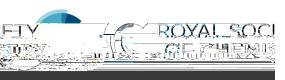
Research4Life corresponding authors from all 125 countries in Groups A and B get 100% APC waiver

**APC discount** corresponding authors from India, Indonesia, and Philippines get a 40% APC discount

Member discount RSC members get a 15% APC discount (on the full APC only)

Author membership corresponding authors entitled to 1 year free RSC membership

Ad hoc waivers all authors can apply for a waiver on acceptance if they cannot pay the APC



#### How the RSC supports LMIC authors now

APC discounts in practise these are not very effective as most authors can either afford the full APC or can afford nothing (<1% of our articles are published with a discount)

#### Ad hoc waivers

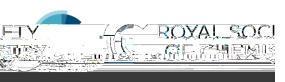
Any author can apply for a waiver after their paper is accepted

Decision made outside editorial team (separate from editorial decisions)

Authors asked to demonstrate lack of APC funding

Majority of waiver requests come from authors from LMICs (>60% from India)

>90% of waiver applications approved in 2022



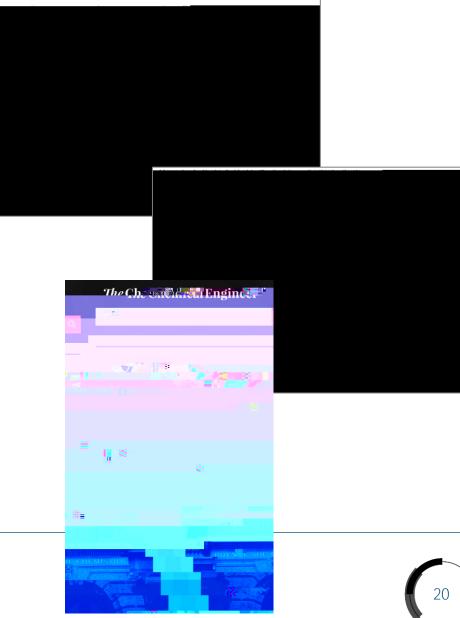


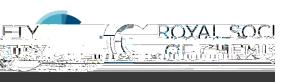
#### The RSC has committed to achieving 100% Open Access by 2028.

https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2022/oct/rsc-oacommitment/

English version of our press release went out on 31 October 2022.

The announcement was shared in several industry news outlets including Chemistry World, The Chemical Engineer, Chemical & Engineering News, Research Professional News, Knowledge Speak, Library Learning Space







### Our goals for achieving 100% OA

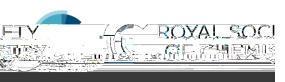
#### Ensuring that everyone, everywhere can still publish with us

We want to remove barriers so all authors have the same potential to access and publish research

#### Partnering with institutions to develop new Open Access models

We want to transform our current subscriptions to new OA models that cover as much of our global author community as possible

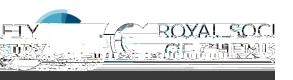
We are spending the next 2 years speaking to our community and in particular librarians, to understand their priorities, requirements and goals for OA; our aim is to move away from models that rely solely on authors paying article processing charges – we want these to be covered by institutions & funders.



# Our goals for achieving 100% OA

#### **Expanding our waiver program**

So that authors at institutions that do not have deals with us can still publish with us, free of charge





We already have some new deals in place that include OA journals:

**India** 6 institutions

Siksha O Anusandhan University

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Tirupati

Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad

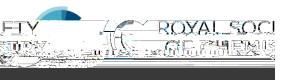




#### Other equitable OA initiatives

OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association)

OASPA has committed to working with publishers to make OA more equitable.1



### Other equitable OA initiatives

#### **Coalition S**

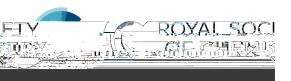
Launched PlanS all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.

Organising workshops on *Global equity in open access publishing*<sup>1</sup> in conjunction with African Association of Universities, EIFL, International Science Council, OA 2020 Initiative, Science Europe, and UNESCO.

