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GREEN CHEMISTRY POSTGRADUATE SUMMER SCHOOL ONLINE  
6-10 July 2020  
Venice, Italy  
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**After the end of the Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School, the Green Sciences for Sustainable Development Foundation asked students to give their feedback on the School (the deadline was just 4 days later).  
Below are some significant selected replies**

**For privacy reasons, we just included the names and countries of the applicants.  
The authors with full name and institution already gave their consent.**

Intinen from Tunisia

“I had great pleasure to assist for the first time the Summer School: during the days, I got a lot of information through great presentations of speakers and posters, it was really interesting and wonderful, and I am very fascinated by this great event.”

Mitra Satapathy from India, Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai

“It was a great honour to be one among the selected participants to attend IUPAC Venice Summer School 2020. I would like convey my thanks to organisers of this Summer School for arranging the event smoothly. I would also like to thanks Prof. Tundo for organising the event online because this year due to COVID-19 pandemic many events get postponed to later dates. But due to good cooperation between everyone this event was successful. Also the lectures delivered by the scientists and eminent personalities in the field of Green Chemistry all over the world was too good. Great things were learnt by me in this Summer School which will be helpful for me in further improvement of my professional career. I would love to visit Ca Foscari University of Venice and meet you all in person sometimes in near future. You all did a great job. My rating and overall feedback for Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School 2020: Excellent.”

Olufunto from south Africa

“The Summer School was really knowledge based, and I learnt a lot. My. Suggestion will be that in future, opportunity should be given to ask questions from students who are presenting. That will give more room for student interaction. A hearty thanks to all the organizers of the Summer School. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate.”



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Avinash from India

“Many thanks for providing a great opportunity to participate in this Summer School on Green Chemistry which was held online for the first time since its inception. The lectures were very insightful and helped me to learn new things in the field of Green Chemistry apart from my research interests. Special thanks to the hard work of the organising team in arranging lectures online without any interruption and flaws. The video and sound quality was very good and the programme was always in schedule without any delays. I really would like to meet Prof. Pietro and his team in the next edition of Summer School which I probably assume to be held offline so that students can have one to one interaction and networking sessions with eminent speakers.”

Caterina from Italy

“I also would like to thank the organizers for this amazing school with very interesting lectures. The only think I would suggest, if the school will be held online again in the future, is to insert some "coffee breaks" since the schedule is very busy.”

Lourdes from Paraguay

“My impressions of this Summer School is that it was very useful to me, all the information that I received was very helpful for my future research. Also, I am happy to have the opportunity to stay in contact with the organizers and panelists that would be important to make future collaborations. I just want to thank all of you.”

Silviu from Australia

“I really enjoyed the Summer School. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I witnessed some truly remarkable research. Regarding the fact that it was online (note: the reasons for this are completely understandable): while students saved a lot flight\accommodation money, it is at a disadvantage to students who would have had these expenses covered by their university anyway. However, I understand that this is outside your control.

During the student poster presentation, I think it would have been better if the students presenting were given control to pan around their poster while they talked.

One of the major things that I think was missing was a dedicated medium to allow students to connect and get to know each other (i.e. secondary zoom meetings with a 10-15 participants limit each, where everyone could turn their microphone and video on and socialise).

Besides the lunch break (which should have been at least 1h), there should have been morning and afternoon ‘tea-breaks’ of 30 min each. (the mentioned secondary zoom meetings could take place during the lunch and tea-breaks).



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Note (if the school wasn't online): I didn't check how the programme looked last year but lunch breaks of minimum 2h allow participants to do a bit of site-seeing during the day (starting the days at 8AM instead of 9AM could accommodate for this). Note: students usually are more inclined to use their evenings going out for drinks and eating rather than site-seeing.

When such the school is held online, (thus no real accommodation and transport/flight expenses involved) consider doubling the duration of the conference but with shorter days (for example, instead of 8h/day for 1 week, make it 4h/day for 2 weeks). This would have many advantages: -fewer participants would have to be awake during 'crazy' hours. (or at least for a shorter amount of time per day)

-participants would have some spare time to take care of other non-Summer School related stuff; -4h/day of zoom meetings is a lot less tiring than 8h/day

I noticed some guest presenters had internet issues. 15-30 min or so before their turn to present, their audio/internet quality could be checked by one of the organisers in a separate zoom meeting.

