

OSCAR

NEWSLETTER 001

*Oxford Suzhou Centre for
Advanced Research*

牛津大学高等研究院（苏州）



WELCOME MESSAGE



Prof Zhanfeng Cui

Founding Director of OSCAR
Donald Pollock Professor of Chemical
Engineering
Director, CRMI Technology Centre
University of Oxford

“OSCAR offers an exciting new frontier for the University of Oxford to develop and showcase its research excellence in physical and engineering sciences, with a dedicated Centre in a unique, globally-focused environment.

Situating laboratories in the impressive Suzhou Industrial Park will enable Oxford academics to strengthen existing partnerships and form new links with the myriad academics and companies based in the area, benefitting

their research programmes and advancing technologies closer to market. Through these partnerships, OSCAR can develop solutions that will help to address important challenges faced not only by the UK and China, but across the globe.

By locating a significant body of research activity in Suzhou, OSCAR will also provide an important window for citizens of South East Asia to better understand the true nature of Oxford’s research mission.”

“The operation team of OSCAR will focus on the development and delivery of administrative support for the academics from the University of Oxford and elsewhere, to set an example of quality, efficiency, reliability and integrity. We will support researchers from other overseas and Chinese research institutions through collaboration and partnership and open doors to local industrial researchers.

It is our hope that you enjoy reading this first issue of our monthly newsletter which serves to increase the publicity and outreach of OSCAR’s aims and activities.”

Leah He

General Manager
OSCAR





OSCAR Building in Suzhou Industrial Park



Landscape of Suzhou Industrial Park

What is OSCAR

The Oxford Suzhou Centre for Advanced Research (OSCAR) will be the University of Oxford's first overseas centre for physical science and engineering research, primarily expanding on activities from across the University's Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division. OSCAR was established initially with a grant from Suzhou Industrial Park, where many strategic benefits are offered to Oxford's research mission

through access to state-of-the-art facilities, a research environment enriched by numerous universities and research institutions, and a substantial industrial base.

Initial research programmes will be led by groups from the Oxford departments of Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Materials, with applications ranging from health informatics, regenerative medicine and biomedical imaging techniques to environmental remediation, advanced materials and electronic devices, as well as quantitative finance.



Motivation

Located in China, and more specifically SIP, OSCAR offers many strategic benefits to Oxford's research mission through access to state-of-the-art facilities, a research environment enriched by numerous universities and Chinese research institutes, and a substantial industrial base including more than 90 Fortune 500 companies as well as many hundreds of SMEs.

OSCAR will benefit Oxford via:

Proximity to industry and Chinese science and technology institutes

- OSCAR offers an opportunity to pursue research in a setting where scientific possibilities or potential routes to application are not available in the UK. For example, work on plastic electronics will benefit from proximity to major display screen manufacturers in the Far East (a sector with only one UK company);



Oscar building has 20000 square meters lab and office space across nine floors.

- Closer working with industry will lead to faster adaption of new research into commercially available technologies, accelerating the impact of our research;
- Researchers will be in a position to collaborate more closely with their Chinese partners, growing Oxford's relationship with universities, research institutes and high-tech enterprises in China.
- SIP also offers access to state-of-the-art facilities (e.g. in the adjacent Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Nano-Tech and Nano-Bionics)

Access to talented researchers

- OSCAR provides a vehicle for talented Chinese researchers to return to China whilst continuing their research in collaboration with Oxford-based labs, retaining the skills they developed during their doctoral study;
- A well-resourced Centre in China will strengthen our position to attract the top quality students and postdoctoral researchers to work on Oxford-led research projects.

OSCAR also offers a window in South East Asia through which Oxford can better showcase its true nature, addressing the perception that many have of Oxford simply producing politicians - OSCAR will demonstrate Oxford's world-leading position in scientific research and innovation. In the longer term, OSCAR will seek to support academics in medical sciences, the humanities, and social sciences in advancing research programmes in China.

Research

Initial research programmes will be led by groups from the Oxford University departments of Engineering Science, Physics, Chemistry and Materials, with applications ranging from health informatics, tissue engineering and biomedical imaging to environmental remediation, advanced materials and electronic devices. Lead Principle Investigators (PI) will spend around two months of each academic year in OSCAR.