Generating proposals for transparent pricing based on purchasing power parity

Noting that waivers can be perceived as patronising, and are unilaterally controlled by publishers

Commissioning a study on how a globally fair pricing system would work.<sup>2</sup>

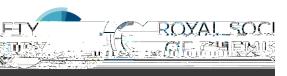




2.



## Other equitable OA initiatives

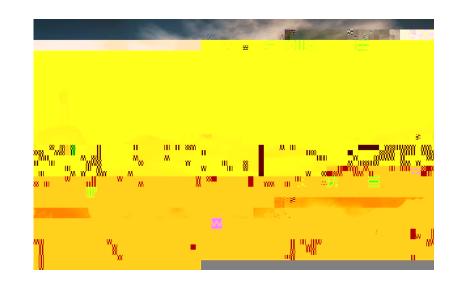




### Leading the way forward

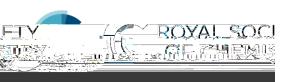
We are the first major chemistry publisher to commit to 100% Open Access.

By signalling our commitment to Open Access, we want to show the world (and our institutional partners) that we value Open Access and are openly inviting key stakeholders across the globe to partner with us towards achieving this goal.



#### What can you do?

Get in touch and let us know your thoughts, encourage your librarians to get in touch, keep an eye out for future RSC OA community initiatives. And keep talking about Open Access!





Any questions?

fisherl@rsc.org





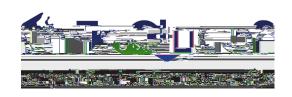
## The International Engagement team





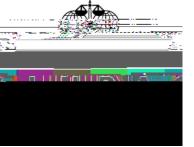


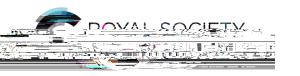












#### The RSC International Ambition

- ‡ Internationally, RSC is the ambassador for UK chemical science community
- ‡ Strengthen the reputation of UK science and its role as part of a global role
- ‡ Set and maintain professional standards for RSC members within the global chemical science community
- ‡ Convene the global science community through a programme of conferences and events







### Pan Africa Chemistry Network ±who we are

‡Established in 2008, owned by the RSC, PACN has invested over £2m in Africa

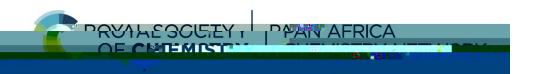
#



### Pan Africa Chemistry Network ±what we do

- ‡Enables access to all RSC journal articles free of charge through Research4Life
- ‡Allows authors from most African countries to publish open access with no charges
- ‡Supports African scientists to attend international conferences and sponsor conferences in Africa
- ‡Fund equipment and maintenance costs for analytical facilities within Africa
- ‡Connecting individuals and programs to stakeholders across Africa





africa@rsc.org





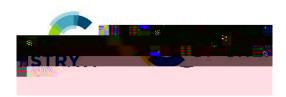


### Chemical Sciences and Society Summit (CS3)





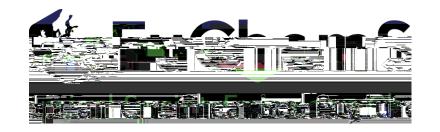




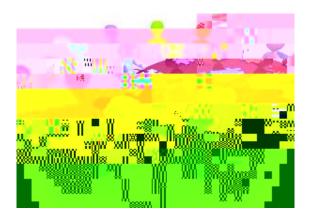
Theme: & KHPLVWU\IRU 6XVWDLQDEOH)RRG & KDOOHQ September 2023, hosted by CSJ

- Chemistry for Sustainable Food Engineering
- Chemistry for Revolutional Food Production
- Circular and Sustainable Chemistry for Food Sustainability

















## Vision One community, one voice, catalysing equality for all

### Guiding principles

Equal and inclusive representation from all Commonwealth nations with the recognition that those with greater resources will contribute more in order to support those with fewer resources.

#### Mission

To inspire, celebrate and elevate the role and practice of the chemical sciences for the benefit of Commonwealth nations and their people.

