HENRY ROYCE INSTITUTE

Consumer Products, Packaging and Specialist Polymers

Thursday 4th September 2025, 11:20 – 16:00

Nancy Rothwell Building (MECD), University of Manchester Campus, Room TBC

This session will explore emerging strategies for the design and development of sustainable consumer materials, with a focus on polymers used in packaging and other specialist applications. Aligned with the Chemical Materials Design (CMD) research area theme and the national Royce strategy, the session will highlight the role of automation, systems thinking, and interdisciplinary collaboration in accelerating innovation and knowledge exchange. Contributions will showcase approaches to sustainable materials discovery, circular economy integration, and real-world impact, spanning both academic and industrial perspectives.

Morning Theme: Foundations for Acceleration	Afternoon Theme: Application and Impact
• Materials discovery platforms • High-throughput chemistry • Automation, AI/ML in polymer/material design • Fundamental insights into structure–property relationships in consumer polymers	• Real-world case studies in packaging, recycling, and consumer products • Circular economy integration • LCA, infrastructure, and policy • Industry-academic collaboration and barriers to implementation

Morning Theme: Foundations for Acceleration **Chair:** Dr Gabriella Pizzuto (gabriella.pizzuto@liverpool.ac.uk)	
11:20 – 11:50 Talk 1 - Plenary	Prof Angelo Cangelosi University of Manchester
11:50 – 12:10 Talk 2	Dr Marc Little Heriot-Watt University
12:10 – 12:30 Talk 3	Dr Aniket Chitre Unilever
12:30 - 12:50 Talk 4	Prof Abbie Trewin Lancaster University
Lunch 12.50 -14.10	

Afternoon Theme: Application and Impact **Chair:** Dr Tom McDonald (thomas.mcdonald@manchester.ac.uk)	
14:10 – 14:40 Talk 5 - Plenary	Prof Mark Miodownik UCL
14:40 – 15:00 Talk 6	Layla Shannon Sherbourne Recycling
15:00 – 15:20 Talk 7	Sophie Walker Dsposal
15:20 – 15:40 Talk 8	Dr Parnian Doostdar Mura Technology-University of Warwick
15:40 – 16:00 Talk 9	TBC