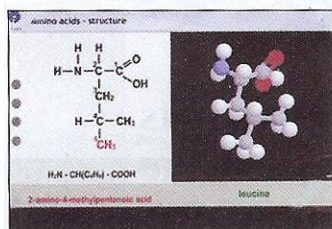


Roger Frost's Organic Chemistry software only science finalist in BETT awards



AT A COLLEGE in Basingstoke, they are using what is thought to be remarkable software to teach chemistry. When they want to discuss structures, they use models to illustrate them. When there's a reaction to explain, they talk through an animation.

Remarkably, whatever the topic, they can draw upon a large library of screen food to move a lesson along. You would imagine that teaching should be so. And when the subject is fuel, plastics, drugs and body chemicals, otherwise called organic chemistry, the appetite for visuals is heavy.

Teacher Marcus Rutland says that no search of the net or trawl through their CD-ROMs so conveniently provides the calibre of what's needed. For the last two years, he and other chemistry teachers have been using *Roger Frost's Organic Chemistry*, a new generation, large-scale resource with animation, to explain why one bond is bonder than another or why this reacts more easily than that. Containing hours of material, it covers most of what a syllabus asks.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LEARNING 'ACCELERATED'

It parts with traditional software by covering one concept at a time, with each visual designed to fit a few minutes of lesson time. Adds Marcus Rutland: "The organic chemistry package provides a one-stop location for a fantastic collection of resources to slot into our teaching. The format allows us to access relevant tools and use them with little preparation. It makes presentations varied, engaging and effective, without replacing what we'd normally do. We use it flexibly and dip into it as needed."

Again breaking with tradition, organic chemistry animations play for a few seconds at a time. They stop at strategic points so teachers can meter delivery and elaborate as they feel

appropriate. What's to be clicked is highlighted, so there's no wondering what to press. If this software came with a manual, it would say 'click and discuss what's happening'. Like animated overhead transparencies, the modular content is built to outlive any syllabus. When syllabi change, as they will in September, teachers can sort it or download a slide set made for their exam.

When generations of students have known organic chemistry as something you just have to learn, Marcus Rutland and colleagues have found a tool that uses a range of styles to develop understanding and quickly revise previous work. "The beauty of this is the way it picks out concepts where an enormous amount of words or

pictures on the board, would be needed. Instead, it presents ideas as crystal clear images and animations. It accelerates teaching and learning, leaving learners with a mental image to help them remember."

Out of 200 submissions for the BETT Awards 2008, *Roger Frost's Organic Chemistry* was the only science finalist.

Roger Frost's Organic Chemistry

Publisher: **ilearnchemistry**,
Russet House, Cambridge
CB22 6RT.

Telephone: **01763 209109**.

www.organic.rogerfrost.com

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At the prize presentation, John Leigh, headteacher Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College (extreme right) and Gregory Smith (extreme left), director of sales and marketing, and Robert Taylor-Marrison (centre) CAD/CAM technician - both of Technology Supplies.

"We certainly could not have wished for a better Christmas present"

Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College

SEE PAGE 3 FOR COVER STORY

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