

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Researchers of the Year 2017

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.”

Dr Alex Heazell, School of Medical Sciences, FBMH

During 2016, NIHR Clinician Scientist, Dr Alex Heazell, based within the School of Medical Sciences, produced clinical and basic science research of international standing.

His unique translation research programme which focuses exclusively on stillbirth has produced a paradigm shift in the clinical management of at risk pregnancies across the UK, including the development of an entirely new model of clinical care.

The research group he leads has developed models of disease that will allow further improvements in care to be delivered rapidly in coming years. His work has been recognised in multiple high impact publications in the past year, including a paper in *The Lancet*.

In addition, Alex is the Clinical Director of the Tommy’s Stillbirth Research Centre, Chair of the International Stillbirth Alliance and the NHS Saving Babies Lives implementation lead.

He is a remarkable researcher driven by the desire to see the immense suffering brought about by stillbirth reduced not only here but across the globe.

Professor Stephen Hutchings, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, FHUMS

Professor Stephen Hutchings is based in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures and his main research areas are in Russian cultural and media studies, Russian and Soviet television and film, and Russian and Soviet literature and literary/cultural theory.

More specifically, Stephen has helped to create the field of contemporary Russian televisual media studies, challenged thinking in the area, fundamentally shaped the terms of debate, and created an impact far outside his area of expertise.

His standing in the field was confirmed in 2015-16 by the publication of a major co-authored volume *Nation, Race and Ethnicity on Russian Television* and by the award as Principal Investigator of two major Arts and Humanities Research Council grants worth a combined total of over 1.5 million pounds.

Stephen is considered a foremost authority in Russian Cultural Studies.

Professor Mike Burton, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, FSE

Professor Mike Burton, Chair of Volcanology in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has made outstanding progress in his research over the past 12 months including: a *Science* paper on quantification of global volcanic CO₂ emissions; development of a wholly new methodology for volcanic gas monitoring; development of powerful instrumentation for remote sensing of atmospheric CO₂ with clear commercialisation opportunities; and securing a £3.7m National Environment Research Council award as Principle Investigator to investigate in situ magma kinetics of crystal and bubble growth.

Mike's work directly informs policy on volcanic emissions on Montserrat and his service to the wider community is exemplified in his role as President of the Volcanology division of the European Geosciences Union.

He is described as an inspirational, agenda-setting researcher who has created an exciting new hub for volcanology research here at Manchester.