

**How not to waste  
a chemist's time:  
Chemical insights through  
great user experience**

**Nessa Carson**

**AstraZeneca**

**Associate Principal Scientist, Digital Champion**

# How not to waste a chemist's time

Chemical insights through great user experience

**Nessa Carson**

*Early Chemical Development, Pharmaceutical Sciences,  
R&D, AstraZeneca, Macclesfield, UK*




25 September 2024





# Digital Transformation

Digitalization is one of the most prominent issues for chemical industry (according to CEO's)

-  For *growth...*
-  For *making the future happen...*
-  For *sustainability...*

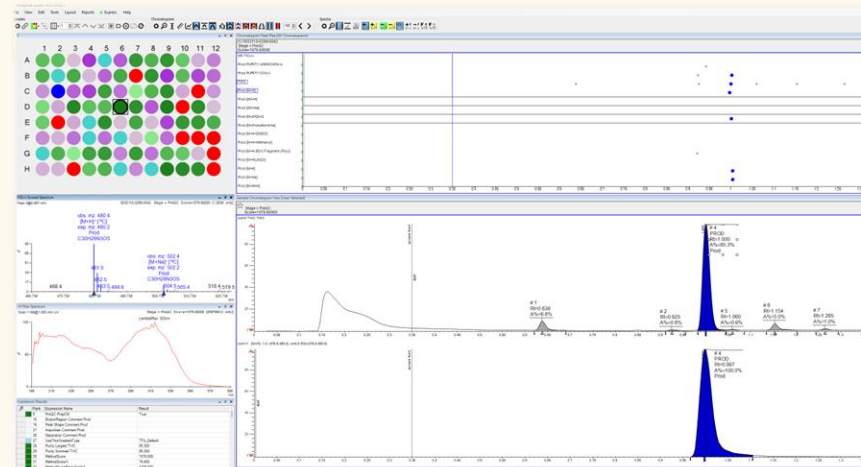


# Transformative change

Smart sensors in the lab



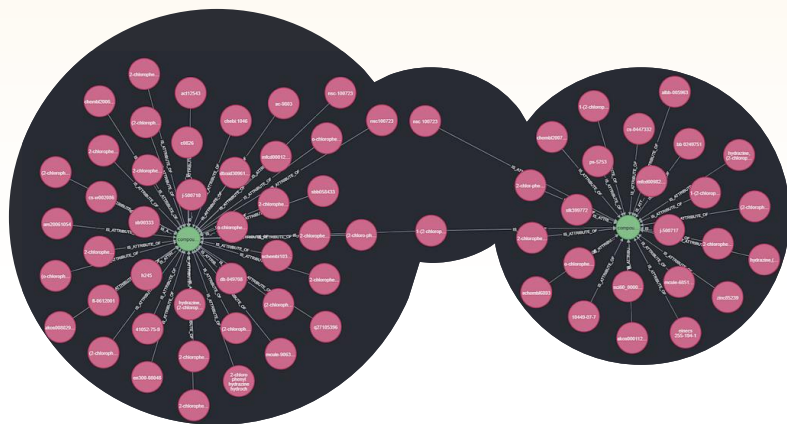
Software to enable experimentation



