Appendix 2

Researchers of the Year 2015

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 Elena Lieven, School of Psychological Sciences, FMHS

Professor Elena Lieven is an internationally leading researcher in the area of child language development. In 2014 Professor Lieven led the successful bid for the £9.3M Economic and Social Research Council International Centre for Language and Communicative Development (or LuCiD), based at the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster. LuCiD is one of the largest Centres that the ESRC has funded to date and, with Professor Lieven as the Director, places the North West firmly on the international map as a leading Centre of excellence in child language research.

The Centre is built on long-standing collaborations between Elena and colleagues across the North West, bringing together a large group of established and junior researchers in language and communication development to secure the future of UK-based research in this area. In addition, the International LuCiD Centre involves collaboration with experts in the USA, Australia and Europe.

Her success in leading the LuCiD bid is built on her effective leadership of the Max Planck-funded Child Study Centre at the University of Manchester.

In addition, Elena continues her research-led teaching and is inspiring students to pursue a research career.

Professor Rachel Griffith CBE, School of Social Sciences, FHUMS

Professor Rachel Griffith is an applied microeconomist/microeconometrician of great international standing. This year Rachel has become the first woman President of the European Economics Association, the highest profile academic economics position in Europe.

Rachel has been a Professor in this University since 2010, whilst continuing as Deputy Research Director of the influential Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

She has produced path-breaking work on competition, innovation and productivity; the newer food industry research agenda will also add a similarly important dimension. Total Google Scholar citations of 13,894 (book and articles) indicate her influence.

The numerous esteem indicators that have come her way, including her Presidency of the European Economics Association, cement the view that she has brought an immense and welcome international spotlight on Economics in Manchester.

Earlier this month Rachel received national recognition in this year's Birthday Honours list when she was awarded a CBE for services to economic policy.

Dr Martin Baron, Faculty of Life Sciences

Dr Martin Baron has made exceptional an impact on the fields of developmental biology, cell fate determination and pattern formation, with major implications for our understanding of diseases such as cancer.

Martin has had several papers in Current Biology, Developmental Cell, Journal Cell Biology and Nature Structure Molecular Biology. His impact on the research area was exemplified by his recent Cell publication which tackles the question of how organisms like the fruit fly *Drosophila* can develop normally across a wide temperature range, implying that developmental signalling, or Notch signalling, is robust to such environmental perturbations.

The work additionally solved many long-standing questions arising from the complex genetics of the Notch locus.

His research has further defined a new overview of the means by which Notch signalling levels are set in cells with ramifications for cancer cell biology.

Professor Nicholas Turner, School of Chemistry, FEPS

Professor Nicholas Turner, Professor of Chemical Biology, is a world-leading scientist in the discovery and engineering of enzymes for application as biocatalysts in chemical synthesis.

His recent research has provided important insights for both academic and industrial chemists, showing that industrial biotechnology can be a transformative technology for the UK's industrial base.

Nick has applied these engineered biocatalysts to produce key target molecules including pharmaceuticals and biofuel.

He has published 190 peer-reviewed papers and 9 patents, and his research has received several awards, most recently a Wolfson Royal Society Research Merit Award.

Nick is Director of the Centre of Excellence in Biocatalysis and has also co-founded two spin-out companies; Ingenza Ltd (2003), which is a leading SME in synthetic biology, and Discovery Biocatalysts (2012).