

Jane Thomas-Oates obtained her BSc and PhD degrees from Imperial College, where she was Anne Dell's first PhD student, at the time that Anne was pioneering the development and application of the then newly-introduced technique of fast atom bombardment mass spectrometry for the analysis of glycoconjugates. Following two years as a founder member in the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, in Athens, Georgia, USA, and a further post-doc at Imperial College, Jane obtained a Beit Memorial Research Fellowship, which she took up in the then expanding Department of Biochemistry at the University of Dundee (1989-1991). From there, she moved to become *Universitair Docent* in the department of Mass Spectrometry at the University of Utrecht (1991-1998), and then to a Senior Lectureship in the Departments of Chemistry and Biomolecular Science at UMIST in Manchester (1998-2002), where her group formed part of the Michael Barber Centre for Mass Spectrometry. In 2002 she was appointed to the RSC/EPSRC Chair of Analytical Science at the University of York, where she is director of the Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry.

Jane's research interests are in biological mass spectrometry, focusing on the development and application of mass spectrometry-based methods for application in a wide range of challenging interdisciplinary programmes; Jane's research is marked by her building of long-term collaborations across diverse disciplines, including biology, microbiology, archaeology, and environment. At York Jane's group forms part of BioArCh, an interdisciplinary research centre that unites Biologists, Archaeologists and Chemists in tackling some very challenging and interesting research into archaeological questions.