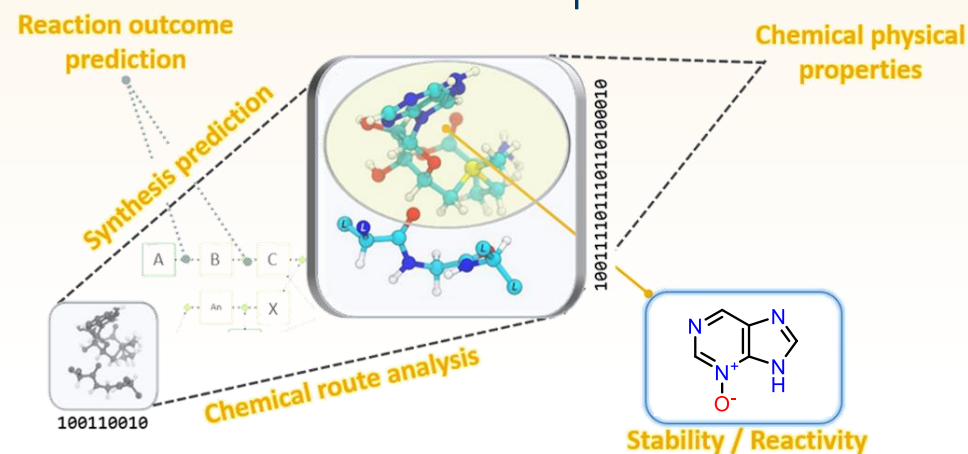
Autonomous robotics



Big chemistry data



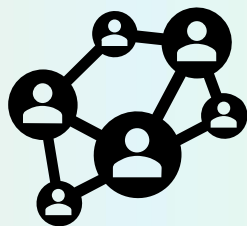
Accessible computation



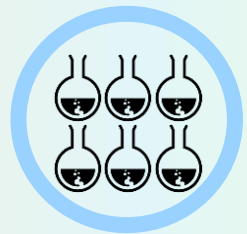
# Data flow enables enabling technology

## Data & Digital Ecosystem

Modelling,  
Prediction,  
Kinetics



New Reaction,  
Analytical &  
Separation  
Technology



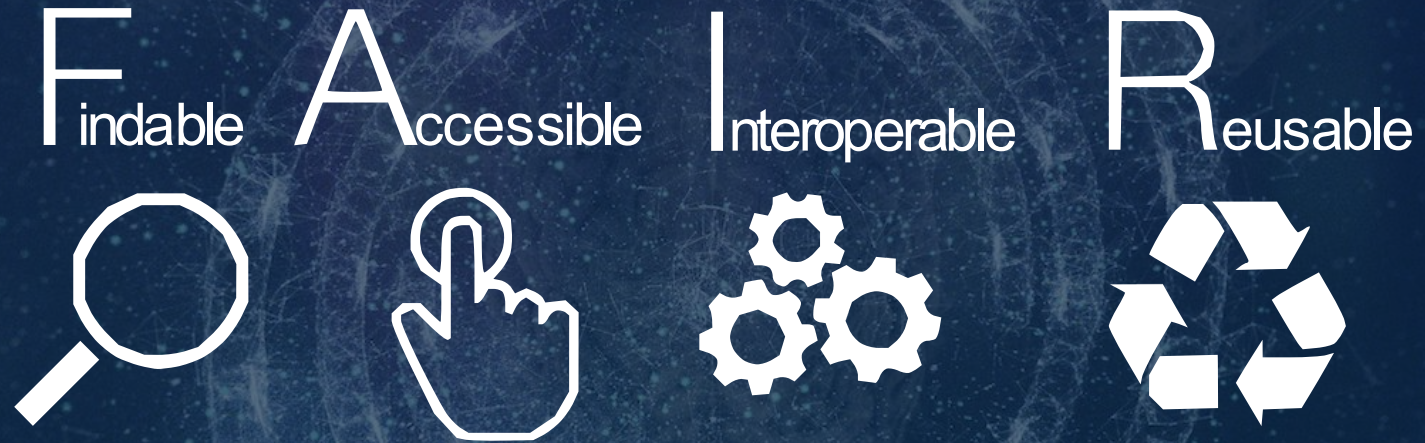
High-Throughput  
Experimentation

- Vast majority of chemistry workflows run on data science:  
**data management** is critical at all times
- Data must be **FAIR** at all points
- Data collection must be:
  - **very fast** (automated)
  - user-friendly
  - also FAIR





# My FAIR data



“Improving the FAIRness of digital resources will increase their reuse”



