Li Yongjia’s oral defence on 28 Oct 2015

Yongjia joined the group in August 2011, after having obtained a Master’s degree from Sichuan University.

The title of her PhD thesis was “Diyne and Bisalkynyl Complexes of Pentamethylcyclpentadienyliridium”, and the main focus of her study was the C-C reductive coupling of \([\text{Cp}^*\text{Ir(CO)(C≡CPh)}_2]\) to \([\text{Cp}^*\text{Ir(CO)(PhC≡C≡CPh)}]\). Surprisingly, the reaction was accelerated by protic solvents, and the reaction pathway was examined by a combination of computational and experimental techniques.

Yongjia’s oral defence represents a major change in the way oral examinations are to be conducted in the group. The following changes were implemented:

1. Copies of the student’s thesis in A5 size are made available at the start of the oral defence.
2. The oral examination panel are requested to keep the entire oral defence proceedings open to the public.
3. A tea session is arranged for the examiners, the entire group, and invited guests, after the oral defence.
4. The oral defence panel chairman will be requested to announce the panel’s decision at the start of the tea session.

The rationale for these changes is that as the thesis and the oral defence represent the culmination of a candidate’s years of scientific work and achievement, they and the candidate should be accorded the dignity that they deserve.

Yongjia is currently working as a research scientist with the Singapore Polytechnic.

Congratulations to the newly-minted Dr Li Yongjia!