

Distinguished Achievement Awards

2013 Researchers of the Year

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 Fred Wu, Institute of Human Development, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences

Professor Fred Wu is one of the UK's leading figures in endocrinology and male reproductive medicine, working in the Centre for Endocrinology & Diabetes in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, and as a Consultant Endocrinologist at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Fred is an international authority on male ageing and the role of testosterone in reproductive physiology, and has recently been President of the European Academy of Andrology and an advisor to the US Anti-Doping Agency. He has published over 200 papers, with a landmark study on identification of hypogonadism in ageing men published in *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2010 and he continues to lead the highly influential EU-funded European Male Ageing Study.

Professor James Nazroo, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities

Professor James Nazroo's work on ethnic and health inequalities, supported by 16 grants totalling some £6.5 million in the last six years, has been disseminated via numerous plenary sessions at conferences and invited lectures, and has produced more than 80 publications, with over 1900 citations.

James has successfully challenged the prevailing dogma, with impact far beyond standard academic boundaries, making him one of the few internationally recognised names within academia, policy circles and the voluntary sector in both the UK and abroad. James has had a galvanising effect on cross-university research, as evidenced by the establishment of the Manchester Interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Ageing and the Centre for Dynamics on Ageing, and his two recent large grants (totalling more than £3million) have placed the University at the forefront of world-leading research on health inequalities in ageing and ethnicity.

Professor Nancy Papalopulu, Faculty of Life Sciences

Professor Nancy Papalopulu from the Faculty of Life Sciences has an outstanding record of research achievement in the area of developmental neurobiology. Her recent ground breaking publications in leading journals such as *Nature Neuroscience* and *Cell Reports* have revealed compelling new insights into the mechanisms by which microRNAs, a class of regulatory molecules, regulate axon (or nerve fibre) growth. Nancy's standing amongst her peers was recently recognised by her election as a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation.

In addition to her own highly successful research activities, Nancy acts as a highly effective mentor for junior researchers within her Faculty.

Professor Philip Withers, School of Materials, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Professor Philip Withers is one of the pre-eminent researchers in materials science worldwide.

In the past year, Philip has driven 3D imaging research in Manchester, expanding its application to geophysics, palaeontology, nuclear research and nanotechnology. This has resulted in 35 publications in high impact journals; one of which, highlighting collaborative work with Dr. J. Penney in our Faculty of Life Sciences, imaging ancient invertebrates preserved in amber, was picked up by the Daily Mail online and this generated a 1000% increase in traffic on the University web site.

His research is extremely wide ranging. One further example is work which has allowed new welding techniques to be used in production at Rolls-Royce plc, in particular in inertia friction welding which is now used in modern gas turbine engines such as the Trent 1000 for the Boeing 787.