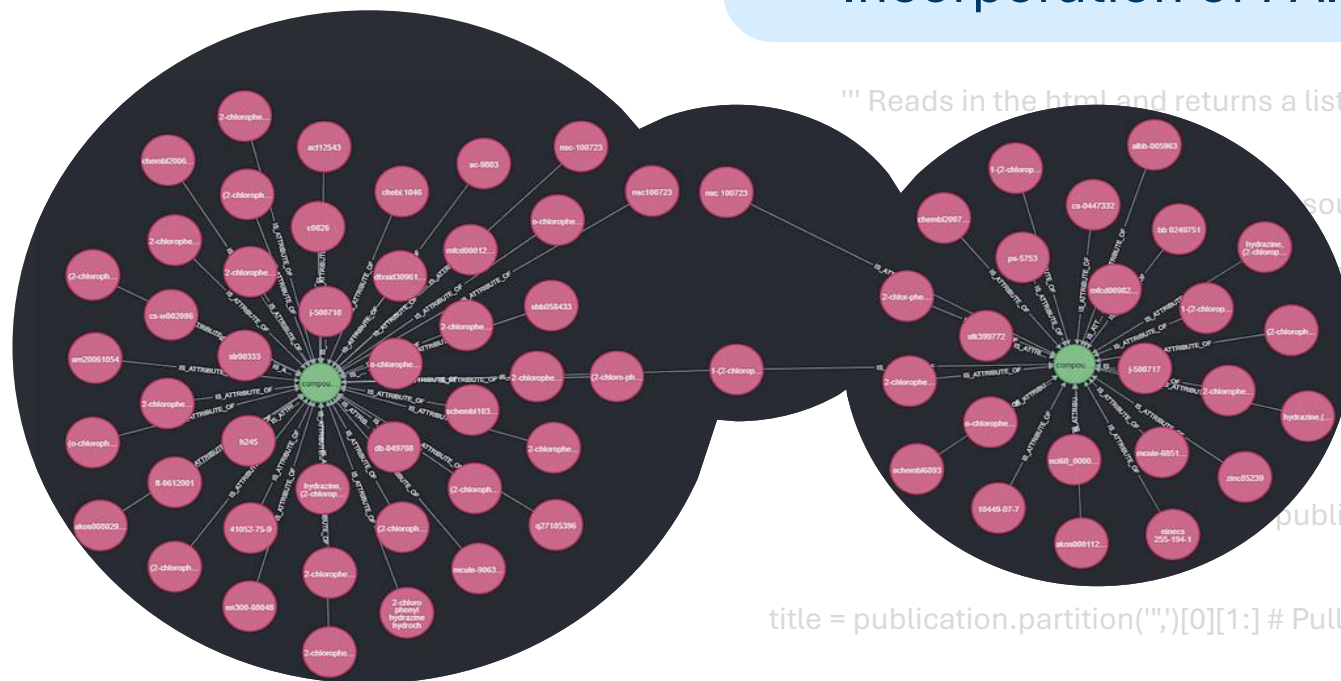
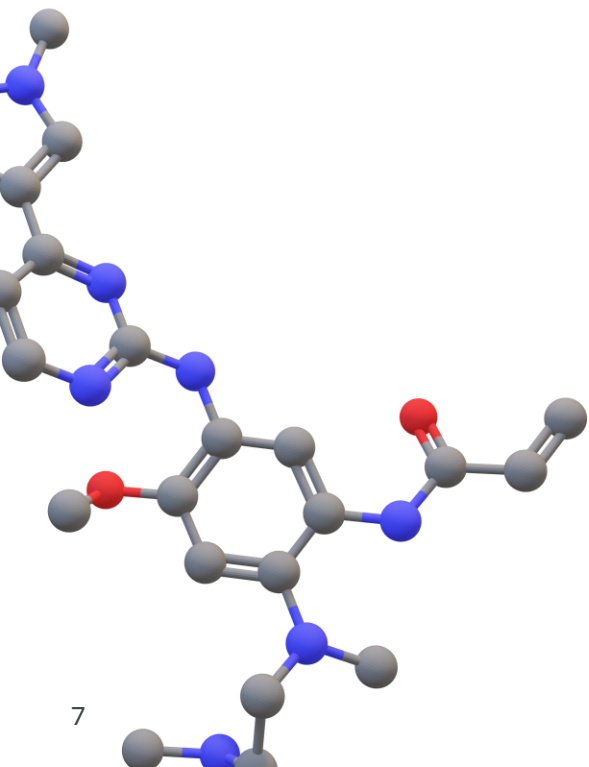
# Data flow enables enabling technology

## Data chemists want:

- Good data standards
- Incorporation of FAIR metadata

## Lab chemists want:

- Decrease in admin
- Incorporation of FAIR metadata



```
def get_email(email=None):  
    """ Retrieves email address for polite communication with CrossRef - or asks user if unavailable.  
    Alternatively, pass a kwarg directly or from the command line. """
```

```
    if email:  
        return email  
    filename = 'email.txt'  
    if os.path.isfile(filename):  
        with open(filename, 'rt') as fin:  
            email = fin.read()  
    else:  
        (authentication): )  
        (email, 'tw') as fout:  
        fout.write(email)  
    return email
```

```
def read_soup(r) -> list:  
    """ Reads in the html and returns a list of titles from a single line in the html """
```