I noticed one of the criteria for participating in the Summer School was '*not have participated in a previous Summer School of Green Chemistry*'. However, from what I heard from the organisers during the zoom meetings, this doesn't seem to be correct.

But if it is true, consider making an exception for students who only participated in an online SSGC. This would allow them the chance to visit Venice.

Good luck with future summer schools!"

Silvia from Spain

"Being part of this school has been a great experience for me. I have learned new approaches that will help me in my future career. I have also (virtually) met important scientists worldwide, which has been a true honour, and I am very proud of this opportunity. Knowing what they are doing and how they think has been truly amazing. Despite the technical issues I had due to the Wi-Fi signal, I am glad this school was online; otherwise I could not afford to attend. For the next school, I suggest that students can also do oral communication instead of poster. Congratulations to all the members of the organization because everything was well structured, almost without setbacks, and it has been a total success."

Melissa from Italy

"With this message I would like to thank you for the organization of the Summer School. It was a pleasure for me to participate and to discuss about different topics. This school helped me to open my mind toward other horizons."



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Edward from South Africa

“The programme has been great, however I would also like to suggest that for future editions, if they're to be conducted online, participants should be allowed to present from their power point slides instead of the posters we designed. And perhaps during the breaks a slide video of non-presenting participants can be played on a timed slideshow.”

Yaxuan from China P.R.

“My impression is that the Summer School is a very exciting experience and some great reports and posters gave me the profound inspiration for my future study.”

Fan-Hsuan from Netherlands

“I would recommend not to hold the Summer School online again, because unstable internet problems kept happened and the posters were not easy to see on zoom. Most of the time, I enjoyed the courses from various Green Chemistry aspects.”

Xutao from China P.R.

“First of all, please allow me to congratulate the great success achieved in the 2020 Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry! I'm very proud to have the opportunity to attend this Summer School by remote. I will spare no effort to turn whatever inspirations and ideas I learned here into the power that pushes me forward into the unknown.

With regard to the impressions and suggestions, I'm surprised by the wonderful organization of the conference as well as the high quality for both lectures and posters. However, I believe the summer school would be better if three minor problems were addressed: 1. Lack of brief introductions for each session and teacher in the programme list (theme, title, affinity, abstract, etc.); 2. Low-resolution and unclear display of posters (pdf) in the poster sessions; 3. Unstable connection and technical problems in voice now and then.

Thank you for your kind feedback request. Outweighed the defects, the summer school is very interesting and inspiring. I'm very excited to meet Prof. Buxing Han and Prof. Paul Anastas in the courses!”

Farai from South Africa

“I find this summer school very important, and highly informative. What I like most is the virtual presentation style. It gives me full access to the presentation at minimal or no cost unlike if I was



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to travel to attend physically. I am in South Africa and travel grants do not come so easily. This virtual school eliminated multitudes of factors that would have completely cut me out from being part of this program and august virtual gathering. If it was all up to me Covid or no Covid, I would keep this school a virtual gathering and will ensure attendance of participants from economically challenged backgrounds like me. I am having the opportunity of a lifetime. Presentations by Profs Poliakoff, Triantafyllidis, and many others touched deep to the bottom of my line of work in alternative sources of energy using biomass and solar. It is my prayer that at the end of the school, we will receive a link to access all the presentations we had during the course of this 2020 Summer school. I greatly applaud all the honorable professors who prepared splendid presentations, pregnant with valuable and treasurable information that made a great impact on me and opened more perspectives in my field of work that will bring huge difference in my professional career.

I would like to be a permanent member of this Summer School. Please share with me information about the school and its future engagements. I will ensure that the impact of the school will be reflected in my future endeavours I will share with the Summer school. I hope to collaborate with the great academics I had the honour to meet and know through their presentations in the Summer School in my current and future work.”