Initial research activities are clustered across four themes by the following first wave of PIs:

Biomedical Engineering and Healthcare



David Clifton
Associate Professor of
Engineering Science

Group Leader -
Computational Health
Informatics (CHI)
Laboratory



Ronald Roy
Professor of Mechanical
Engineering

Associate Head of
Department (research) in
the Dept. of Engineering
Science



Zhanfeng Cui
Donald Pollock Professor
of Chemical Engineering

Director, CRMI
Technology Centre



Cathy Ye
Associate Professor in
Engineering Science

Deputy Director of CRMI
Technology Centre

Environment and Biotechnology



Ian Thompson
Professor of
Engineering Science



Wei Huang
Associate Professor of
Engineering Science



Luet Wong
Associate Professor of
Inorganic Chemistry



Jeremy Robertson
Professor of Organic
Chemistry

Nanotechnology and Functional Materials



Paul Stavrinou
Professor of Physics



Donal Bradley
Professor of
Engineering Science
and Physics

Head of the Division of
Mathematical, Physical
and Life Sciences



Jamie Warner
Professor of Materials



Mark Moloney
Professor of Chemistry

Milestones

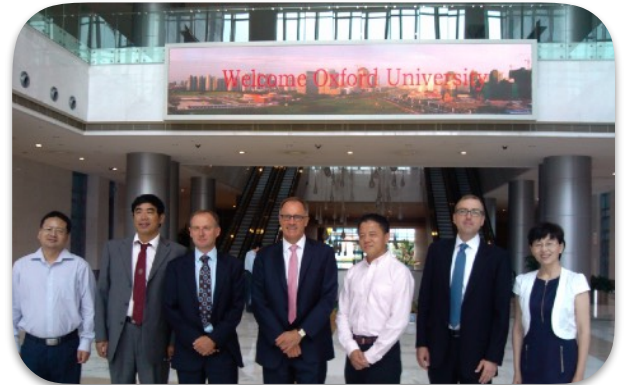
The development of OSCAR, initiated in 2011 by Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division and Suzhou Industrial Park Administrative Committee, is credited to the hard work, faith, patience and trust from leaders and staff members of both parties. The following selected pictures record the memorable moments.

April 2013



MOU signing in Beijing, Prof. Andrew Hamilton, Vice Chancellor (2009-2016) and Mr. Yang Zhiping, Chairman of SIP (2008-2017)

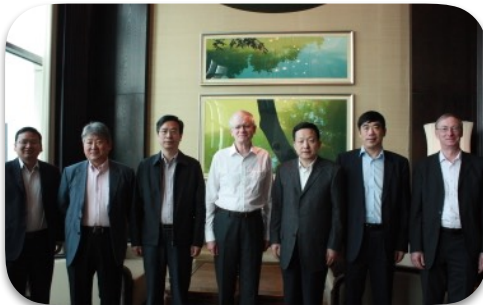
Sept 2013



Visit to SIP led by Prof. Alex Halliday (L4), MPLS Division Head (2011-2014) and Prof. Patrick Grant (L3), MPLS Division Deputy Head (2011-2014)

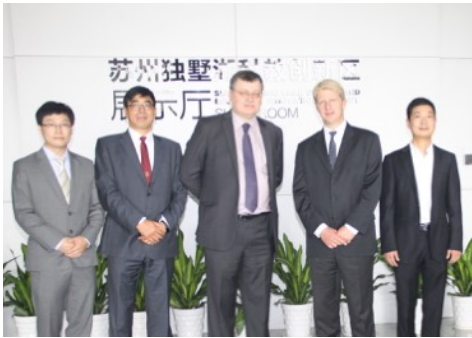
April 2015

Head of Terms Signing in SIP, Prof. Richard Darton (L4), former Head of Department of Engineering Science met with Mr. Zhou Naixiang (R3), Mayor of Suzhou