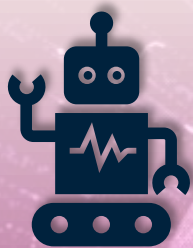
```
    html = r.text  
    soup = BeautifulSoup(html, 'html.parser')  
    periodical = soup.find('periodical')  
    periodical.replace('&quot;', '') # -> str  
    periodical_read.partition("name:")[2]  
    for x in periodical_read.split("title:"))  
        return titles  
    publication_to_dict(publication: str) -> dict:  
    global lod  
    title = publication.partition(",")[0][1:] # Pull title from between initial set of quotes  
    if title == periodical_name:  
        return None
```



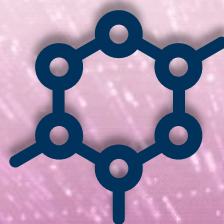
# Chemical data, connected

*It's starting to happen...*

Self-driving  
labs



Reaction  
prediction



Smart  
instruments

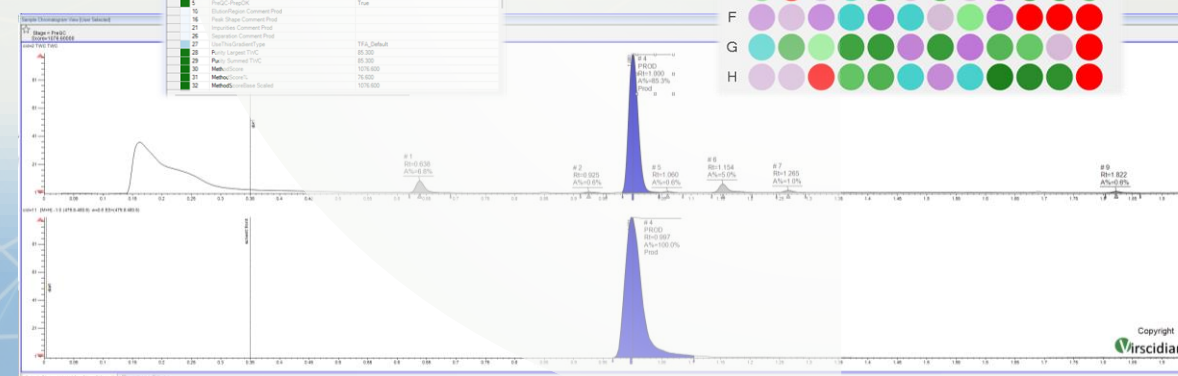
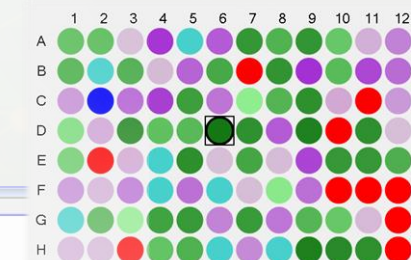
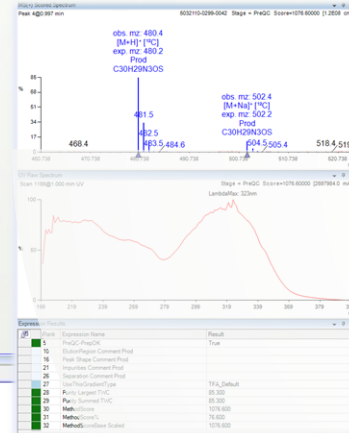
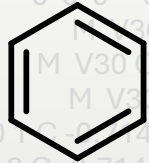
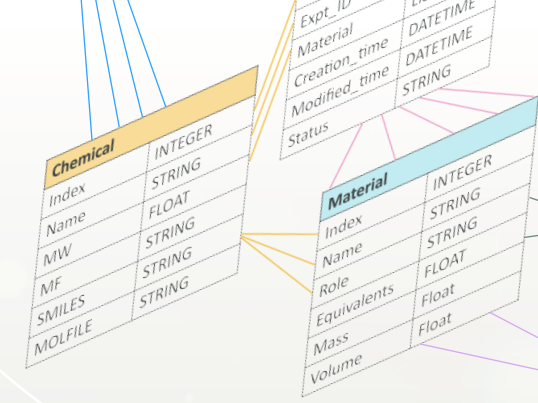


