Talented emerging scientist… Bianca Price

1. How did you become interested in research relating to your area?

I am interested in applied microbiology and translational research, and antibiotic resistance is an important and current issue. My work with diabetic foot infection and infection detection intersects these areas and allows me to work closely with clinicians and meet patients for whom this work could be beneficial.

2. Describe your research & the program/lab that you are in?

I have recently set up my own group, which is focussed on antibiotic stewardship. I am interested in the relationship between chronic wounds and antibiotic resistance as well as alternative ways to deliver antibiotics so that they are able to kill a biofilm, tolerant to high concentrations of antibiotics, without causing adverse events in patients. I am also looking into ways to determine if an infection is caused by bacteria, and which bacteria, in order to reduce inappropriate treatment with antibiotics.

3. What makes you unique – why, of all applicants, do you think YOU got funded?

I have a unique position as a discovery scientist with close links to the pharmaceutical industry and clinicians. I am therefore well placed to understand what the priorities are in industry and meet those needs, which are often focussed on good patient outcomes. I can also access clinical samples which greatly improves the impact of my work.

4. Obviously it depends on the project, but in addition to this how much do you think is dependent on the presentation you did and the place in which you are doing the project?

I think that the University is critical to the funding opportunity because it successfully bids for MRC funding which then becomes available to researchers. Furthermore, links between the University and Manchester Hospitals are well integrated and there is value placed here on translational work and work with impact. This culture is critical for this project and my broader research goals.

5. Describe your unforgettable (proudest) moment in science, and the most challenging situation that you have had to overcome (lessons learnt) so far?

My proudest moment was receiving the promising technologist of the year award at the Bionow awards in November 2016. The most challenging situation is learning to accept rejection and assimilate feedback in order to improve proposals and also refine my research interests and goals.

6. Where is your biggest stress at this stage of your career?

My biggest stress in a common one: finding funding and job security.

7. What area(s) do you wish to specialise in in the future?

I aim to specialise in chronic wounds and the link between the wound microbiome and wound healing in the future.

8. What would be your advice for talented emerging scientists?

Take things step by step, don't get overwhelmed. Be confident in your own abilities and persevere.