

IOP | Institute of Physics Women in Physics Group

Newsletter 22

Spring 23

News from the Chair

Hello and welcome to the Women in Physics Group newsletter. We have had a good year in the WIPG, and the events that we have held are summarised here. In the past year, we have looked at having events away from just IOP HQ, and we had a really successful event in Edinburgh for the Jocelyn Bell Burnell Award and Prize ceremony. In the last few years this has been online only, and before that was always held in London, so holding it in Scotland, with the IOP Scotland team hosting us in the Royal Society building was a real treat, and we will be continuing to hold some events outside London to make sure we can get as much participation as possible.

The events we've had can only go ahead with volunteers putting in their time and effort, so a big thanks must go to the WIPG Committee and the IOP organising teams who have really put the effort in to make sure we have good, well-attended events.

Last year we had a few of our committee whose terms came to an end, so a particular thanks must go to Eva Philippaki, Katren Bishop, Heather Young and Katherine Kirk who have run some of our events in the past and will be missed from the group. We welcomed some new people in also, Juna Sathian, Tracey Berry, Carly Muldoon, Terri Jackson and Jannat Khan so hope that they feel welcomed into the group and are already contributing to the events which are being organised.

Dawn

WIPG Contacts and social media

Chair

Miss Dawn Watson, CPhys FInstP

Secretary

Dr Josie Coltman, CPhys MInstP

Treasurer

Dr Tracey Berry, MInstP



Jocelyn Bell Burnell Award Ceremony and Winner 2022

By Josie Coltman (Secretary of the IOP Women in Physics Group committee).

The Jocelyn Bell Burnell Award is an IOP Bronze Award for women at the start of their careers who have made a substantial contribution to physics and who support and encourage others in the field. The prize is £1,000 and the winner also receives a bronze medal and a certificate. This award originally started as an early career group prize called the Very Early Career Female Physicist of the Year back in 2007 before being renamed the Jocelyn Bell Burnell Award and becoming part of the IOP Bronze awards in 2016. The award winner is announced each year as part of a ceremony organised by the IOP Women in Physics Group committee, which includes presentations from the finalists as well as usually a talk from another speaker.

Last year's event was on 12th October 2022 and was held at the Royal Society of Edinburgh with both the IOP Women in Physics Group and IOP Scotland having organised it. The finalists were Amy Smith, Leanne Durkan and Charlotte Avery. The event included a presentation by one of the finalists, as well as the announcement of the 2022 winner. Only Amy Smith was able to attend the ceremony where she gave a talk on being a physics education researcher whose novel work on sense of belonging in physics is revolutionising how social science methodologies can be used to improve physics education in the UK.



Amy was part of a panel discussion session where audience members were able to ask questions and hear about current physics research and routes into physics-related careers. The panellists included Katherine Brown (a Systems Engineer from Leonardo UK), Beth Fitzpatrick (a Systems Engineer from Atkins) and Kate Macdonald (a Patent Attorney from Capella IP) as well as Amy Smith.



The event was attended by several Scottish schools with some having driven 2-3 hours to be there. The students asked some great questions and really enjoyed the event. One of the teachers gave this feedback, "Thank you again so much for having us, the girls and myself had a fantastic day, most of my S4 are now keen to continue with Higher, which is amazing."

The overall JBB Award winner was Amy Smith a PhD student from Imperial College London for exceptional contributions to physics education and efforts to reducing barriers to progression and increasing sense of belonging amongst underrepresented groups. The finalists received

a book with Amy also receiving the £1000 and Bronze Award from the IOP. Congratulations Amy!

This year's event will be in-person in Northumbria on 18th October. Further details to follow.

CUWiP 2023

By Josie Coltman (Secretary of the IOP Women in Physics Group committee) with details on CUWiP taken from the [IOP](#), [twitter](#) and [University of Liverpool](#).



The Conference for Undergraduate Women and Non-Binary Physicists UK and Ireland (CUWiP UK and Ireland) is a three-day conference bringing together undergraduates who identify as women or non-binary. The goal is to encourage

undergraduates to continue in physics by focusing on their development as a scientist and showcasing options for their educational and professional futures. This year's conference was held from 23rd-26th March in Liverpool and was hosted by the University of Liverpool Department of Physics in partnership with LJMU Astrophysics Research Institute (ARI).

115 undergraduate students visited the Central Teaching Laboratories for the conference from over 40 Universities from across England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The conference offered a safe space for women and non-binary physicists to participate in a varied schedule of tours, talks, workshops, panels and outreach activities.

The conference kicked-off with a welcome event featuring a quiz organized by the University of Liverpool's PhD students and alumni! Over three days, delegates heard from guest speakers covering a wide range of physics-related topics. The second day featured a choice of tours for the delegates to either Jodrell Bank, Daresbury Laboratory, or Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. All of the visits included opportunities to "meet the physicists" at the different sites. Workshop and discussion sessions included challenging prejudiced opinions and building confidence through science communication.

The conference also featured two panel events, one with academic staff and one with early career physicists. These provided students with a great insight into life beyond their undergraduate studies, and the range of jobs that are available to Physics graduates. There was also an opportunity to find out about delivering Physics outreach at the Physics Jamboree event with over 100 Brownies experiencing space and astrophysics activities co-delivered by staff, volunteers and the conference delegates, followed by an outreach talk, 'All aboard! Rocket to Mars' by Dr Stacey Habergham-Mawson from the LJMU ARI.



Photo taken from University of Liverpool CUWiP article

A parallel poster session provided a chance for University of Liverpool PhD students to present their research to delegates. Professor Brianna Heazlewood said: “It was fabulous to see so many past and present Physics PhD students come together to help host the conference. Thank you to all of the participants, speakers, panellists, facilitators, administrators, technicians, and steering committee members for making CUWiP 2023 such an amazing conference.”.

Hannah Brown, PhD student and one of the event organisers said: “It was a great privilege to be part of the organisation team for CUWiP 2023. The atmosphere was like nothing else I’ve ever experienced before, and the support participants had for each other allowed everyone to talk openly, with understanding and without judgement.”. “The conference was a reminder that we must continue to work to address the systematic inequalities that exist within academia, in particular Physics. Thank you to the organisers, speakers, panellists and participants for everything they brought to the conference and for making it such a valuable experience.”.

Next year’s event (2024) is being hosted by the University of Limerick, Ireland. More information will be appearing [here](#) soon.

Physics Hackathon 2023

By Beth Fitzpatrick (Ordinary member of the IOP Women in Physics Group committee).

The Women in Physics Group are running several Physics Hackathon events throughout 2023 to showcase and build data skills in Physics. Working with the Elizabeth Garrett School to run a workshop in a classroom, before taking the session to an open to all event held at the IOP during the summer exhibition – a climate focused challenge will encourage research and problem solving with data.

Keep an eye out for the registration for the Summer event if you would like to join us!

Future Events

3rd May: ‘Networking with leading influencers within the physics community’ at Royal Holloway University London

Physics Hackathon: events throughout 2023

10-14th July: 8th International Conference on Women in Physics hosted by India online. Small UK team to attend. See call out from IOP.

18th October: Jocelyn Bell Burnell Award Ceremony at Northumbria University Newcastle

September 2023: Joint event with Nuclear Industry Group

2024: CUWiP at the University of Limerick, Ireland