DMTA  
acceleration





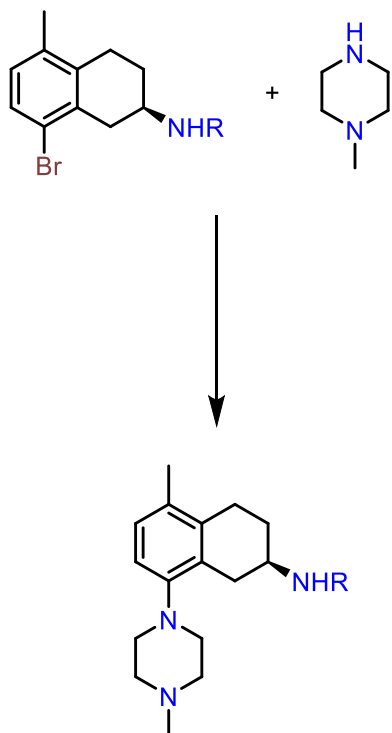
# 70% of digital transformations fail



# Everybody needs to think about UX

(or at least everybody in this room)

(ie: not just software developers)



	BrettPhos	AdBrettPhos	GPhos	dtbnpp	t-BuPhCPhos	XPhos	t-BuXPhos	dtbpf	AdBippyPhos	IPr	BippyPhos	RockPhos
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A												
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H												

Reaction conditions for the rows:

- Row A:  $K_2CO_3$
- Row B: PhMe, NaOt-Bu
- Row C: DIPEA
- Row D:  $K_2CO_3$
- Row E: t-AmOH, NaOt-Bu
- Row F: DIPEA
- Row G: PC,  $K_2CO_3$
- Row H: NaOt-Bu

This is what I used to do in the lab...

(these are not real data!)

