

2026 Annual Report of Congress

This report covers Congress activities between the Institution's AGMs in June 2025 and June 2026.

Congress has held **three on-line sessions** during this period using the IChemE's 'Connect' platform as the discussion tool. There was also **an in-person meeting** in June 2025 where a good number of the 27 members of Congress were able to attend. We currently do not have a full complement of Congress Members. There are 40 positions and only 68% are filled. During our meetings and interactions, all Congress Members are encouraged to share their experiences of being part of Congress to help their friends and colleagues see how they too could be part of this team.

The **Congress Steering Committee** has met roughly quarterly to steer the topics for discussion; plan the Congress elections; and review the outcome of voting for the candidates to fill the Congress seats. The Congress Steering Committee comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy President, the Chair of Congress, the Vice-Chair of Congress and Lucy Griffin, who is the IChemE Governance Manager. Lucy joined the IChemE staff in 2025.

The purpose of Congress is to be a conduit between the Members of the IChemE and the Board of Trustees. Our motto is 'Be the voice of the Membership. Make a difference.' We comprise of a Membership College to represent the various types of members from Students to Fellows; and a Geographical College to cover the locations around the globe, where IChemE Members live and work.

The in-person meeting was used to get to know new Members of Congress, network, share thoughts with the Board of Trustees, and discuss the following topics:

- The registration review by the Engineering Council;
- Code of Conduct updates;
- Congress '24-'25 reviewed in statistics;
- Engaging Members better with Congress;
- Making continuous professional development (CPD) attractive; and a
- Causal Reasoning session to improve communication to better interact with each other and better 'advertise' the IChemE.

The outputs from all the Congress discussions are shared with the Trustees. Often the discussions had are items requested from the Board of Trustees (BoT). However, this year there was little requested to be reviewed by the BoT, so the topics have mainly been generated from the list suggested by the Congress Members at the in-person meeting. I hope IChemE Members have benefitted from the outputs of the following topics we have discussed:

- Volunteering
- IChemE support throughout career particularly later career stages
- What will the future look like and how can the IChemE strategise for it?
- How to support Members to increase confidence in artificial intelligence (AI)?
- How can and should the IChemE expand its global reach in a sustainable and long-term way?

I hope many of the Members have seen the video blogs I have made to explain the work of the IChemE, on IChemE Connect or LinkedIn. If Members are considering being part of Congress, they can reach out to me or any Member of Congress to find out more. To find the Members of Congress (Membership and Geographical) who represents them, they should turn to the

IChemE website and type 'Congress' in the search.

I have been privileged to serve the IChemE via Congress membership since September 2018 and either Vice-Chair or Chair for the last 4 years. I would like to thank all the Congress Members during this time, for their dedication, inspiration and desire to improve the IChemE. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and support of the CEO, Yvonne Baker, who has been intentional in her inclusion of the Congress in the IChemE decision-making process, and has been a pleasure to work with.

I am excited by the continuation of the work of the Congress. Best wishes to the new and existing Members of Congress, and many thanks to those who retire from their position at this AGM. I trust the act of volunteering has been as rewarding for you as for me. Thank you for your contributions.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Salter,

Congress Chair