

## ANZMAG NEWS - MARCH 2024

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Dear all, Welcome to March 2024 edition of ANZMAG. I hope you have all had a great month and that you enjoy the newsletter. As usual, please feel free to send feedback and/or suggestions for anything you would like to see in future editions.

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### ANZMAGers in the News

Congratulations to Professor Martin Scanlon who has been appointed as the new Theme Leader for Medicinal Chemistry at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS). <https://www.monash.edu/pharm/about/news/news-listing/latest/monashs-parkville-campus-appoints-new-head-of-medicinal-chemistry>

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### CONFERENCES

- The 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems (ICMRBS 2024) is scheduled to be held from August 18 - 23 in Seoul, Korea. Full details at <https://www.icmrbs2024.org>
- The 5th AustralAsian Glycoscience symposium will be held 27 - 30 August in Wellington New Zealand See [https://www.ags2024.org.nz/?mc\\_cid=3cf9c1613b&mc\\_eid=ddc7241af9](https://www.ags2024.org.nz/?mc_cid=3cf9c1613b&mc_eid=ddc7241af9)

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### AWARDS AND PRIZES

- The **Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards** highlight the contribution HE makes to Australian life. There are 8 award categories. See <https://live.afr.com/higheredawards> for full information. Note that your institution may have a EOI policy for these.
- The **Financial Review Women in Leadership Awards** are also open for applications and there is an education category. <https://lists.afr.com/womeninleadership/> Closing date is 16th April.
- In South Australia the **SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards** are open for applications. See <https://www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au> for details.
- The **Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering** has awards open at a number of levels, including the Batterham Medal for Engineering Excellence. Details at - <https://www.atse.org.au/programs-and-awards/awards/>
- The **Royal Australian Chemical Institute National Awards** have opened for 2024 nominations at all career levels. See [https://www.raci.org.au/RACI/Web/Awards/National\\_Awards.aspx](https://www.raci.org.au/RACI/Web/Awards/National_Awards.aspx) for full list.
- The **Tall Poppy Awards** from the Australian Institute of Policy and Science for ECRs are open for applications and will close on 22nd April 24. See <https://aips.net.au/2024-young-tall-poppy-awards-2/>
- The **VinFuture Prize** recognises breakthroughs across all fields of science, technology and engineering that have already delivered impact or show the potential to deliver impact. See <https://vinfutureprize.org/vinfuture-prize-nomination/>

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## FAMELAB

- The **2024 FameLab** science communication training program and competition is open for applications for early career scientists. This is the largest public-facing science communication training program and competition in the world. At this stage to enter people need to make a three-minute video of their work but the deadline is **14th April**. See <https://www.fwam.com.au/the-foundation-s-impact/education-learning-and-outreach/famelab-apply>

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## JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- The University of Melbourne is currently recruiting a number of Professors/Associate Professor positions in the Faculty of Science see <https://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/en/job/916297/associate-professorprofessor-faculty-of-science>
- Melbourne Uni is also looking for a lecturer in Physical Chemistry. See <https://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/en/job/916680/lecturer-in-physical-chemistry>
- The University of Sydney is advertising several education focussed roles across the University, including in Science. See <https://www.sydney.edu.au/about-us/careers-at-sydney/academic-careers/sydney-horizon-educators-opportunity.html> and click through to the posts in the Science faculty.

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## PAPER OF THE MONTH

This month's Paper of the Month is caught my eye as being an interesting approach. The title is **Noncontact In Situ Multidiagnostic NMR/Dielectric Spectroscopy** by Morais *et al.* The main idea of the paper is that introduction of a dielectric material in a NMR probe head modifies the frequency response of the probe circuit, this detuning is corrected for by tuning and matching the probe head prior to a measurement. The authors noted that the magnitude of the correction, "the dielectric shift", provides direct access to the dielectric properties of the sample meaning that NMR spectrometers can potentially perform both dielectric and NMR spectroscopy at the same time. The authors go on to test this on methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, 1-pentanol, and 1-octanol using a commercial cross-polarization magic angle spinning (CPMAS) NMR probe head. The results were found to match the literature data collected by standard dielectric spectroscopy techniques. The method was also applied to investigate the solvent-surface interactions of water confined in the micropores of a zeolite with a Si/Al ratio of 11.5. In the micropores, water adsorbs to Bronsted acid and defect sites which results in a decreased dielectric permittivity picked up by the new NMR probe method. You can read all about it at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.analchem.3c03007>

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## STORIES FROM THE WEB

- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-45460-3> There isn't much (any) EPR news this month (or at least none that I was aware of. so I thought I would highlight this paper on the use of EPR as a tool to determine the sodium charge storage mechanism of hard carbon.
- <https://www.itnonline.com/content/imagingu-introduces-new-course-mri-simulation-students-and-technologists> - Details of a new course using MRI Simulation to teach. See also <https://scanlabmr.com/scanlabmr/>
- <https://www.wired.com/story/science-has-discovered-how-to-make-perfect-gin/> A story on the use of NMR to study gin (yes someone got that past the funding board). I think it slightly exaggerates the findings but interesting non the less.