Distinguished Achievement Awards

29 June 2012

Researchers of the Year 2012

The criteria against which nominations are judged state that:

"The nominee should be someone whose most recent research has successfully challenged dogma, created a new field of research, elucidated a new paradigm, made a fundamental change in thinking or impacted significantly on society."

Professor Tim Illidge, School of Cancer & Enabling Sciences, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences

Professor Tim Illidge, from the School of Cancer & Enabling Sciences in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, is a leading light in his field of the use of radiotherapy to treat cancer locally, nationally and internationally.
He is a pioneer for the use of radioimmunotherapy to treat lymphoma. His practice-changing trials increased treatment options for the disease and improved outcomes both within and outside the UK. He is a clinician scientist who has increased understanding of the mechanisms underpinning the successful use of radioimmunotherapy.

Dr Stephanie Barrientos, School of Environment and Development, Faculty of Humanities

[Stephanie was unable to attend the presentation and-Professor David Hulme, her nominator, accepted the award on her behalf]

Dr. Stephanie Barrientos is Senior Lecturer in Global Development at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, School of Environment and Development, and Associate Director, Brooks World Poverty Institute and is based within the Faculty of Humanities. Her research examines global production networks, linking producers in the South with firms and markets in the North. It particularly focuses on their capacity to create economic opportunity for workers in the South and improve the living standards of their households and communities. Her work has international academic recognition and has had a profound impact on the way that major global corporations approach the management of their value chains.

Dr Hilary Ashe- Faculty of Life Sciences

Dr Hilary Ashe from the Faculty of Life Sciences has an outstanding record of research achievement in the area of developmental biology. Her publications in leading journals such as *Nature* have revealed compelling new insights into the mechanisms that regulate development.

Her recent groundbreaking discoveries, published in the prestigious journal, *Developmental Cell*, combined elegant experimental analysis with mathematical modelling to establish key molecular mechanisms underlying stem cell differentiation.

Exploiting the fruit fly as model organism, she determined how the fate of germline stem cells is directed by signals through Bone Morphogenetic Protein (or BMP) growth factors. Her findings have important implications for understanding human development and diseases such as cancer.

Dr Jonathan Clayden, School of Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Jonathan Clayden, from the School of Chemistry in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, was promoted to Professor in 2001 at the age of 33.

Jonathan's work is characterised by creative innovations at the boundaries of synthetic, mechanistic and structural chemistry. He has pioneered ways to control and switch the shape of molecules. He has shown that certain molecular features allow groups of atoms to adopt specific orientations, and has exploited the results to achieve a range of outcomes, including the design of new catalysts, the control of reactivity over long distances on the molecular scale, and the mimicry of biological communication mechanisms.

Jonathan has published over 180 peer-reviewed papers and has earned himself the reputation of being 'an internationally respected chemist' with wide-ranging research interests which are always brimming with creativity.