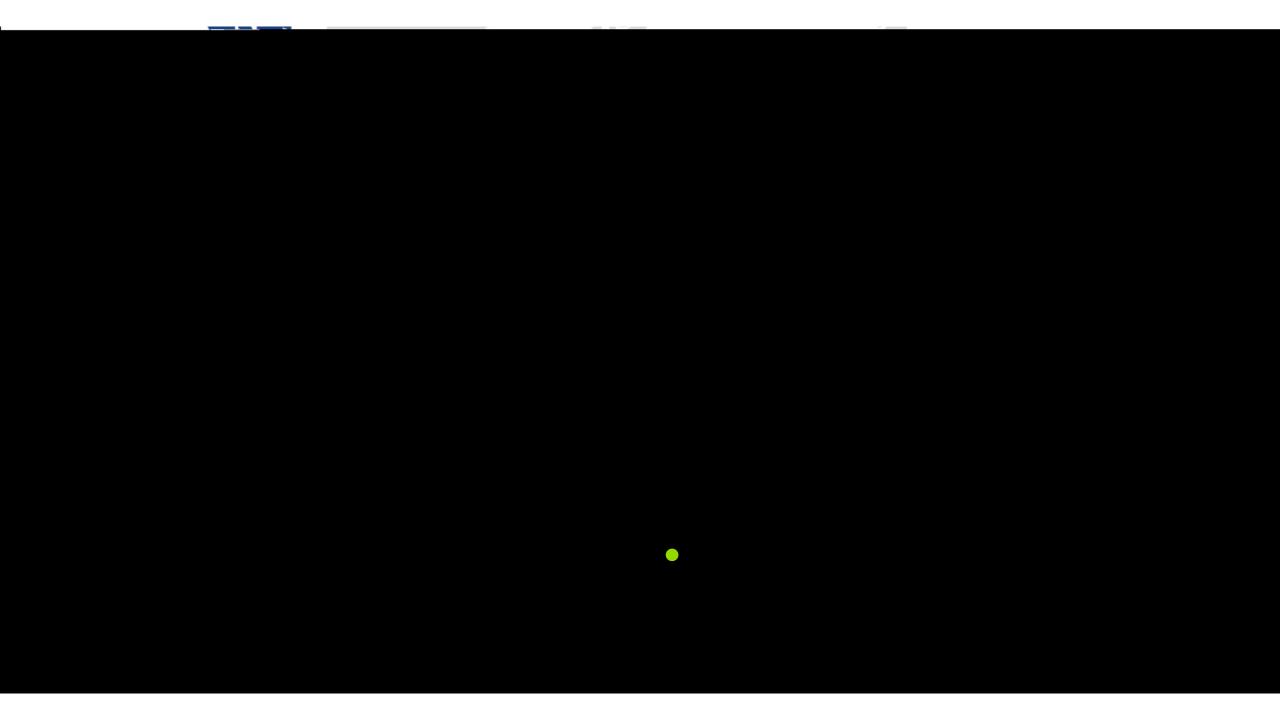
- ‡ RSC provides the Secretariat function
- ‡ Commonwealth Chemistry Day
- **‡ Commonwealth Chemistry Congress**

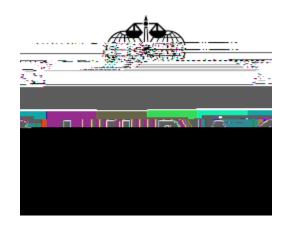
https://commonwealthchemistry.org/event/ccc 2023/

- **‡ Commonwealth Chemistry Posters Event**
- ‡ Early Career Network

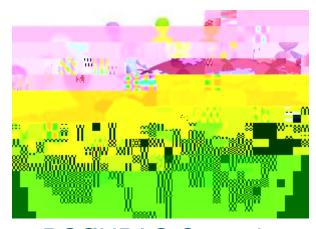












**RSQUPAC Committee** 

IUPAC Young Observers Programme





### Key dates

- ‡ 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023: One-day symposium with Korean Chemical Society, Korea
- ‡ 13-17 November 2023: LC-MS: A Hands-on Approach, Kenya
- ‡21st 1RYHPEHU && (DUO\ &DUHHU 1HWZRUN 33DWK (virtual)
- ‡ February 2024 EYCN Delegates Assembly at Burlington House
- ‡ May 2024 Commonwealth Chemistry AGM (virtual)
- ‡ 7-11 July 2024 9<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Conference, Dublin
- ‡ 30<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 PACN Congress, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- ‡ 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> -

