

## News of The Group (2015) noted by Elena



When we start a new year... we feel like we have in front of us twelve interesting laboratory flasks to open and work through them to provide the best outcome. My personal feeling is that the group works with tremendous passion and every reaction they start is full of their own positive emotions. That is the real driving force that sometime works even better than the expected kinetic or thermodynamic equilibrium!

### February

We were delighted to see Dr. Amadeu Bonet (fellow member of the group) initiating his academic career at the University of Hull (UK). We wish him a great success and progress with both, the lectures and the research!!

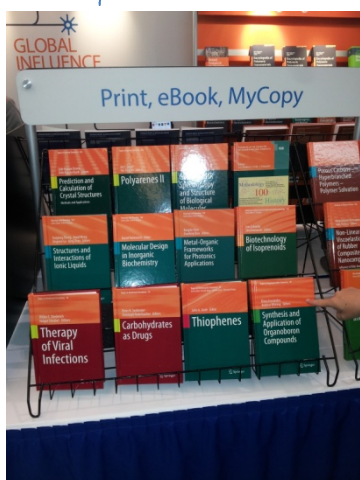


### March



We sadly had to say a goodbye message to Dr. Jessica, after several years working on our labs and dedicating efforts to both experimental and theoretical concepts. She initiates now a new step, probably a new style of life, at Manchester University to develop a postdoctoral research programme. It seems that the boron atom will keep travelling with you for a while....

### April



The book "Synthesis and Application of Organoboron Compounds" from Springer and edited by Prof. Andy Whiting and Elena was first published. I have to say that this tremendous experience could have never been the same without the positive attitude of all the authors that contributed to the book with the best revisions and points of view.

"One thing is certain of course, for those of us who are addicted to organoboron chemistry, this discipline will continue to stimulate us and even better, surprise us."

## May



It was a pleasure to give a lecture for the National Prize on Organometallic Chemistry in Madrid during the celebration of the GEQO meeting. Once again I enjoyed the opportunity to see the colleagues and friends in a healthy chemical environment.

Dr. Thierry Leon, awarded with Tecniospring funding from the 7th framework of the Marie Curie actions programme, returned from his first period at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA (USA), to initiate his second research period in our group. Well come!!

At the same time Dr. Ana Cuenca started a two months stay in Japan to develop a specific area of research in our Explora Project. That was a big challenge!!!

## June

This time chemistry sent me to Toulouse where I attended the Journée Catalyse 2015 as Plenary Lecture. I met there a significant number of specialists on catalysis and the presentations and discussions were very rewarding.



The OMCOS meeting at Sitges celebrated at the end of June, brought together the group again, (even with the presence of Enrico and Alba from Durham). Special congratulations to Nuria Miralles as the winner of one of the best poster presentation on her work about "A Mild Carbon-Boron Bond Formation from Diaryliodonium Salts"

Good appetite!!!!

## July

Our PhD student Gerard Palau-Lluch defended his thesis with title " $\alpha,\beta$ -Difunctionalization of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds through borylation reaction". He had a full external tribunal that allowed him to become a doctor, after a large chemical discussion!!

Congratulations Dr. Gerard!





Trieste and Pisa host me, for one week, to deliver some lectures and talks about organoboron chemistry. We suffer an impressive heat wave, too strong even for Mediterranean people, that was well managed thanks to the spectacular gastronomy....

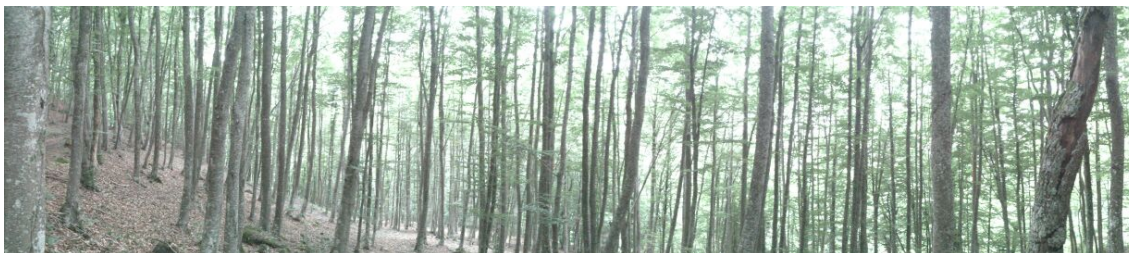


I attended, as invited speaker, to the Bienal of Chemistry 2016, in A Coruña, with a great pleasure to participate in the symposium "Derivatives of Representative Metals: Structure, Reactivity and Singular Properties". I was very impressed by the new format of the Bienal that facilitated parallel sessions highlighting the interdisciplinary character of the Bienal of Chemistry.



## August

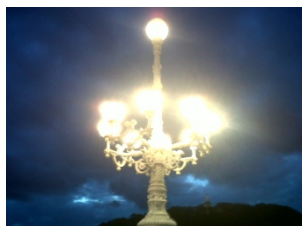
We all took a well deserved break.....



## September

Dr. Ana Cuenca, Marc García and Nuria Miralles attended the ISySyCat2015 Meeting (Evora-Portugal). They participated in the whole event and Dr. Ana Cuenca won the prize to the best oral communication and Marc García won the best poster presentation prize.

My sincere congratulations to both!!!



Almost at the same time I was involved as speaker in the V Workshop UFI organised by QOSYC in San Sebastián. Lovely atmosphere in one of my favourite cities!!

## October



The master on Synthesis, catalysis and molecular design, made possible that two excellent students, Michael Hofmann, from Würzburg University (Germany), and Jordi Royes, from URV, initiated their research in our lab. They quickly acquired the skills to work efficiently in the lab and they also contributed to a friendly atmosphere!!!

Our PhD Xavier Sanz defended the Thesis with title "Theoretical and experimental understanding of the pull-push effect of B on the synthesis of organoboranes, -sulfides and -selenides". The mixed theoretical and experimental jure were conclusive with the decision to give him the cum laude pass to the doctor status. Congratulations Dr. Xavi!! And lovely to see Dr Cristina Pubill-Ulldemolins again.....

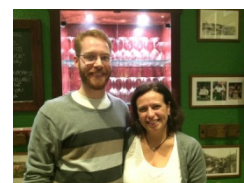


## November



Enrico returned to the group from his second year of PhD developed at Durham. Now is the time to the final sprint to become a doctor in about one year time!! Spirito!!

Our Canadian fellow Graham Lee returned to Tarragona for a quick visit and to check whether the roman stones were still here or not ...



## December



The first good news is the birth of the daughter of Amadeu and Angi!!! Laia has arrived in the best period of the year and she looks beautiful!!!

Family is such a great word!! Congratulations!!!!

The group has performed a great scientific year and I only can say that the fruits are starting to be collected!!!!!!





## THANKS TO ALL



During my stay in Italy I observed this beautiful sculpture made in glass of different colours and I thought on my group, on you!. This is because all of you help one each other to complete a catalytic cycle, or more than one, every single day.

This is the greatest part of our job. I feel fortunate.