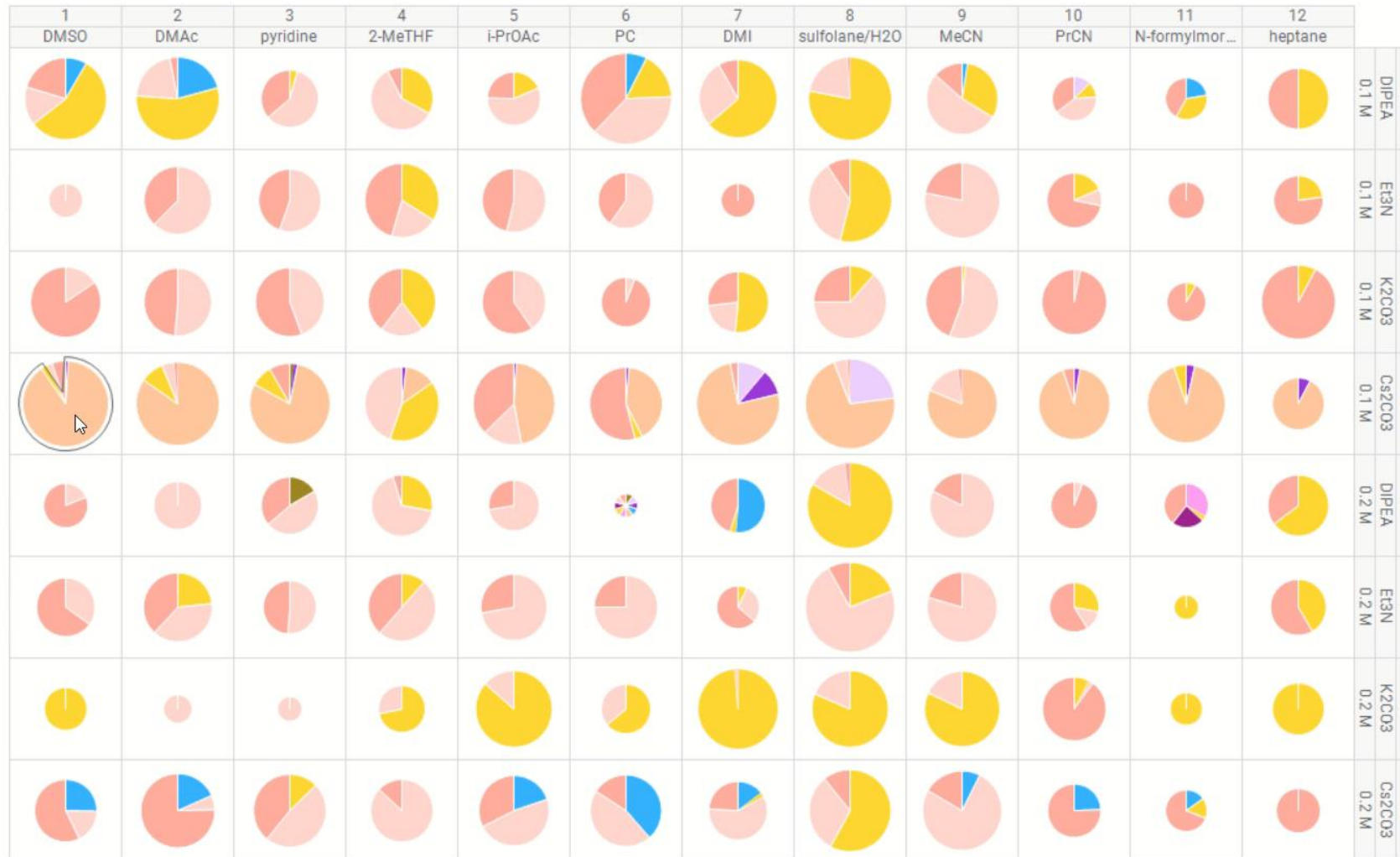




# Everybody needs to think about UX

(or at least everybody in this room)

(ie: not just software developers)



Data table:

Mocked data

Color by:

Component

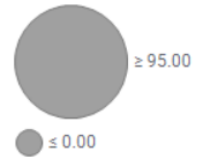
- Aryl10Aryl1 Area %
- Aryl10Tf Area %
- Aryl2H Area %
- Aryl20Aryl2 Area %
- Aryl20H Area %
- cyclized Area %
- dp Area %
- dp-CHO Area %
- Phenol Area %
- Triflate Area %

Sector size by:

Sum(Purity)

Size by:

Sum(Purity)



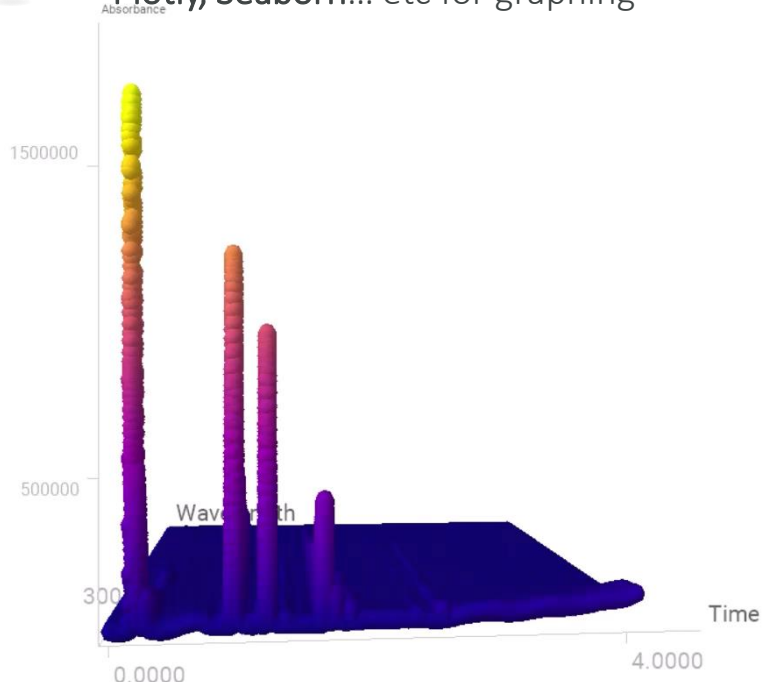
# User-friendliness → adoption

<http://lawsofux.com>

to interact



- Dash, Shiny, PySimpleGUI GUI's
- Plotly, Seaborn... etc for graphing



DAD 3D array from data kindly provided by Andrew Turner

to analyse

TIBCO Spotfire

Entry	Product SMILES	Method	Temperature / °C	Time / min	Yield / %
1	<chem>CCOC(=O)C1=CC=C(C=C1)C(=O)N1C=CC=C1</chem>	A	120	10	92
2	<chem>CCOC(=O)C1=CC=C(C=C1)C(=O)N1C=CC=C1</chem>	A	120	10	18
3	<chem>CCOC(=O)C1=CC=C(C=C1)C(=O)N1C=CC=C1</chem>	A	120	10	43
4	<chem>CCOC(=O)C1=CC=C(C=C1)C(=O)N1C=CC=C1</chem>	B	120	10	56
5	<chem>CCOC(=O)C1=CC=C(C=C1)C(=O)N1C=CC=C1</chem>	D	120	10	41

to understand

Power Apps

ECD Conference Tracker

2nd Automated Intelligent Chemistry

url: <https://www.soci.org/events/young-chemists-panel/2023/automated-intelli...>