Adama from South Africa

“Thank you once again for the opportunity of being among the participants and my congratulations to all of you and all the participants who presented their works. The remarks I can make are as follows: if possible, improve the sharing connection and improve the display of posters: we heard the words, but we did not see well what is on the posters. If possible, also increase the time of presentation of the posters. Please accept my greetings and also my sincere congratulations for this initiative and to have had the idea to organize this summer school, which was a great opportunity to exchange ideas for a collaboration between the humanity in research, specially at this time of crisis due to the covid-19. May God protect us and the entire world population against this pandemic.”

Yetar from Azerbaijan

“In advance, I'm very glad you give me an opportunity to participate in this Summer School, because it is very important for my career and I make a chance to not only share my research work but also gain important and useful knowledge, opinion, and suggestions from professors. All research work presented these days were very informative and valuable. Thanks to Pietro Tundo and other professors for his valuable opinions and awesome presentations. Likewise, thanks to Peter Licence, Zhimin Liu for their important opinions and suggestions about Ionic liquids. Unfortunately, we missed our chance to visit Venice (because I never have been Italy and really wanted to visit Venice and see historical places with my bare eyes and get much more information about Italian tradition closely), but I enjoy taking part in this online summer school. I'll miss the



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whole of you. I will try to take part in the Green Chemistry Summer School next year again. On the other hand, I would like to apply for a research or fellowship program in Italy. So, this Summer School gave me a chance to get more information about research, fellowship programs, and other projects.”

Segun Festus from Nigeria

“Thank you all for giving us this opportunity. My suggestion is that we can look forward to a day to meet physically and rub minds together. We can also network together and help those are in developing countries to work together. Thank you.”

Weiqiang from China P.R.

“Thank you very much for the Summer School you organized and for giving me the opportunity to participate. This meeting was very successful. I hope that more researchers can participate.”

Hong-Ru from China P.R.

“The Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry was successful. The lectures given by the professors were impressive and interesting. My suggestion is that in the poster session, the poster can be replaced by PPT slides since the window is limited and the figures, schemes and words can hardly be seen clearly. Thank you for your efforts!”

Doudou from China P.R.

“This summer school has benefited me a lot, and it has opened my mind and pushed me to do more research in the future.”

Mohamed from Morocco

“When I got to know about Green Chemistry Summer School in Venice, I was passionate to apply for two reasons: the first, I am fascinated by chemistry, and the second I had so much desire to visit Venice. Unhappily, the COVID19 crisis prevented my second wish, but the first was accomplished. It was a very good experience, and I acquired a lot of knowledge; I warmly thank the Scientific Committee and send my greatest gratitude to the Organizing Committee. An experience worth replaying.”



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Li-Qi from China P.R.

“It was my honor to take part in the IUPAC Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry. Thank you for all the hard works done by the organizing committee before and during the Summer School program. I also would like to thank you for selecting me to attend the course, among all the applications received. I can learn the research in different fields and open my horizons through this course. Besides, it has motivated me to continue with my research career.”

He from China P.R.

“First of all, thank you a lot for the Summer School, where I learnt a lot about Green Chemistry. I was very inspired and I will introduce the concept of Green Chemistry to my future research. I think the Postgraduate Summer School was excellent. However, it's a pity that this can only be held online due to the epidemic. And there were some little problems on the online meetings, such as signal loss and unclear poster, but I think we can defeat the COVID-19 in the near future.”

Crina from Moldavia

“This was an amazing Summer School! I was impressed by the interesting lessons and by the way the professors presented them to us. It was a big opportunity to get in touch with world-class researchers/professors and with young scientists like me, as well to see the main research directions related to Green Chemistry. Also, I was honored to attend the dialog of the great teachers. Their advices inspired and motivated me to believe that through Green Chemistry our planet can be better. This was a great experience that now is encouraging me to continue my research in the field of ecological chemistry, because in this way I can make my contribution! Thanks to the organising committee for the hard work they have done!”

Mintu from India

“I think myself very lucky as a participant in the Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry 2020 by remote. Indeed it was completely a new experience for me and many. The time spent during this summer school was really very valuable and one of the most memorable one. Overall the lectures, poster sessions were mind blowing. All the Professors have tried their best for delivering their lectures via. remote. Of course, it would have been more interesting if we could personally meet everybody in the summer school. One more thing I like in this summer school is the photo session. Everyone was very very excited to keep a copy of their memorable summer school-2020.”



