

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Teachers of the Year 2017

Nominations were judged against the following criteria:

“The nominee should be an individual whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding. He or she should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas effectively, be able to motivate and stimulate students to learn, whilst at the same time showing a commitment to innovation and excellence in education.”

Professor Wendy McCracken, School of Health Sciences, FBMH

Professor Wendy McCracken, from the School of Health Sciences, is the only Professor of Deaf Education in the UK. Since 2014 she has also been a Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellow.

Wendy’s passion for her subject is clear both in her teaching and at the numerous conferences she has presented at nationally and internationally. Her innovative teaching includes her ability to weave her very considerable experience in practice terms and her research into service provision into her lectures, workshops and seminars.

She maintains her links with service providers and uses this to ensure students have a sense of service delivery to deaf children in changing circumstances. She is recognised nationally as setting high academic and practice standards to ensure deaf children receive high quality services.

Wendy’s focus is not only national, she is also passionate about providing good quality deaf education globally. This is evidenced by her recent, highly successful work on the Massive Online Open Course, or MOOC, which has enabled global learning about deafness in low and middle income countries.

In her own time, Wendy has also taught in Rwanda working with teaching and non-teaching staff and parents of deaf children so they too could get some much needed training.

Dr Nick Shryane, School of Social Sciences, FHUMS

Dr Nick Shryane is based in the School of Social Sciences.

Nick is described as having the enviable gift of being able to make the complexities of advanced statistics accessible to students from a variety of backgrounds.

Using a variety of face-to-face and online delivery styles, Nick has inspired his students by personalising their learning and by making his teaching clear and engaging including once using a tea towel to communicate the complex statistical technique of structural equation modelling!

Nick demystifies and democratises statistics dispensing with irrelevant jargon and concentrating on the underlying concepts, an endeavour which is appreciated by his students one of whom remarked that, as a teacher, Nick should be “dipped in gold”.