



2021 - certainly a year to be remembered. While not what we expected in some ways, it brought with it as many headaches and complications as it did achievements and rewards. And we're here to celebrate the latter.

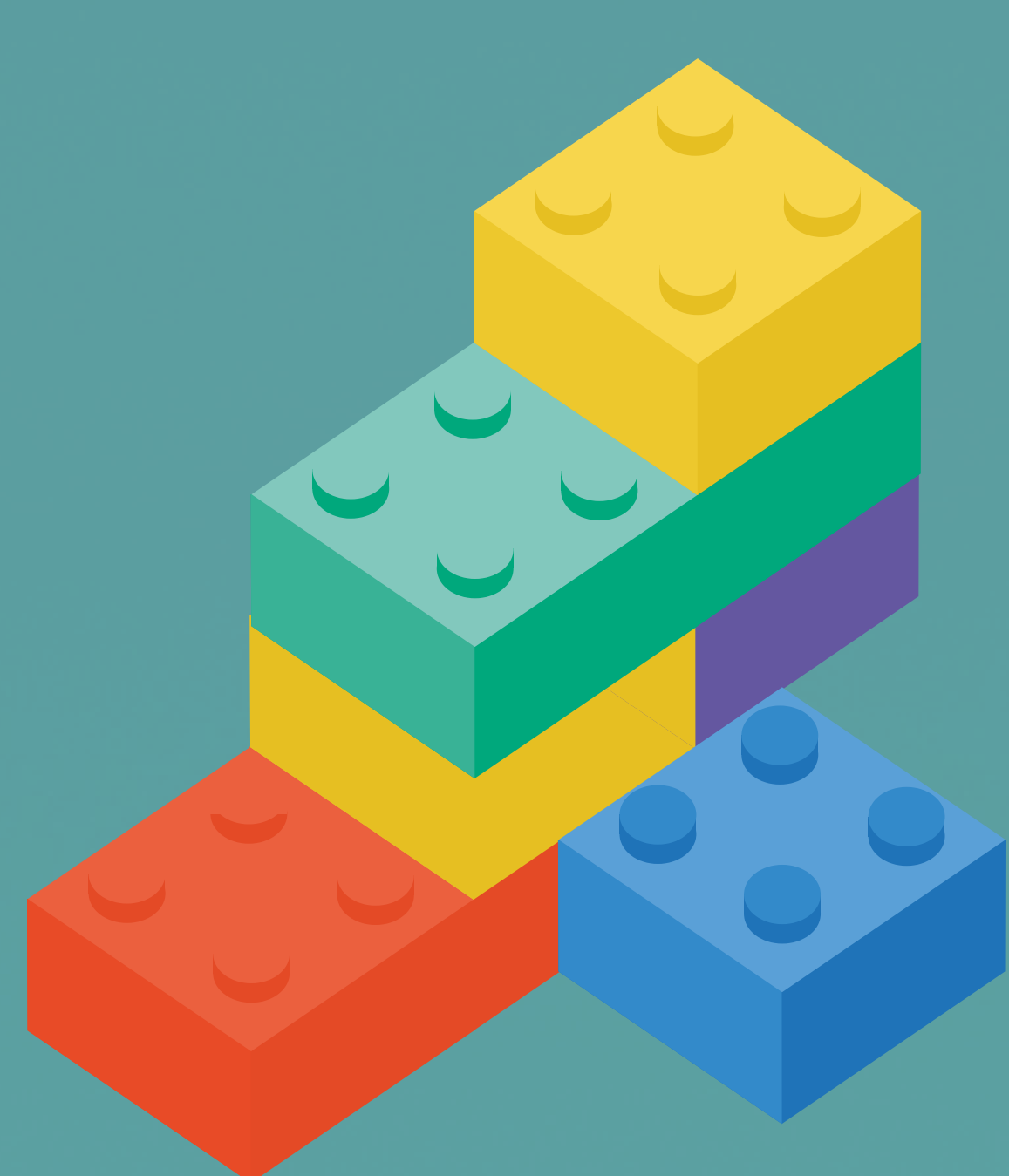
We would like to remember 2021 as a year of growth - to the reach and impact of our work within and beyond the academic sphere but, more importantly, to our community.

Still, we are ready to move on.  
Bring it on, 2022!

### We took new perspectives

Once again, we welcomed a new cohort of 10 students coming from all walks of life, who will be working on multidisciplinary projects across different departments.

As well as that, we launched two new major collaborations: [iCAST](#), a new centre to deliver sustainable and agile innovation in green technologies and translate it into commercial applications, and [IDRIC](#), an industrial decarbonisation centre.



### We harnessed our curious energy (and it paid off)

Some of last year's research highlights include developing a sustainable [polymer from sugars found in wood](#), designing a system to grow [cultured meat in grass](#), creating a new sustainable [phosphorescent material from wood components](#), and [synthesising pharmaceuticals](#) in a less wasteful way.

### We led the way (and celebrated the outcomes)

Our researchers continued to deliver excellence in a myriad of areas. Dr Asel Sartbaeva won two national awards ([1](#), [2](#)) for her work on making vaccines stable without refrigeration and her contribution to making STEM more inclusive to women. Dr Alex O'Malley won a [national medal](#) for his outstanding contribution to UK catalysis research. Dr Uli Hintermair received a [German Catalysis Society prize](#) for his innovative work on molecular catalysis.

And we were the first UK university to sign the [Green Chemistry Commitment](#).



### We continued to bring brilliant minds together to share ideas, knowledge and viewpoints

Our annual showcase took place online, so besides convening our own community to share what they had been up to in the last few months, we also reached across the border to bring international speakers to discuss their [unique views on the 2050 net zero emissions target](#) ahead of COP26.

We also hosted a series of [webinars on green chemistry](#) by our Global Chair Professor John Warner.

We loved them only slightly less than our face-to-face events.



### ...and thanks to all of it, we grew.

In 2008, we set off to establish a diverse research hub for talented people with a passion for sustainability. **And, just over a decade later, we are levelling up to become a research institute!**

We enter this new chapter with renewed momentum to achieve things - to support and invest in our people, to work in the interface of research and industry, and to continue delivering excellent research in sustainable technologies and the circular economy.



## 2021 in numbers



**11 new PhD students**



**52 new industrial members in iCAST, our innovation centre**



**40+ papers published**



**£37M+ received in funding for our new innovation and decarbonisation centres**



**15 collaborative projects being developed with industry**