

## **Metals in Synthesis Symposium at the University of Bath, October 2008**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, JSPS London was involved in the Metals in Synthesis Symposium at the University of Bath that featured the Royal Society of Chemistry Endowed Lectureship Visit from Professor Masakatsu Shibasaki from the University of Tokyo. He spoke on recent progress in Asymmetric Two Centre Catalysis. Three other UK based academics, who share common research interests with Professor Shibasaki and who are also at different stages in their careers, were invited to speak. These speakers were Professor Jonathan Williams from the University of Bath, Dr. Mike Willis from the University of Oxford and Dr. Paul Davis from the University of Birmingham. The common theme between all of the mini lectures each speaker gave was the fundamental importance of using metals in the synthesis of organic molecules. Prof Shibasaki is a world leader in this field and this symposium provided an ideal opportunity to disseminate ideas, concepts and results to a UK based audience. During this segment, also, the main organizer from the University of Bath side, Dr. John Fossey, made a speech about his excellent research experiences in Japan that were supported by JSPS funding. Dr. John Fossey is also currently Secretary of the JSPS London Alumni Association. These lectures were followed by a poster session and wine reception sponsored by JSPS London. Over 100 researchers were in attendance throughout the day and the wine reception gave the chance for these academics to interact with Professor Shibasaki and discuss ideas at the cutting edge of scientific discovery. At the wine reception also, Director of JSPS London, Professor Furukawa, made a speech to congratulate the University of Bath for hosting such a successful symposium and she also awarded the winners of the poster session. Many researchers as a direct influence of Professor Shibasaki's work, approached JSPS London staff with enquires for applying to JSPS funding programmes.