Start date: 07/11/2023

End date: 07/11/2023

Member fee: £90

Non-member fee: £120

Attendees: Nessa Carson

London, UK





# User-friendliness → adoption

**Your users are worried about change.**

## Project-specific Factors

**Type of change**



Positive changes perceived ~15% more favorably

**Probability of success**



Willingness to consider change plateaus at ~60% certainty of success

## Individual Factors

**Connection to emotion**



~20% more averse when change impacts friends (vs. strangers)

**Complexity of circumstances**



Confidence in context predicts ~50% of attitude towards change

**Level of agency**

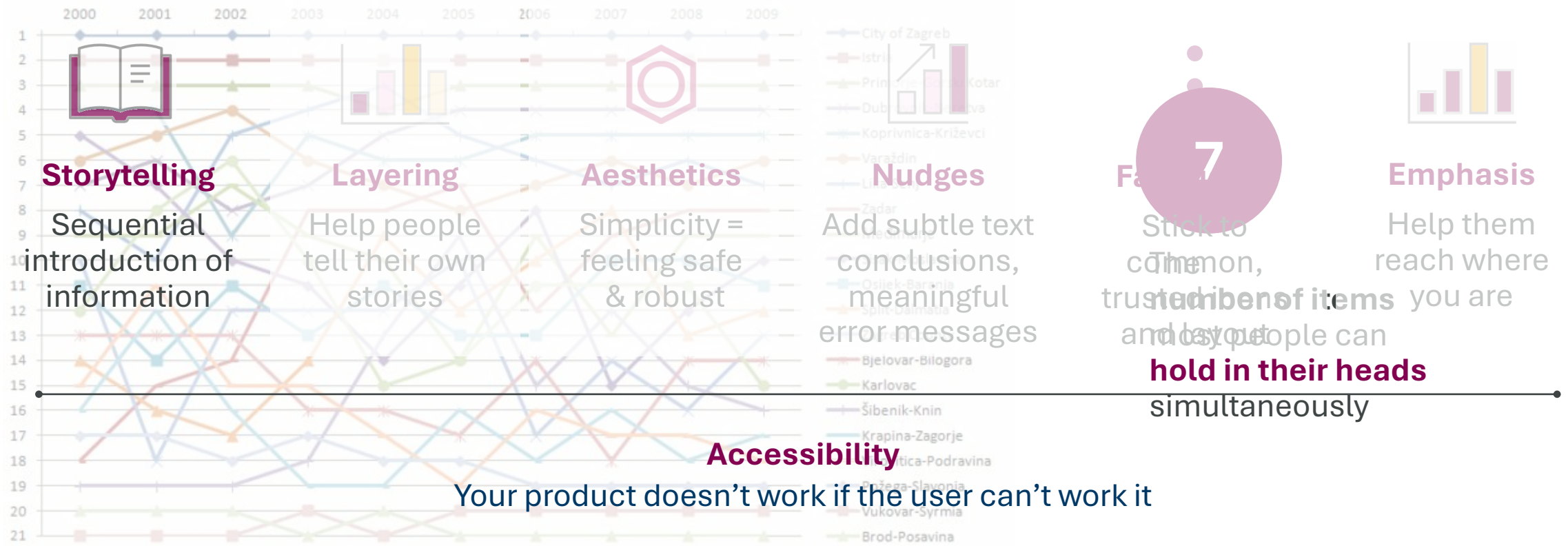


2x more likely to view change as negative when lack agency



# The secret: consider cognitive load

- Scientists must often deal with cognitively-complex information
- This hurts our heads. Yes, even if we are very clever.