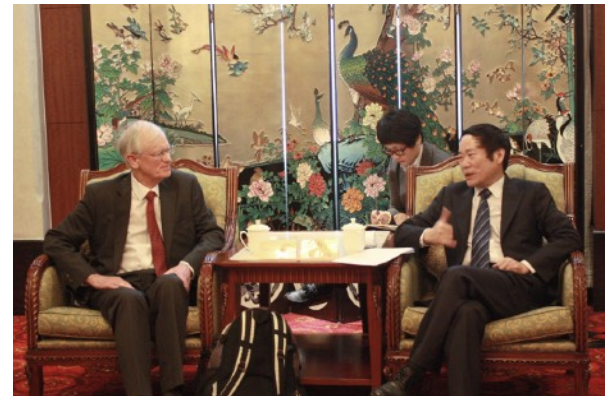


April 2015

Dec 2016



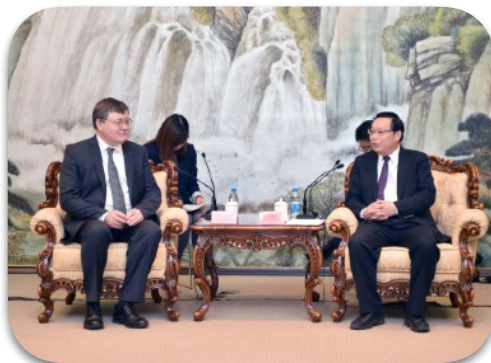
Prof. Donal Bradley (L3), MPLS Division Head (2015-present) briefed the OSCAR development progress to Mr. Jo Johnson (R2), UK Secretary of State for Universities and Science in SIP in September 2016



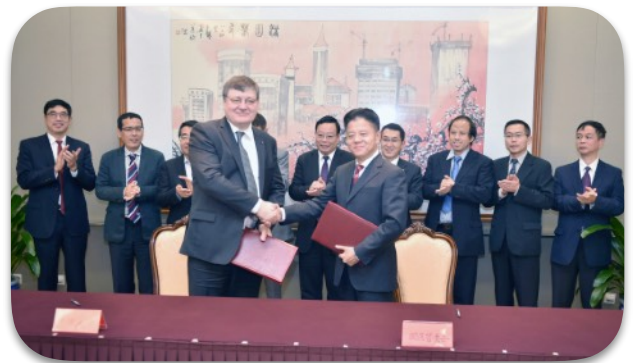
Meeting in Nanjing, Prof. Richard Darton and Mr. Xu Nanping, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province (2015)

Dec 2016

Dec 2016 meeting in SIP, Prof. Donal Bradley met with Mr. Xu Huimin, Party Secretary of SIP



Dec 2016



Dec 2016 Agreement signing in SIP, Prof. Donal Bradley and Mr. Yang Zhiping

Progress

Research

The first wave of Principle Investigators (PI) will begin to build their research teams in Suzhou to conduct research activities starting from October, 2017 by accessing the existing labs and equipments in Suzhou.

The photo shows a recent visit to Chinese Academy of Sciences Suzhou Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Technology by Prof. David Clifton's research team.



Building



The fit-out of the nine-floor building is scheduled to be completed by late 2018.

The photo shows the initial concept design of the OSCAR building lobby.

Collaboration



OSCAR has been growing its collaborative partnership with local universities, research institutes, and high-tech enterprises in China.

The photo shows Prof. Zhanfeng Cui's recent meeting with Prof. Katherine Belov, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of University of Sydney at The University of Sydney Centre in China (in SIP).

Recruitment

OSCAR is now recruiting staff members for administrative and management roles. First wave of recruitment includes posts for: Head of Building Services and Facilities, Office Manager, Finance Manager, Executive Assistant to Director. Check the details of job description and selection criteria at our website: <https://oscar.web.ox.ac.uk/jobs>.



Legal Status

OSCAR is registered as a wholly foreign owned enterprise (WFOE), which a limited liability company wholly owned by the University of Oxford.

Contact us



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Oxford



Suzhou

OSCAR Website

The pdf version of OSCAR newsletter is also available at our website.

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Suzhou Industrial Park
SIP offers Oxford academics access to state-of-the-art facilities, Chinese academics and a substantial company base