

On the 7th February 2024, the PCTG hosted a webinar event entitled *Process and analytical chemistry: there are more similarities than you think!* Organised with the support of the RSC's Analytical Science Community Council, and with ca. 130 registrants, the event was targeted at early career scientists working in, or working towards, a career in process chemistry or analytical science. With a theme of the importance of being curious about the roles of scientists with whom you collaborate as part of your role, and the transferable skills shared by process chemists and analysts, the event brought together speakers from the pharmaceutical, petrochemical and speciality chemical sectors, hailing from both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of the Equator.

Dr Alta Ferreira of Sasol kicked off proceedings and used her background supporting the Fischer-Tropsch process and commodity chemical production to emphasise the importance of communication in ensuring that collaborative problem-solving by an analyst and chemist meets project requirements. Alta stated the importance of establishing the level of trust that can be placed in an analytical measurement, before making project decisions. Mark Hughes, latterly of GSK, continued proceedings with *A Chemist's View of Analytical Challenges and Learnings from Developing a Multistage Flow Process*. Using the analytical work that underpins the development of quantitative understanding of the changing composition of a flow reaction, as it moves along a pipe, Mark again emphasised the importance of the analyst and chemist agreeing upfront the requirements of the measurement with respect to its accuracy and precision. Mark also highlighted the enabling role of conductivity measurements to follow reactions that generate salt byproducts. Dr Shruti Biyani of the Dow Chemical Company then used her experience of solving challenging chemistry problems, inline reaction monitoring and the implementation of an inhouse *Lab of the Future* to give her perspective of the interface between analytical and process chemistry. Shruti emphasised the benefits that early career scientists can realise by seeking out inhouse mentors who can share their experience. The fourth speaker was Johnson-Matthey's Ian Ball. Using his experience of supporting the production of catalysts for the production of ammonia, sustainable aviation fuel and for oil and gas processing, Ian's talk covered the importance of using appropriate criteria to assess the suitability of an analytical method, using statistical tools to make inferences as to when a production process really is drifting out of control, the importance of representative sampling and knowing how the process and the analytical method separately contribute to the total variation of a method.

The event was rounded off with a short panel discussion that, in keeping with the title of the event, emphasised the parallels between the science- and risk-based development of a process used to make a high value chemical, and an analytical method used to support the production of the material, over the course of its lifecycle. The discussion also highlighted how data science is causing both chemistry and analytical science to expand. The recording for the event can be viewed [here](#). Given the popularity of and interest generated by this event, the PCTG would welcome members to nominate topics for events of a similar size and format.