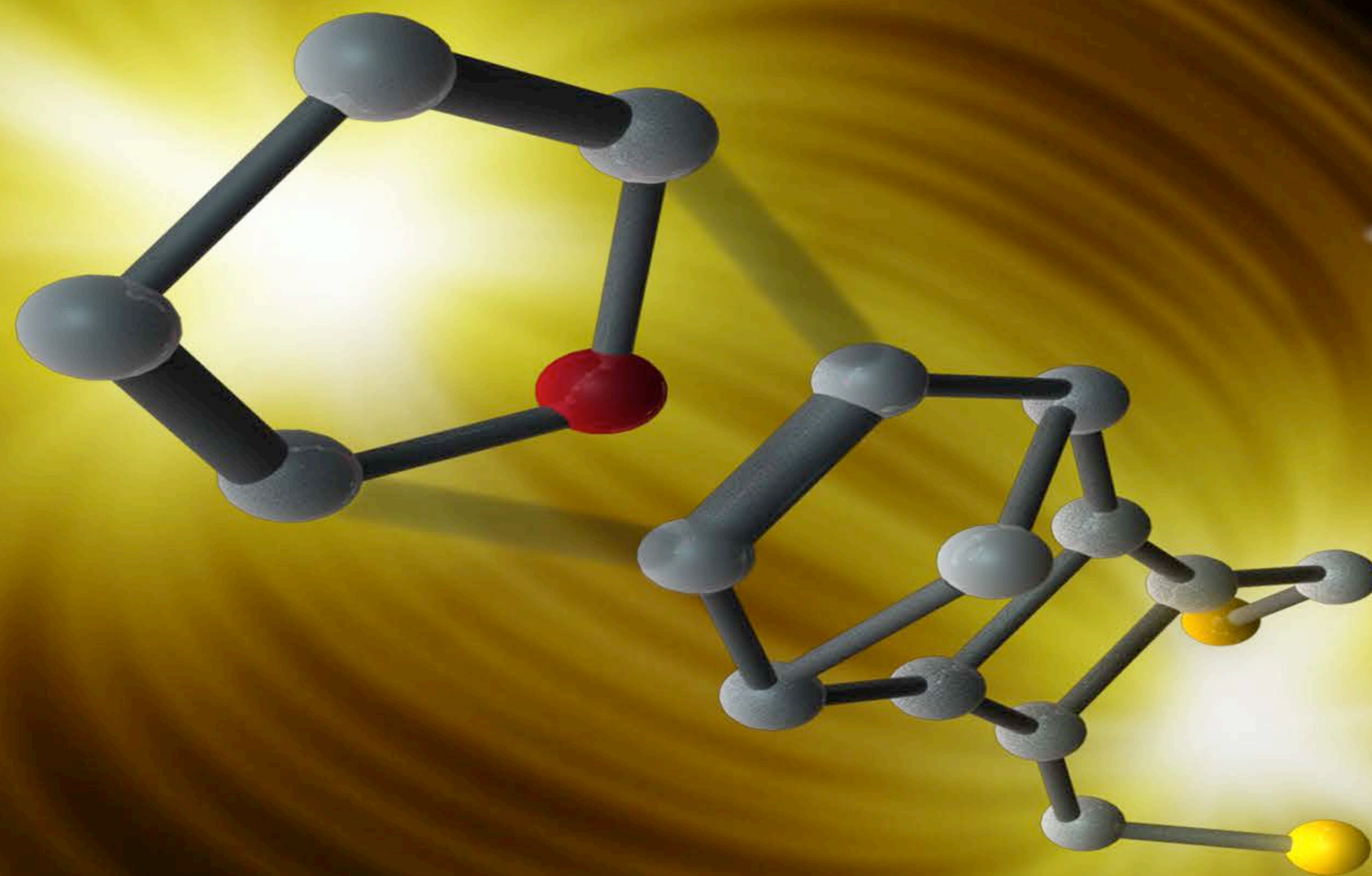


Catalyst of the Month

It is often thought that the ability to control reaction rates with an applied electrical potential gradient is unique to redox systems. However, the Coote group and her collaborators have recently demonstrated that a simple Diels-Alder reaction can be catalyzed with an oriented electric field, thus heralding a new chemical-free approach to catalysis.



Aragonès, Haworth, Darwish, Ciampi, Bloomfield, Wallace, Diez-Perez and Coote, Electrostatic catalysis of a Diels-Alder reaction *Nature* 2016 doi: 10.1038/nature16989