

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Postgraduate Research Students of the Year 2016

The criteria against which their nominations were judged state:

“The nominee should be an outstanding research 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 publications; research spin off, etc.”

Dr Tim Somerville, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, FMHS

During his doctoral studies at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, Dr Tim Somerville discovered a completely novel tumour forming mechanism which is active in one in five of all patients with acute myeloid leukaemia, a life threatening form of blood cancer.

In addition to delivering profound mechanistic insights, his discoveries hold the prospect of improved risk stratification of patients and consequently enhanced personalization of therapy for better outcomes.

His ground breaking discovery was published in the field-leading journal *Cancer Cell*, with Tim as the sole first author – a career defining achievement in science.

Not surprisingly, Tim has been snapped up as a post-doctoral researcher at one of the top research laboratories in the United States: Cold Spring Harbor in New York.

Julia Noble, School of Environment, Education and Development, FHUMS

Julia Noble, from the School of Environment, Education and Development, has excelled whilst on the Doctorate in Counselling Psychology and has been a fantastic member of the postgraduate research student community.

She has produced a series of high quality original research papers, a number of which have been published after presentations at conferences both nationally and internationally.

Furthermore, she has contributed significantly to the University’s social responsibility agenda through her voluntary work as a trainee counselling psychologist in a number of organisations in the Manchester area.

To sum up, Julia brings together excellence in her research and academic work more widely and in her clinical practice. She has been an outstanding ambassador for her programme and the University.

Ben Stutchbury, Faculty of Life Sciences

Ben Stutchbury is from the Faculty of Life Sciences and is in the final stages of his PhD in Cell Biology.

Ben is described as being an excellent scientist, a great communicator and a natural leader.

He has published fantastic work in several journals including *Nature Communications* and *Experimental Cell Research* and other manuscripts are in preparation.

Ben is really enthusiastic about public engagement. He has organised workshops, lectured in schools and even participated in stand-up comedy events.

He has proven his outstanding skills in engaging the public by winning the North West finals of FameLab UK 2015, a competition where participants have three minutes to convey a scientific concept of their choice.

Ben has used his extraordinary organisational skills as member of the postgraduate society by organising events including the Faculty's PhD conference. As chair in 2014, he was the key link between academic staff and students.

Dr Michaela Queitsch-Maitland, School of Physics and Astronomy, FEPS

Dr Michaela Queitsch-Maitland, from the School of Physics and Astronomy, has made major contributions to understanding fundamental particles and their interactions, using data collected by the ATLAS experiment at CERN.

ATLAS is an international collaboration of over 3000 physicists from 177 participating institutes in 38 countries.

Within this highly-competitive environment, Michaela pioneered completely new measurements of the Higgs boson's properties, working closely with researchers from Europe, China and the US.

This outstanding effort has established Manchester and ATLAS as world leaders in measurements of the Higgs boson's kinematic properties in proton-proton collisions.

Described as a great leader, Michaela has also made crucial contributions to the successful operation of the ATLAS experiment itself.