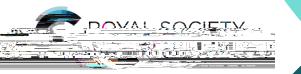


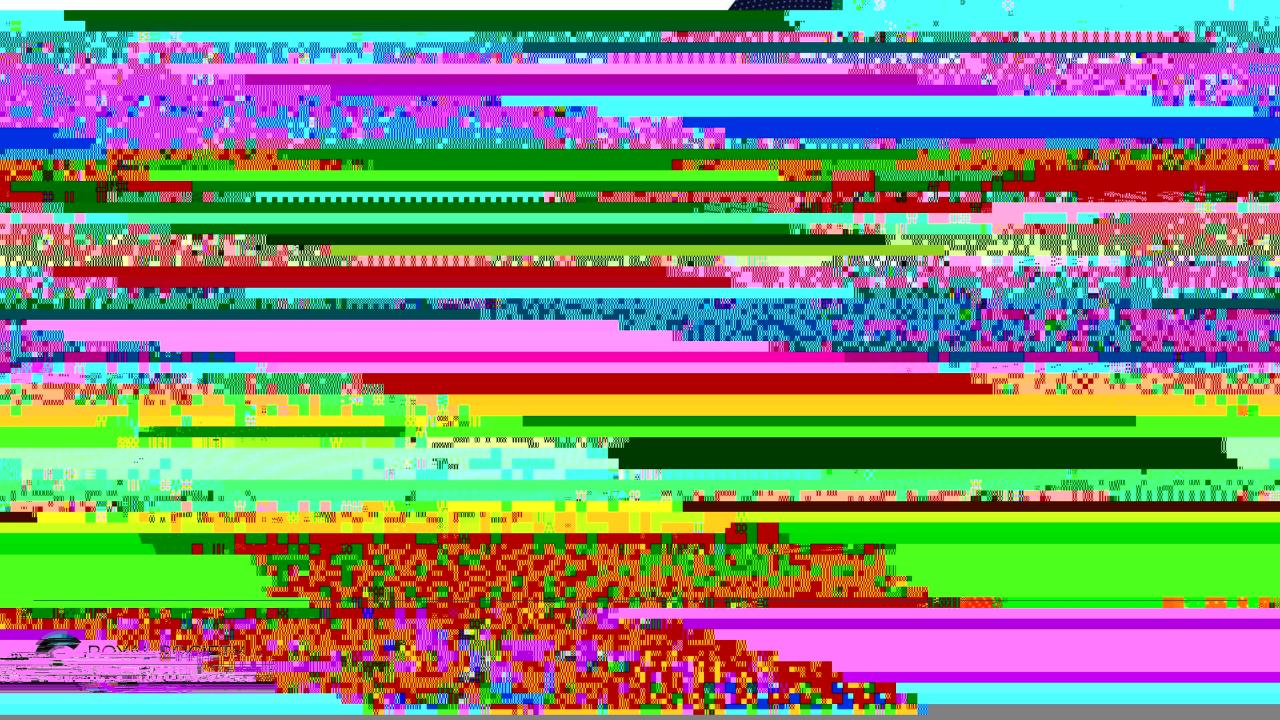






# Thank you



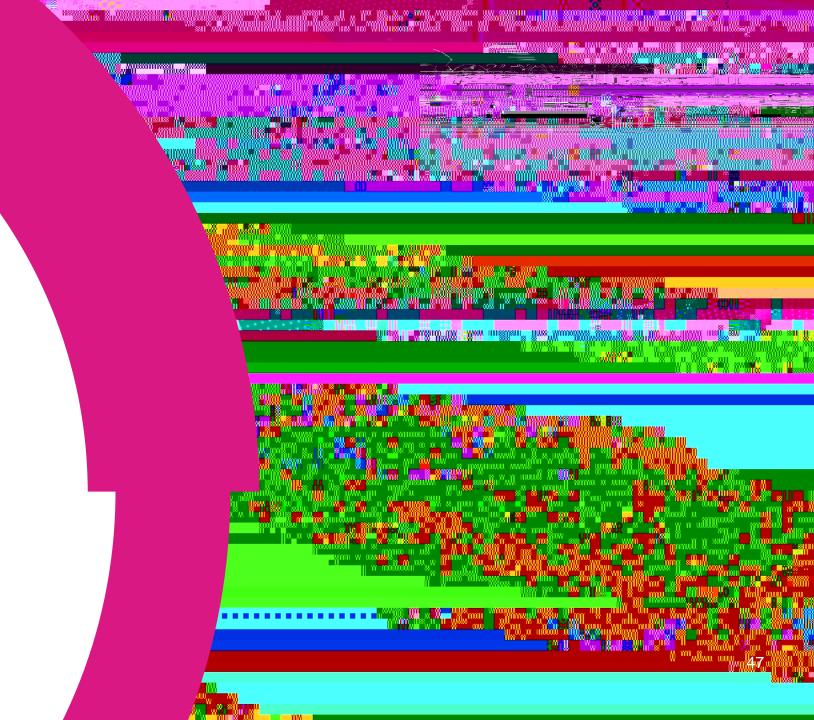


# Financial reports and annual grants

17 October 2023

Debbie Dekker

Member Networks Specialist



### Changes to financial reports and grants

- ‡ Budget requests now reviewed by a panel from Member Networks Committee (MNC)
