

22 June 2026

Dear Members of the International Mass Spectrometry Foundation

28th International Mass Spectrometry Conference

As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, and as an alumnus who completed both my undergraduate degree and PhD here, it gives me great pleasure to offer my wholehearted support for the British Mass Spectrometry Society's bid to host the 28th International Mass Spectrometry Conference in Liverpool in August 2030.

The University of Liverpool has deep and longstanding strengths in the chemical and molecular sciences that increasingly rely on mass spectrometry as a key analytical technique. We are home to the world's first department of biochemistry, established in 1902 at the Johnston Laboratories, where the Biochemical Journal was founded in 1906 and the UK's first Honours School of Biochemistry was created. As one of the leading UK universities, Liverpool has maintained a tradition of research-led discovery across the physical and life sciences for well over a century. Ten Nobel laureates are counted among our alumni and former faculty.

As a member of the Russell Group (the UK's association of leading research-intensive universities) and recently ranked 139th globally in the QS World University Rankings – having risen more than 50 places over four years, with ambitions to enter the global top 100 by 2031 – Liverpool brings the institutional standing and research infrastructure that a conference of this scale deserves. Chemistry entered the QS top 100 subject rankings for the first time in 2026, reflecting the momentum in disciplines central to IMSC. My own research career in the surface and materials chemistry of advanced electronic materials has given me a first-hand appreciation of the central role that analytical techniques, including mass spectrometry, play across the physical sciences, and of the importance of international conferences in sustaining those communities.

Mass spectrometry is a particular strength of the University today. The Centre for Proteome Research, Centre for Metabolomics Research, and the Mass Spectrometry and Instrumentation Group together represent one of the most concentrated clusters of MS expertise at any UK university, with active programmes spanning clinical proteomics, metabolite profiling, post-translational modification analysis, ambient ionisation, and novel instrument development. Beyond the life sciences, mass spectrometry is also embedded in disciplines such as archaeology and the physical sciences. This is research infrastructure that visiting delegates will have the opportunity to see first-hand.

In 2031, the University of Liverpool celebrates its 150th anniversary, marking a century and a half of research, education, and civic engagement since our founding in 1881. We view IMSC 2030 as a fitting prelude to those celebrations: an opportunity to welcome the global mass spectrometry community to Liverpool in the year before this landmark milestone, and to demonstrate the continuing vitality of the scientific tradition that has defined this university.

I am confident that Liverpool can deliver an exceptional scientific, cultural, and social event.

The M & S Bank Arena within the Liverpool Experience Campus provides a world-class venue on the city's waterfront, ideally placed adjacent to the Knowledge Quarter Liverpool, one of Europe's foremost innovation and research districts. This concentration of knowledge and civic ambition was recognised when Liverpool was named runner-up in the 2026 European Capital of Innovation Awards. Beyond the conference halls, Liverpool itself, a UNESCO City of Music, European Capital of Culture in 2008, and the world's first UN Accelerator City for Climate Action, offers delegates a setting that is as culturally rich as it is intellectually stimulating.

The University of Liverpool is committed to supporting this conference in practical terms. August falls within our summer vacation period, when university residential accommodation across our campus becomes available at competitive rates; we will work with the organising committee to secure blocks of rooms that offer delegates a convenient and affordable alternative to city-centre hotels, with priority allocation for those travelling from lower-income countries.

I can assure the IMSF Foundation and the international mass spectrometry community that delegates will have an outstanding experience in Liverpool. I look forward to welcoming you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Jones', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Tim Jones
Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool