



# BiOCIDE TOOLBOX

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## BTB-PERC 2016 SYMPOSIUM



**T**his November, the University of Auckland hosted the 11th Polymer Electronics Research Centre (PERC) and 2nd Biocide ToolBox Symposium. The event featured over 30 talks spread over two days, as well as networking opportunities for the students of both research groups.

Sessions included diverse topics and areas of expertise:

- ◆ Sensors, biosensors and antioxidants
- ◆ Biomedical and functional materials
- ◆ Drug delivery / medical applications

◆ Biocidal materials, synthesis and activity

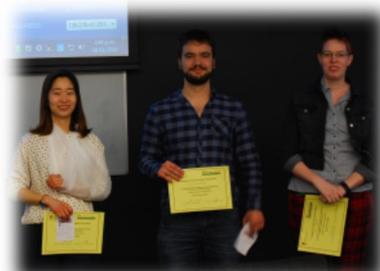
◆ Surface biocides / scanning methods

Prizes were awarded for the three best student presentations. BTB PhD student Chloe Cho scored 3rd prize with her talk "Synthesis of Biodegradable Antimicrobial Polymer with High Selectivity". Chloe is a 2nd year PhD student, and she's supervised by Dr Jianyong Jin.

PERC students Thomas Kerr-Phillips and Alissa J. Hackett won 1st and 2nd prize, respectively.



BTB STUDENT CHLOE CHO RECEIVING 3RD PRIZE



STUDENT TALK AWARDS (LEFT TO RIGHT) CHLOE, THOMAS AND ALISSA

## DR MALMSTRÖM NAMED RUTHERFORD DISCOVERY FELLOW



DR JENNY MALMSTRÖM

Dr Jenny Malmström is our expert in surface characterisation and imaging, especially using Atomic Force Microscopy. She has just been named a Rutherford Discovery Fellow for 2016, to investigate a novel way of delivering stimuli to stem cells in order to better understand how they replicate and grow.

Jenny is a Lecturer in Chemical & Materials Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering and she is developing an artificial tissue surface in the laboratory to carry out this research, funded up to \$800,000 over five years.

Stem cells have enormous potential for medical therapies because they have the ability to multiply and renew themselves as they develop into specialist cells with a particular biological function, but scientists do not yet understand fully the complex biological processes that act on stem cells to make them behave the way they do.

"I am delighted to have received this Fellowship and the support it will provide for my work," she says. This is the second science award for Dr Malmström this month, after she was awarded a Fast-Start Marsden Grant of \$300,000 over three years.

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