Contact us

Address: Building A, 388 Ruoshui Road, Suzhou Industrial Park, Jiangsu, P.R. China, 215123 Tel: 0086-512-62869088 Email : info@oxford-oscar.cn Website : https://oscar.web.ox.ac.uk/

联系我们

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地址:中国江苏省苏州工业园区若水路 388号A幢(215123) 电话:0086-512-62869088 电邮:info@oxford-oscar.cn 官网:https://oscar.web.ox.ac.uk/ 微信公众号:牛津大学高等研究院(苏州)



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Prof. Donal Bradley giving a keynote speech

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OSCAR at Nature Conference on Flexible Electronics 2018 The Nature Conference on Flexible Electronics – Vision of a Flexible Future (NCFE 2018) was held in Xi'an China from October 12 to 14. OSCAR Principal Investigator Prof. Donal Bradley was invited to give a keynote speech. OSCAR Founding Director Prof. Zhanfeng Cui and OSCAR senior research scientist Dr. Jingsong Huang also attended the conference.

NCFE 2018 was hosted by Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) and Nature Research. Prof. Wei Huang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Deputy President & Provost of NPU, delivered a welcome speech. The aim of this conference is to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from multidisciplinary backgrounds including engineering, physical, biological, medical and material sciences. The conference includes the latest state-of-the-art research developments in the broad areas of flexible electronics, including advanced materials synthesis, micro-manufacturing technologies, device fabrication and biomedical applications, as well as emerging energy and environment applications.

The aim of this conference is in line with the research direction of Prof. Bradley's team in OSCAR. At the three-day conference, Dr. Huang met with several of Prof. Bradley's existing collaborators, including Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof. Wei Huang (NPU), Prof. Jianpu Wang (Institute for Advanced Materials, NanjingTech University), Prof. Wenyong Lai (Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NJUPT)), Prof. Ruidong Xia (South China University of Technology (SCUT)). They discussed in-depth collaboration in the form of joint funding applications, mutual visits and personnel exchanges. Dr. Huang also met with some other attendees to promote OSCAR and discussed a potential collaboration with the research teams of Prof. Hongmei Zhang (NJUPT), Dr. Xiaoe Li (Imperial College London), Prof. Natalie Stingelin (Georgia Institute of Technology), Prof. Yingchun Chen and Prof. Eginligil Mustafa (NanjingTech University), and Prof. Boonkar Yap (SCUT and UNITEN).



Prof. Donal Bradley, Prof. Zhanfeng Cui and Dr. Jingsong Huang at the NCFE 2018

Prof. Bradley delivered a keynote talk with the title 'Control of Fluorene-based Conjugated Polymer Optoelectronic Properties by Conformation Tuning'. The abstract of the talk is below.

The many conformations of glassy conjugated polymer chains define the characteristic ensemble broadening of their optical and electrical density of states functions, with adjustments in microstructure typically leading to relatively modest changes in distribution peak energy and width. This allows little prospect for the practical use of conformation control since the resulting changes in properties are insufficiently stark. However, in the circumstance that the distribution of conformational energies is not simply Gaussian but rather includes a distinct and readily generated low-energy subspecies it becomes possible to use conformation as a vector for function control. This is the situation for β -phase formation in poly(9,9-dioctylfluorene) (PFO) and related materials, where the resulting β -phase formation modulates refractive index, emission colour, charge carrier mobility and several aspects of photophysics which, combined with spatial patterning, then allows the fabrication of novel structures and the enhancement of device performance. Specific examples will be presented in this talk for PFO and other fluorene-based polymers, including copolymers with thermal control over conformation'.

For more information, please visit the conference website: https://www.nature.com/natureconferences/fe18/index.html

Meet the New OSCAR Staff

Dr. Yun Wang joined OSCAR in October 2018 as Senior Research Scientist in Prof. Wei Huang's group, focusing on biosensor-based synthetic biology and single cell Raman biotechnology.

Dr. Yun Wang received her Bachelor and Master degrees from the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tsinghua University and her PhD in environmental microbiology from the University of Sheffield. Her PhD project was focused on screening functional genes, which can be utilized as bio-bricks for synthetic biology. Afterwards, she joined Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, starting her research in developing single cell Raman technology, including isotope labelling (SIP)-Raman for phenotype identification, general metabolic activity indication, pathway tracking and anti-microbial drug efficiency screening. She then worked as Chief Technology Officer of Shanghai Hesen Biotech ltd., working to apply biosensors for general toxicity detection in the natural environment including seawater, surface waters and medicine, etc.

She will continue research on biosensor construction and application, and single cell Raman spectroscopy, especially SIP-Raman, in OSCAR, which will mainly be applied in environmental bioremediation and medical diagnosis and therapy, including characterisation of stem cells, cancer cells and bacterial pathogens for personalised medicine.

Email: Yun.Wang@oxford-oscar.cn



G OSCAR Research Team



Dr Hui Wang

Senior Research Scientist / Prof Zhanfeng Cui and Prof Cathy Ye's group Dr Wang joined OSCAR in 2017 as a Senior Research Fellow working with Professors Cui and Ye. He gained his Bachelor and M.Sc in plant physiology and biochemistry from the Beijing Agricultural University in 1987 and 1990, and his D.Phil in virology from St. Cross College at the University of Oxford in 1996. Current research interests include genomics applications in human stem cell engineering.



Dr Weizhi Liu

Research Scientist / Prof Cathy Ye's group Dr Liu received his PhD degree in Materials Science at Queen Mary University of London in 2014, before joining Oxford MEStar as project manager from 2014 to 2017. He joined OSCAR in 2018. Current research interests include Biomaterials, 3D Bioprinting and Development of Automatic Cell Expansion System.