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Denis from Rwanda

“It has been a great pleasure to me to participate in this Postgraduate Green Chemistry Summer School because I have learnt new skills, knowledge and experience from all the teacher and the students’ presentation poster. It was very well organized and time oriented, so I would love to participate every year if possible because I feel that one week was not enough to hear from these teachers. And I was sick of malaria so this also challenged me somehow, but I have tried my best.”

Marco from the United Kingdom

“Thank you so much for doing such a great job at organising this edition of the Summer School. It was an excellent conference with very high-level presenters and great organisation. Also, for being a new thing by remote, all went very smoothly (despite small but inevitable technical problems).

The scientific content was impressive and worked very well for the school. I found the talks about policy etc very inspiring, something other conferences don’t have a lot, and I would be happy to see it again and maybe even more (with perhaps even more advice and inspiration for young scientists, from academic, industrial and policymaking point of views).

Despite many saying that an event in person would have been nicer (and I surely agree with them), doing it online (and with low fee) surely helped a much higher reach (most probably even I wouldn’t have been able to attend). It would be surely positive to continue in a hybrid way.

It was a bit a shame that the event was not promoted on social media, both before and during the school; especially Twitter would have helped to have good visibility in academic & industrial settings; something worth considering for the future. (Also, maybe a form/poll would help to have more specific feedback and encourage people to give it).”

Peter from Italy

“I don’t have any suggestions for improvement at the moment because I think that the school was so well organized and I learnt a lot of new things attending the school. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to participate in the school.”

Gjylje from Kosovo

“It is a great pleasure to give my feedback regarding the summer school that was held this week. I can surely say that the school was awesome and amazing. Everything was organized perfectly considering the fact that this year all of us were forced to pass through a new experience due to the Coronavirus situation. But, fortunately, the aim was reached, you managed to organize it perfectly. It was such a great experience hearing all the interesting lectures from the great



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professors around the world as well as to share our research work with all the participants of the school. It was a strong motivation for me as well as for all the students following amazing research work regarding Green Chemistry as a field with a positive impact on science, particularly human life. It was such a hard work behind this successful school from the organizing committee, professors, and all students, therefore, I think the best was reached even though it was challenging. I really enjoyed a lot this experience and I want to congratulate all of you for great dedication showed during all this time, please receive my greatest acknowledgments. As a Ph. D. student, I learned a lot of things and I got a lot of advices for moving further to my scientific career.

Thank you very much from the organizing committee for giving me the chance to be part of this school and to present my work, the talk 5 minutes was really short but it was a challenging and a nice way to learn how to clearly summarize key points of our research work.

I wish you good luck and a lot of success during Green Chemistry promote. Your activities have a huge importance in this direction.”

Katharina from Germany

“Thank you for this wonderful event! Here my feedback for the summer school:

I really enjoyed how relaxed everybody was. Even though there were some technical problems and this was the first online event we have ever had / organized. This created a very welcoming and nice atmosphere.

I did not like that the social component of the event such as meeting the other attendees and building up a network, was totally neglected. I could not even see who was with me in the meeting and who they were. Also it was not possible to chat privately via zoom or speak to each other. This is why I felt very alone and isolated when watching the lectures. I think socializing is an important aspect about a summer school or conference and should be integrated as good as possible. Maybe you could organize breakout sessions in smaller groups during the breaks, build up a social event on one evening or at least open up the chat.

I also enjoyed the variety of speakers coming from all fields of chemistry. Thanks for the nice program!”

John from the United Kingdom

“I thought the Summer School went really well. My only comment it that there could have been more breaks and opportunities for rest throughout the days, as 8 hours is a long time to spend in front of a computer with only one half hour break. Otherwise I thought it was a great event to be part of, and my thanks go to all the organising committee.”



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Moussa from South Africa

“I would like to thank everyone, especially the committee of organization, for their wonderful work during this Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry. Everything was fine and great so I don't have any comment about that but I can say it would be more wonderful if it was physically Summer School.”