- ‡ Budget request submitted earlier & more information required
- ‡ Stricter deadlines for budget requests and financial reports
- **‡** Trial cash book format
- #



## Budget r50.28tEsts

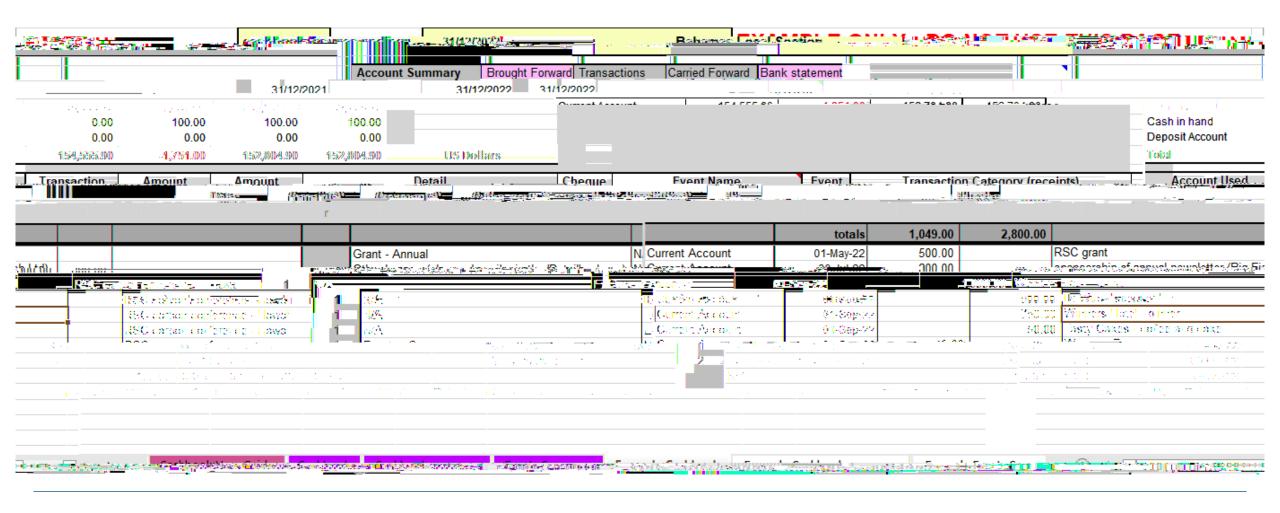


### Financial reports timeline





### Cash book trial - 2024





### Volunteer hub ±Pilot for Treasurers