# Acknowledgements



AZ Early Chemical Development

AZ Pharmaceutical Sciences

Christof Jäger

Per-Ola Norrby

**Selected chemistry & coding resources:**

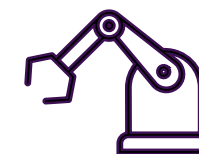
<https://supersciencegrl.co.uk/links/>

## Automated Synthesis Forum 2024



11-12 Nov 2024

Oxford, UK



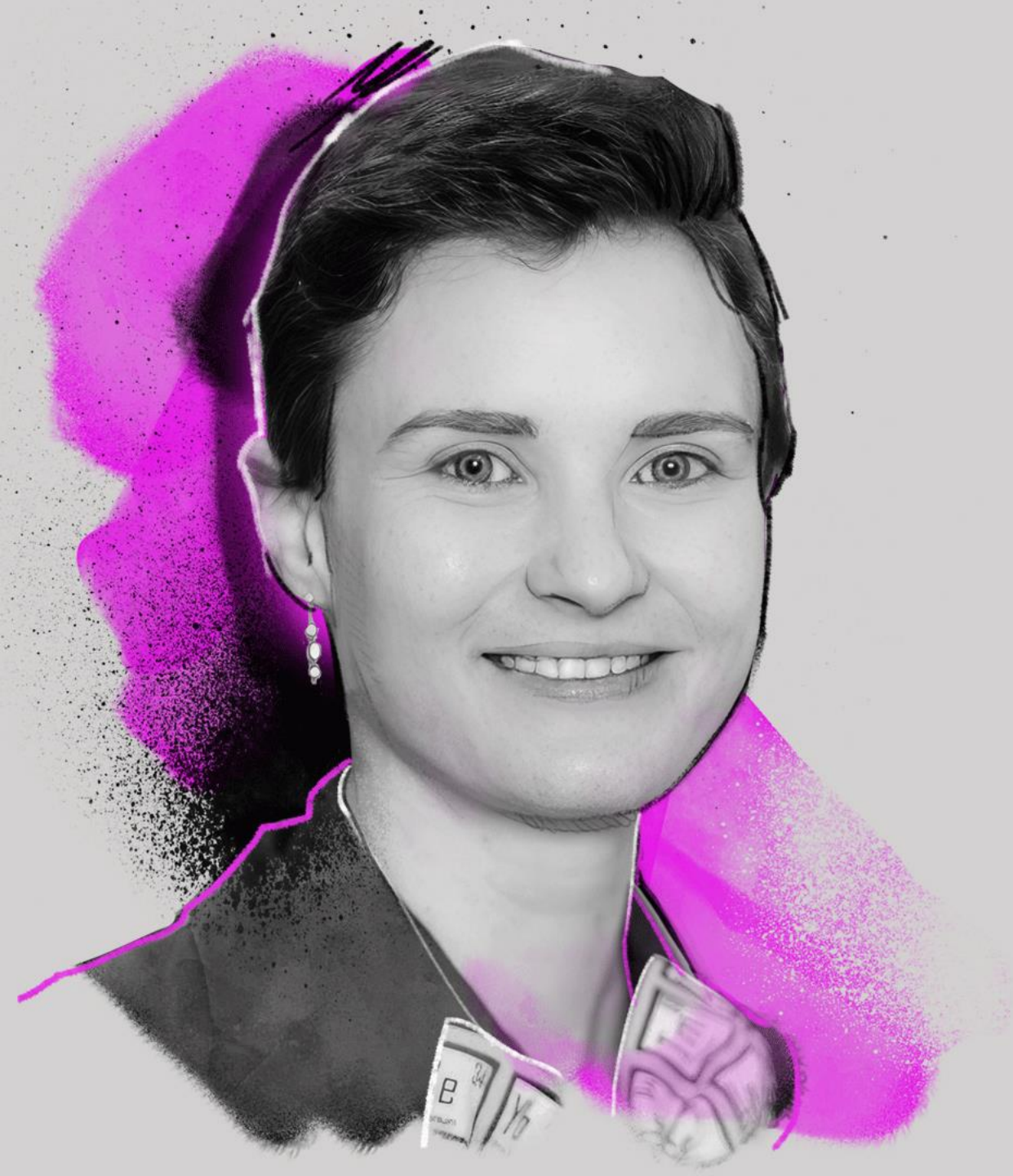
<https://automatedsynthesisforum.com/>



### **Confidentiality Notice**

This file is private and may contain confidential and proprietary information. If you have received this file in error, please notify us and remove it from your system and note that you must not copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on it. Any unauthorized use or disclosure of the contents of this file is not permitted and may be unlawful. AstraZeneca PLC, 1 Francis Crick Avenue, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0AA, UK, T: +44(0)203 749 5000, [www.astrazeneca.com](http://www.astrazeneca.com)





**How not to waste  
a chemist's time:  
Chemical insights through  
great user experience**

**Nessa Carson**

**AstraZeneca**

**Associate Principal Scientist, Digital Champion**