Carlos from Brazil

“First of all, I would like to thank you for everything. It was an honor to assist to the 12th Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School. This event was really a great success. Every lecture was special. The topics were interesting, organised and relevant. Personally, I learned a lot with renowned experts and I had new ideas to incorporate in my research. Now I can help my Brazil with more experience, passion, enthusiasm, ideas, and friendships. As a young scientist and future educator, I will help more and more the teaching green chemistry to deaf students. I believe that Green Chemistry is for all. I would also like to thank for the poster award. I thank you so much for this recognition. I am so happy and I would like to express my gratitude. I dedicate this award to every deaf student. Moreover, this award will only motivate me to achieve more success in the future. This summer school extremely impacted my professional and academic development.”

Jerome from Rwanda

“It was a great pleasure to meet you by zoom, you had organized everything well with an amazing experienced team online, you have international professional experienced professors I couldn't imagine. I'm very excited because all of this and I hope that we meet face to face as covid19 will end. Please keep sharing with us your great experiences about Green Chemistry, as I had done environmental chemistry studies in my University and it's very important for us as one world for sustainable development and I need your collaboration, so let's work together as one humanity for keeping environmental health, greener and clearer. Thank you very much.”

Siting from Canada

“I sincerely appreciate the Green Chemistry Summer School, and I am more than happy to provide feedback. I am deeply impressed by the variety of topics introduced and covered in the Summer School. In contrast to other academic conferences that preliminary focus on presenting academic findings, the Summer School showed an all-around platform for attendees to get in touch with cutting-edge policy-makers, industry leaders, academic researchers, NGOs, and educators. It was such a precious opportunity to engage in the full aspects of the Green Chemistry world and beyond!



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Moreover, I sincerely appreciate the way that all the talks were presented. In contrast to many academic conferences where conversations require particular expertise to understand, the Summer School arranged the talks in a way that fully demonstrated the spirit of "School." The talks were given in a friendly way that had sufficient introduction to let the attendees understand and learn the topics, as well as in-depth enough to let attendees get inspired by the latest researches and future insights. The Summer School provided a perfect balance at being inclusive and advanced.

I would like to praise the geographical diversity of the speakers and the attendees furthermore. As a Ph.D. student in North America, I often find the conferences in North America have limited diversity in terms of geographical presentations. In the Summer School, I was delighted to hear many amazing talks from teachers and attendees from all over the world. Although the pandemics made the Summer School online, the fact that it was online brought limitlessly opportunities to engage teachers and attendees from across the globe. In the future, when the Summer School can be held in Venice again, I wish the organization can do a combination of online seminars and in-person seminars to facilitate the teachers maximumly.

I would like to thank everyone who organized the Green Chemistry Summer School. The organization was amazing, and I enjoyed every second of the Summer School. Thank you very much!"

Igor Tadeu da Cunha from Brazil, Queen's University, Canada

"I had a great time during the Summer School, the talks were very diverse and interesting, which was something that made the experience worthwhile. Considering the online format, and all the restrictions that this imposes, the Summer School was very nice and enjoyable. Thanks for putting it together and for giving the opportunity to participate. All the best."

Tafadzwa Precious Mabate from the University of Johannesburg (APK) South Africa

"The Summer School was educative and interesting. Thank you so much for the opportunity. I am very happy with the runnings of the programme and currently do not have any additions."

Neena from India

"I congratulate the entire team of Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry 2020 for the great success of this Summer School. All the scholarly speakers of different technical sessions enlightened us with crisp and informative knowledge. Summer school was organised so well which reflects good leadership, management and team spirit. Thank you very much for all the wonderful informative sessions. Thanks a million."



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Dolgormaa from Mongolia

“First of all, I would like to thank organizing committee, professors and participants for motivational lectures and hard work. As a young scientist it was great experience to learn various kind of Green Chemistry studies and green energy process for our future. Although COVID situation makes difficult boundaries between us, this online Summer School showed that science has no boundary! One day I will definitely visit Ca' Foscari University, thank you again.”

Micaela from Argentina

“First of all, thank all of you again. We as students could see your incredible effort in the organization. The summer school was excellent!

Some comments and suggestions for the next Summer Schools:

1. The posters, as you also observed in the poster sessions, could not be appreciated well and although we had them on the website, I spent too much time searching the name of the speaker and downloading them. I think it would be better if you find a way to show the poster in the moment that the person is speaking. (May be horizontally instead of vertically).
2. I think a short break between lectures is needed. For example, 10 minutes break in the morning and 10 in the afternoon so our brains will be more focused on the next lectures.”

