

News of The Group (2020) noted by Elena.

On December the 30st 2019 I attended, one more time, my favourite musical: The Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre in London.... but who could say to me, at that special moment, that a similar mask was going to be an essential complement for all of us, just few weeks later!



In fact our duties in 2020 started as usual, with a significant number of scientific objectives to be conducted along the year. In February I was delighted to reach the University of Sussex (UK) to give a lecture and meet the fellow Cristina Pubill, that has become member of the staff there. She did not even know that I already spent several months at that place as part of my doctoral research period in 1993-1994! Cristina was looking great as usual.





But February also gave us the opportunity to celebrate properly Ricardo's birthday on the 29th, as he was born in leap year!

Since he is developing the Thesis in computed and experimental data, both research groups (Jordi's one and ours) were there to congratulate the "malagueño".

In fact that was one of the latest celebrations in the lab since few days later, March the 12th we were all under lockdown at home for about 3 months, and consequently we had to close the labs and interrupt all the experiments going on.

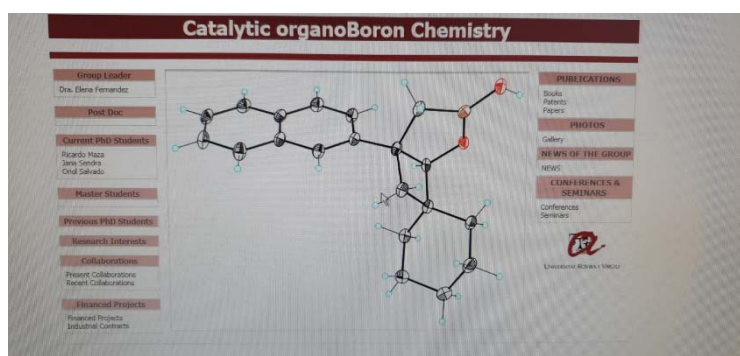
That uncertain situation gave us the chance to think not only in chemistry.....

We had to learn to accept that the pandemic was going to stay in our Planet for a while and that it was our own responsibility to avoid the extension of the virus. The group faced difficulties, sad days, the loss of beloved people and the feeling that the horizon was far away!



But in spite of the complex situation, I am proud to say that the Group faced every day its duties through the advances technologies and maintained the motivation towards the adapted scientific goals.

I will always thank the patience of every member of the group and their professionalism in those difficult times.



Mid June was the official data to reopen the Research laboratories at the University.

The Group members impressed me once again for their constant work under very strict security conditions.

THANKS for making possible to work again in the lab! Ricardo and Oriol in Tarraçona and Iana in Bilbao in Txelu's lab.



After an unpredictable summer break, we returned to our duties with the same strict security conditions in the lab.....

Paula Domínguez started her Master Thesis with us and we were delighted to see her wonderful hands obtaining the elusive organoboron compounds in good yields!

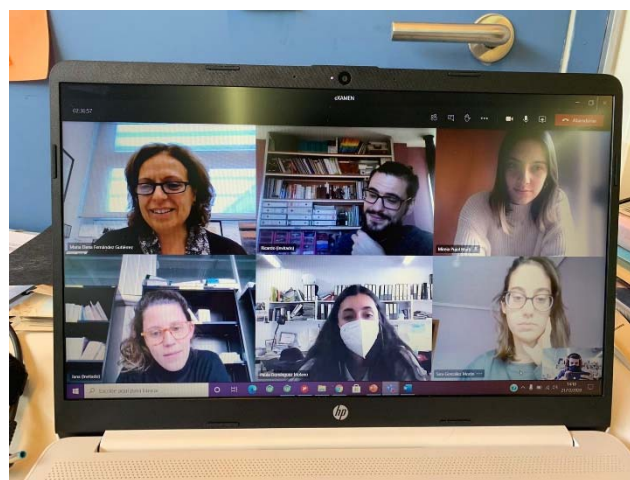
Welcome to the group Paula!



Almost at the same time, Mireia Pujol initiated the Part II work in the lab and she was initiated to enjoy the benefits of B in chemistry! I wish you can also experiment the beauty of the organoboron chemistry for a long time in our group...



On-line Group Meetings to discuss the projects and see the smiles from time to time became useful for all of us!



However, long discussions of the results and TABLES were never replaced at the office.

Ricardo is almost ready to complete his Doctoral Thesis and he will become Doctor in 2021. We really wish you that the pandemic context allows you to make a proper public defence and a deserved celebration!



I am looking forward to having a healthy 2021, for the Group and for the Planet.