Dr Jingsong Huang

Senior Research Scientist / Prof Donal Bradley's group

Dr Huang, Senior Research Scientist in Professor Donal Bradley's group, has a 20-year track record of research activities in leading universities and industries. His specialty is plastic semiconducting materials and devices, especially in the application research of photovoltaics and light emitting diodes (LEDs).



Dr Yang Yang

Senior Research Scientist / Prof David Clifton's group

Dr Yang has initiated the Computational Health Informatics (CHI) Lab's research programme at OSCAR which will focus on developing novel 'smart' healthcare technologies, including patient-safety and monitoring systems. Her research interests include signal processing, machine condition monitoring and fault diagnosis.



Dr Yang Cao

Research Scientist / Prof Luet Wong's group

Dr Cao joined Professor Luet Wong's group in 2012 to work on engineering the cytochrome P450BM3 enzyme to oxidise organic molecules that are not substrates for the wild type enzyme. This research is aimed at the synthesis of complex natural compound and their derivatives via biotransformation and to develop sustainable and environmentally friendly production processes.



Dr Yun Wang

Senior Research Scientist / Prof Wei Huang's group

Dr Wang focuses on biosensor-based synthetic biology and single cell Raman biotechnology at OSCAR, mainly applied in environmental bioremediation and medical diagnosis and therapy. Specifically, her research interests include discovery of novel genes from natural environment to be utilized as bio-bricks of synthetic biology and characterisation of stem cells, cancer cells and bacterial pathogens for personalised medicine.

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Progress of OSCAR's Fit-out and Construction in October



Office Space at final stage

Prof. Donal Bradley and Prof. Zhanfeng Cui arrived at OSCAR on 11 Oct and checked the fit-out construction process to ensure that the building will be ready for the Grand Opening Ceremony. Fit-out construction process is moving forward smoothly, and OSCAR building will be ready to open to the public by 18 November.

局等研究院(法)

OSCAR Principal Investigators



OSCAR Exhibition Hall near completion



Global Recruitment

Research Positions at the Oxford Suzhou Centre for Advanced Research (36 vacancies)

Following the completion of a state-of-art research building, OSCAR is recruiting its first wave of researchers. 36 research posts are available across three different levels:

Senior Research Scientists

- experienced researchers who can work independently and can help the Oxford-based PIs to supervise the research group in China

- postdoctoral researchers who have recently completed a PhD in a relevant field

Researchers will be employed by OSCAR in Suzhou, China, but are expected to spend some time at the University of Oxford, UK, to integrate with the research groups of the OSCAR PIs. OSCAR offers internationally competitive salaries and the positions are for three years in the first instance, with the possibility of extension.

Detailed job descriptions, application procedures and deadlines can be found on the OSCAR website: https://oscar.web.ox.ac.uk/.

For informal enquiries please contact the Recruitment Office Oxford Suzhou Centre for Advanced Research

Email: info@oxford-oscar.cn

OXFORD SUZHOU CENTRE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH

Research Scientists

Research Technicians

- with Masters-level training or equivalent

The Future of Science is Global

Prof. Donal Bradley and Prof. Zhanfeng Cui Meeting in OSCAR

On October 11, Prof. Donal Bradley and Prof. Zhanfeng Cui had a meeting with the OSCAR team to go through the details of OSCAR Grand Opening.

During the meeting, several decisions were reached—the overall guiding principle of OSCAR Grand Opening, the budget, the indoor and outdoor guidance system design, and most importantly, the fit-out construction progress.



Prof. Bradley and Prof. Cui in meeting with OSCAR team



Prof. Bradley and Prof. Cui outside of OSCAR Building



NEWS LINKS IN OCTOBER

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Job Fair in Suzhou Industrial Park Attracts nearly 4,000 Graduates



The 2018 Job Fair took place at Dushu Lake Sports Center, SIP's Dushu Lake Science & Education Innovation Zone (DLSEIZ) on Oct 13. More than 130 enterprises from the sectors of AI, biomedicine, nanotech and high-end manufacturing offered nearly 4,000 job vacancies to about 4,000 graduates from tens of universities and colleges based in and outside of Suzhou.



The enterprises, including many Fortune 500 companies like Eli Lilly and Samsung Electronics, expected to find the professionals they need. 12 of the companies, including natural language interaction solution supplier AISpeech and biopharmaceutical company Zai Lab, gave presentations to help the students to learn about them.

" Collegiate Innovation and Business Startup Contest Wrap up

The final of the 4th 'GCL Cup' International Collegiate Green Energy Technology Innovation and Business Startup Contest was held at Hilton Suzhou, Suzhou Industrial Park on Oct 30. After expert evaluation, 40 of 80 entries selected from 403 projects from 66 domestic and overseas universities and colleges were declared winners.

The contest, an annual event jointly initiated by Chinese new and clean energy conglomerate GCL Group and Shanghai Jiaotong University in 2015, is designed to offer chances for college students from around the globe to showcase their innovative ideas and business projects and get help for putting them into practice.



At the award ceremony, a GCL subsidiary engaged in new energy signed agreements with two outstanding awards winners for strategic cooperation in their projects.

For more information: http://www.sipac.gov.cn/english/news/201810/t20181016_840322.htm



This year's event, launched in May, embraced projects engaged in green energy sources, smart energy utilization technologies, AI, nano-materials, Internet of Things and biomedicine. The winners received monetary awards along with policy, talent, financial and technical support from GCL Group and its partners.





The event also incorporated a forum on green energy technology innovation, where two experienced entrepreneurs shared their views on investment opportunities related to energy development and technologies for development of eco-friendly materials.



For more information: http://www.sipac.gov.cn/english/news/201810/t20181031_881774.htm

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