Gabriela from Argentina

“First of all, I am really glad the Organizing Committee let me participate in this Summer School Edition. I want to congratulate you all because you could make it work really well despite the difficulties of holding the Summer School online. Although for you it was a big effort, this online edition was the only way I could attend. The talks were very inspiring and covered many important topics of Green Chemistry. Also, I want to thank you for giving us, the students, the possibility of presenting our results.

I could assist to all the lectures. However, I think it was a really good idea to rec the lectures and submit them on the online platform in case someone had any problem with their internet connection or due to the time zone. If you decide to organize a future online edition, I would only recommend having some breaks every 2 lectures, just to go to the toilet, prepare a coffee or to clear our minds for 5-10 minutes.”



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Aneta from Poland

“The Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry gave me an opportunity to increase my knowledge in this topic. Even though, I have not worked in green chemistry topics, lectures were very interesting and properly prepared, so I was able to understand and learn a lot. Moreover, despite the current epidemiological situation and as a result online form of Summer School, preparation of discussion part and poster session was great. Also, I think that lectures from Education part was very interesting and bring me some new ideas. Due to the fact that I was trying to get as much knowledge as I can, I found one impediment. It was the lack of breaks, because in my opinion it is very hard to be focus for 8 hours with only one break.

To sum up, I am happy that I took part in this School and hope that I will use knowledge, which I obtained, in the work, which I will be doing.”

Maryna from Ukraine

“I want to express my gratitude for a well-organized remote summer school. Sincerely hope to meet all of you next year.”

Amy-Louise from the United Kingdom

“Thanks so much for organising the summer school – it was great to be able to attend virtually. I thought most of the talks were very interesting and most were pretty engaging.

My main comments/feedback on how the course were run is that it was a lot of online content each day with few breaks – it was very hard to concentrate on all the webinars. If the course were to be run online again in the future, it would be good if some more breaks were built in to the schedule – or a slightly lower number of webinars per day. I think the session of 2 or 3 webinars in a row were okay, but then going straight onto the next set or having a poster session immediately afterwards made it hard to concentrate on all the lectures as much as one may be able to have done in person. Secondly, it would have been good to know what the themes of each of the session were in the programme, but this is not a big deal.”

Cyprien from France

“For me this Summer School was a great experience, with both technical, human and ethical aspects behind the concept of Green Chemistry. So thank you to all the organizers for this very inspiring week. The only downside that I can found was the fact that there was no short breaks between the presentations, it was a bit hard to stay focus all day long.”



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Consolée from Rwanda

“First of all thank you very much for everything you have done. Summer school was excellent, time management followed rigorously which made calendar very strong than a face to face summer school.”

Jiaqi from China P.R.

“I hope that next time the author can share the poster through his own computer in the display of poster, which is more conducive to the display of content.”

Suneel from Poland

“First, many thanks for the information. I really enjoyed the summer school 2020 and learn a lot of information about green chemistry and their applications in real life. Moreover, I have so much attracted to all the lectures was given by the different fields of professors. Despite that, I am so thankful to you for giving this wonderful opportunity to take part in this summer school. It is one of the memorable events for every chemist!”

Faith from South Africa

“I would like to thank you so much for the giving me the opportunity to attend the online green chemistry summer school 2020. The lecture talks from the various speakers were diverse and really enlightening. I especially loved the questions and answers sessions. One that particularly stood out for me, was the one with Prof. Paul Anastas, Prof. Klaus Kümmeler and Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski. The discussion took a different turn among the speakers in that session, it was motivational, inspirational most importantly reminding us of why we are doing what we are doing as chemists.

Kudos to the organizers and moderators, for sticking it out even when there were technical sound glitches. Probably in the future everyone the teachers included, must have an equipment check like the students did before the event.

I would have also loved to see some work about the use of alternative technologies such as continuous flow processing for chemical synthesis from the participants. However, it was great to hear Prof. Oliver Kappe speak about flow chemistry synthesis in his excellent talk.

Alternative and enabling technologies also have a role in improving chemistry and driving towards green and sustainable chemical production.”



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