

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Postgraduate Research Students of the Year 2017

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.”

Michael Daniels, School of Biological Sciences, FBMH

Michael Daniels, from the School of Biological Sciences, contributed as the student representative to the University’s successful Medical Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership bid in 2015 and he has continued to be part of the institution’s Medical Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership Board promoting the student voice.

During his time as a PhD student Michael has produced several outstanding research outputs and was first author on an article highlighting drug repurposing to deliver new therapies for Alzheimer’s disease. This article was a major news story and was picked up by media outlets around the world.

The article reported that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (or NSAID) of the fenamate class inhibited an inflammatory complex called the NLRP3 inflammasome. By inhibiting this, complex brain inflammation was reversed and memory improved in an experimental model of Alzheimer’s disease treated with the fenamate NSAID. This work now paves the way for clinical trials to test inflammasome inhibiting drugs in people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr Clancy Wilmott, School of Environment, Education and Development, FHUMS

Dr Clancy Wilmott, from the School of Environment, Education and Development, has significantly contributed to research culture in her field during her graduate research to a degree that is dramatically in excess of discipline norms.

Her academic track record, including her PhD, strongly proves this academic ability. She writes with passion and a sharp analytical edge.

She also has the confidence to communicate these ideas, with a CV that is well in advance of most researchers at this career stage.

Her publication output at the interface between Geography and Media Studies is outstanding. She is already internationally networked and an experienced convener of workshops and conference panels. Her organizational skills, teaching experience and social intelligence complement this stellar profile.

Timothy Crump, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, FSE

Timothy Crump, from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, determined the conditions required for dynamic “prompt secondary cracking” phenomenon to occur in nuclear reactor core graphite bricks, which can compromise the entire core integrity.

The progress Tim made helps to underpin security of energy supply in the UK for years to come. His achievements have earned him the Spark! 2016 Environment award and has highlighted him as a future leader of the nuclear industry.

This has since lead him to become an Innovation Director of Spark! 2017 and he has represented the University at the highly prestigious World Nuclear Exhibition and the 2016 Trophées de la Recherche et Development in Paris.

While achieving all of this, Tim has been representing the University as a STEM ambassador, National Energy CDT ambassador and Diversity Champion for the Inter-Engineering Charity. This has been in addition to providing outstanding support as a tutor to more than 500 students, as a Residential Life Advisor and teaching on the University’s Foundation course.