

An Ode to IUPAC

This poem represents my call to action to modernise the Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

Current world conditions
Nicely demonstrate the need
Start to nurture and grow the seed
Lively response to take the lead
Supporting Chemical collaborations

Enabled by the digital computer age
setting, refining, redefining standards
help in solving the global hazards -
energy, water, health and feed,
- we must not be bystanders

Setting Chemists front of stage
All invested in AI, not just from the tin -
basic, fair, unbiased, explainable techniques begin
decidedly changing our discipline
a new variety for our digital orchard

AI - theory, computation and experiments allied
to train the next generation,
people and facilities, from sciences,
arts and humanities – all crucial
to inform the digital native of their chemistry

Without continued effort ideas wither
dramatic short-term gains from individual drums
others balanced by the longer-term outcomes
collaboration, academic, industrial hums
the whole community come hither

Chemistry, creative science,
The future is bright
Digital is the novel way -
to decide what to make and measure
Doing all this together

Success? Yes! - and IUPAC has its part to play

Home

(inspired by What3Words)

often each poem

closes ritual gaps

walks inch clever

spoken pillow gains

quarrel kick hold

stay count fell

deaf gears dine

repair expert froze

chair arch joke

shall clouds ramp

pens chip bank

kinds cubes join

spray rigid feed

rear broom flown

carbon front speaks

My life as a Chemist

As a child, I got to play,
with a large kitchen chemistry set,
It fizzed, bubbled, the colour changed, spilt all over the table -
with a big smile, Birthday party, water turned to wine

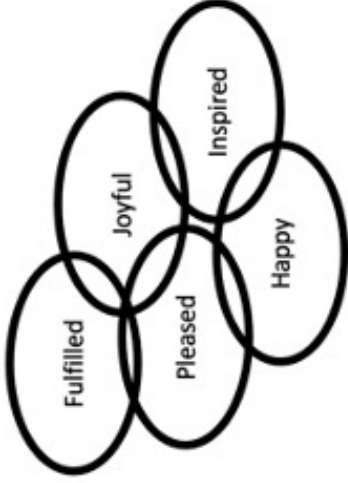
Almost the only one in a large lab
With deep mahogany bench, I carefully -
used the tall glassware,
watching for the swirl of purple

Roles of paper with fine lines,
Read with graduated magnifying glass.
Numbers to holes in punched cards, Dropped!
Never mind, reassembled, my first computer program

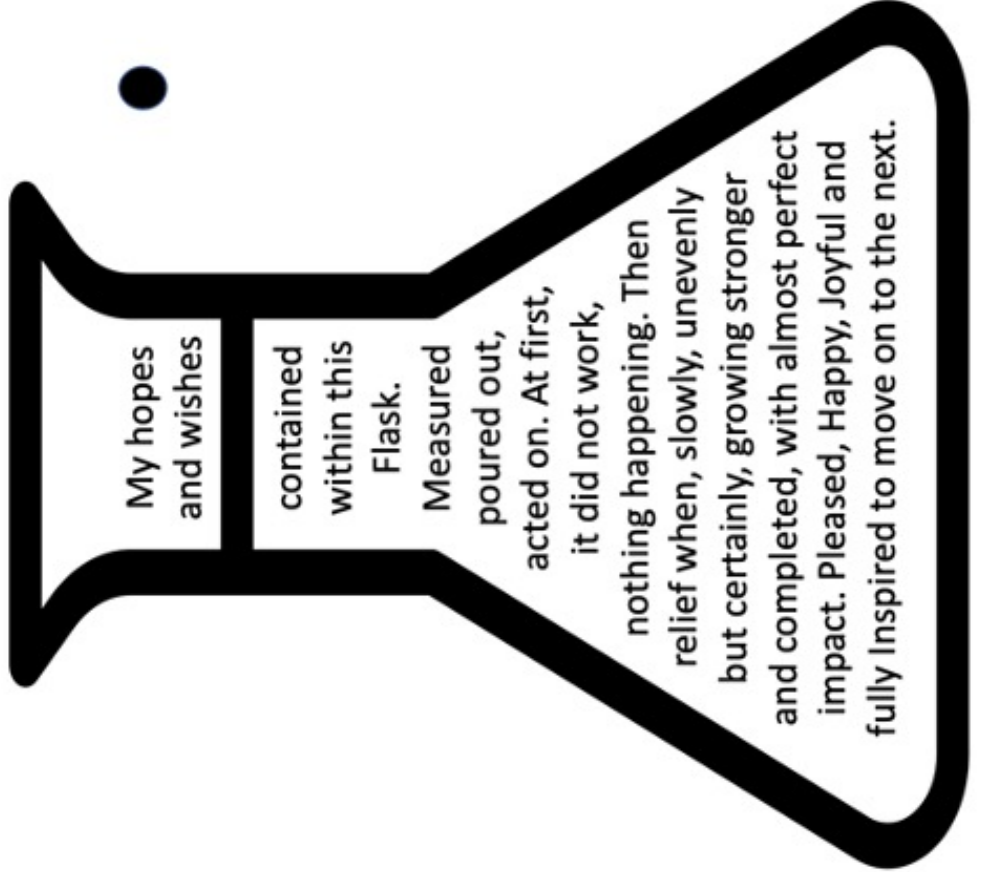
Designing Lego style, my own experiments,
Connections with the wider sciences
No topic for which entry barred, no area from which I could not learn
imagination took me everywhere, some more useful than elsewhere

Buzzing tearoom, lunch and coffee,
Conversations, questions, puzzles,
Worked out well for me -
With colleagues from across Chemistry

Digital age, a new playground opens up
Colleagues from wider fields erupt
Storytelling and now poetry -
Transform the way children see their chemistry



This flask - just
within
my grasp



The Plan