

## **Distinguished Achievement Awards**

### **2013 Postgraduates of the Year**

The criteria against which their nominations were judged state:

“The nominee should be an outstanding postgraduate student who has excelled in some significant manner for example after the presentation of a thesis based on the recommendation and judgment of the external examiner; or has had a major research achievement during a PGR programme e.g. high quality journal publication; research spin off etc.”

#### **Dr Leonard Ebah, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences**

Dr Leonard Ebah successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "Extraction and analysis of Interstitial fluid and characterization of the interstitial fluid compartment in kidney disease" last year.

Leonard is described as having an outstanding research career as a student submitting work of exceptional quality which ranges from fundamental applied physiology to translational clinical work with novel academic output which has led to patents and two technology spinouts. These could potentially benefit patients with kidney failure in the near future.

He has led collaborations with international leaders in the field. Recognition of his work includes a European Fellowship grant, NIHR TSB grant, 3 national awards and the prestigious Young Innovator award at the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs in San Francisco last year.

#### **Erica Buurman, School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities**

Erica Buurman, who is studying for a PhD in Music, has already published a number of articles on Beethoven – a remarkable achievement after only two years as a postgraduate research student. Her article on Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony is described as being particularly significant, throwing important new light on this celebrated work.

Erica was a leading organiser of the highly successful international Beethoven conference in June 2012, at which she also presented a paper. Five days later she presented a different paper at an international conference in Edinburgh. Both were very well received. Alongside her own research she often supports that of her fellow students. In addition, she has been making valuable contributions to local culture as a violinist in various orchestras and chamber-music groups.

#### **Dr Nicholas Love, Faculty of Life Sciences**

Dr Nicholas Love undertook his PhD in Professor Enrique Amaya’s lab in the Healing Foundation Centre, part of the Faculty of Life. Nick’s research assesses the molecular mechanisms underlying appendage regeneration in tadpoles in order to advance research into scar-free healing.

He has published three first author papers and two other papers, all in top journals. All his work has been groundbreaking. For example, Nick’s *Nature Cell Biology* paper establishes a novel mechanism by which tissue regeneration is driven and this has far reaching implications for the field of

regenerative medicine.

He is not only an exceptional researcher but is also involved in different activities to promote science to the community. He has written several lay pieces which have been recognised by awards and he has given public engagement talks at local schools.

During 2012, he won the prestigious 'SET for Britain' poster competition at the House of Commons.

**Dr Matthew Horridge, School of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Dr Matthew Horridge, from the School of Computer Science, last year was awarded the British Computer Society Distinguished Dissertation Award for his thesis entitled *Justification Based Explanation in Ontologies*. This award is given to “the best British PhD/DPhil dissertations in computer science”. The selection panel judged that Matthew’s thesis stood out from the [tough] crowd as being exceptional. His external examiner wrote “ ... with his thesis Dr Horridge has accomplished what very few doctoral students are able to achieve. He has managed to produce a body of work with theoretical depth that is also broad in scope and widely applicable. This is done with a level of clarity that is exceptional, and enables computer scientists in general to grasp the essentials and importance of the work.”