

Publish or Perish? *The Ins and Outs of Publishing Academic Research*

Professor Peter Cormack

WestCHEM, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Strathclyde
Thomas Graham Building, 295 Cathedral Street, Glasgow, G1 1XL, Scotland, UK

It is a fact of life that academic researchers are expected to publish their findings, however the motivations for publishing research works are many and varied and the routes through which research findings can be disclosed publically are equally diverse (and, indeed, increasingly diverse). By drawing upon the presenter's own personal experiences of pure and applied scientific research at Universities in Scotland, England and Sweden, as well as the collective experiences and knowledge of the URV audience, this interactive seminar will discuss the personal, academic, institutional, national and international drivers for publishing, and the decisions facing researchers over where to publish. The session will also reflect upon the academic writing process, with a particular focus on quality. The views and opinions expressed by the presenter will be views and opinions aired and shared in a personal capacity.

Professor Peter A. G. Cormack¹

*Professor of Polymer Chemistry & Head of Materials and Computational Chemistry
Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry
University of Strathclyde in Glasgow*

Biography

Peter Cormack graduated from the *University of Strathclyde* with a **BSc** in Chemistry with First Class Honours in 1992. He remained at Strathclyde to pursue his scientific interests further, and graduated with a **PhD** in Polymer Chemistry in 1996 under the supervision of Professor David Sherrington and Dr Barry Moore. His PhD work, funded by Merck Ltd. and the SERC, involved the design and solid-phase synthesis of monodisperse liquid crystalline peptides and the preparation of thermotropic polypeptides *via* *N*-carboxyanhydride ring-opening polymerisations. In 1996 he moved to the *University of Cambridge* to take up a position as **Post-Doctoral Research Associate** in the *Melville Laboratory for Polymer Synthesis*, working with Dr Joachim Steinke on the synthesis of hyperbranched polymers. He relocated to *Lund University*, Sweden, in 1997, to work with Professor Klaus Mosbach in the area of molecularly imprinted polymers, initially as a **Post-Doctoral Fellow** within the *Department of Pure and Applied Biochemistry (Tillämpad Biokemi)* and latterly as **Vice-Director of Research** in the *Center for Molecular Imprinting and Molecular Recognition*.

In September 1998, Peter returned to the *Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry at Strathclyde* to take up an independent academic position as **Lecturer in Polymer Chemistry**, a position that was sponsored by ICI for the initial three years. Subsequently, he was promoted to **Senior Lecturer in Polymer Chemistry** in 2004, to **Reader in Polymer Chemistry** in 2007 and to **Professor of Polymer Chemistry** in 2009. He was **Visiting Professor** at the *Université de Montréal* and at *McGill University* (Canada) in 2008, **Scientist in Residence** at the *Centre for Self-Assembled Chemical Structures* (Montréal) in 2008, **Visiting Professor** at the *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia* (The National University of Malaysia) in 2011, **Visiting Professor** at *Wrocław University of Technology* (Poland) in 2015, and a **Subject Specialist** invited by *Huazhong University of Science and Technology*, Wuhan, China, to contribute to the Foreign Experts Introduction Project in 2019. At the University of Strathclyde, he served as **Associate Dean for International Research** in the Faculty of Science from March 2015 until September 2018, and was **Deputy Head of the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry** from 2016-2017. Since November 2017, he is **Head of Materials and Computational Chemistry**, a major research section in the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry. He is also a **Theme Lead for Advanced Manufacturing and Materials** and **Advanced Materials Sub-Theme Recruitment Lead** for the University of Strathclyde.

Peter's research interests are focused on synthetic polymer chemistry and materials science, with special emphasis on the design, the synthesis and the applications of functional organic polymers. To date, he has supervised the research works of over 50 PhD students (40 of these as PI), published more than 150 papers, patents and book chapters (*h*-index = 48), and delivered in excess of 100 plenary, keynote and invited lectures around the world. He is passionate about inspiring and educating the next generations of scientists and he has organised and participated in many initiatives in this regard, from the development and implementation of integrated training programmes for early-stage researchers and experienced researchers working in large European research networks through to focussed STEM events for school children and school teachers in Scotland. He has been nominated several times by undergraduate students for the Strathclyde Teaching Excellence Awards.

¹ For further information see <https://www.strath.ac.uk/staff/cormackpeterprof>