**2020 Distinguished Achievement Awards**

**Citations for the Postgraduate Research Students of the Year**

**Dr Neil Ryan, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health**

Dr Neil Ryan completed his PhD as a one of our President’s Doctoral Scholars through an MRC-funded Doctoral Research Fellowship. He led the first UK study of unselected testing of womb cancer for Lynch syndrome, and showed that tumour immunohistochemistry for mismatch repair deficiency is the best testing strategy.

He showed that women want to be tested for Lynch syndrome and that it costs as little as £50/case. His findings prompted the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to assess new guidance that recommends the universal testing of womb cancer for Lynch syndrome, and thus his research will change clinical practice.

Neil published 15 research papers during his PhD and many more are in submission or draft format.

Neil’s nominator and supervisor states that Neil is one of the most talented students she had ever worked with and that he is a rising star in academic gynaecological oncology.

**Elizabeth Chloe Romanis, Faculty of Humanities**

Chloe Romanis has, according to her supervisors, surpassed all expectations of a PhD student and a colleague. Chloe has undertaken her research in the Department of Law’s Centre for Social and Ethical Policy. This has focused on artificial womb technology.

During her time as a PhD student Chloe has produced substantial and internationally important published research in the field of the ethics and law of artificial womb technology.

In addition, her research has started to have an impact with scholars replying to and commenting on her work and the media inviting Chloe to provide commentaries on this issue.

Alongside these amazing research achievements, Chloe has been equally committed to students and prospective students in her School and the University more widely.

Her teaching is highly regarded and she has used her position to encourage students from widening participation backgrounds to join the University.

**Dr Chun-Ren Ke, Faculty of Science and Engineering**

Dr Chun-Ren (or Jack) Ke has made world-leading contributions to making stable materials for a new generation of solar cells.

So-called 'organic perovskites' show immense promise as cheap light harvesters, with device efficiencies rising in the last 6 years to more than 25% - now rivalling the conventional material, silicon.

However, exploitation of these materials is currently prevented by their instability when exposed to water and air, which leads to rapid degradation.

In his PhD, Jack removed a major technical barrier (that the material degrades faster than it can be studied), and used cutting-edge ultra-high vacuum techniques to unambiguously determine the degradation mechanism. He then used this knowledge to design and synthesise some of the most stable perovskite photovoltaics yet made.

A referee of Jack’s describes him as a researcher who brings together a high level of intellectual curiosity with an entrepreneurial spirit which fuels his passion for translating his research into real-world applications and industry.