

Celebrating and Recognising the Achievements of Research Staff in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

To celebrate and recognise the achievements of the University's research staff, the Research Staff Strategy Group introduced the Research Staff Excellence Awards. We are delighted to announce the winners and highly commended within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

Nominations recognising researcher staff for their achievements, impact and successes were considered by Faculty panels and members of the Research Staff Strategy Group, chaired by Professor Melissa Westwood, Associate Vice President Research. Full details of the awards and criteria are available [here](#).

Dr Paul Atherton during his time in the Division of Cell Matrix Biology and Regenerative Medicine had many significant achievements including publications in *Nature Comms* and the *Journal of Cell Biology*. Paul's understanding of how cells communicate with their extracellular environment gained recognition at an international level as evidenced by an invitation to speak at the prestigious Gordon Research Conference in 2019. Paul's achievements spanned all areas of activity including securing research grant funding and supporting and sharing knowledge with colleagues and PGRs. His achievements have been recognised, as he is now the Faculty's **Research Staff of the Year 2021** winner.

Dr Yingjuan Liu's paper "Global birth prevalence of congenital heart disease: updated systematic review and meta-analysis of 260 studies" in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* is winner of the Faculty's **Best Outstanding Output by Research Staff**. Covering over 250 published studies broken down into detailed diagnostic subgroups; this is the most cited paper in the field in 2019 and has changed understanding of what is happening to the epidemiology of congenital heart disease globally. The paper will enable conclusions to be drawn about the allocation of healthcare resources, particularly in developing countries

A first author paper published in the *Journal of Physiology* by **Dr Ivy Cheng** was highly commended in the Best Outstanding Output category. The paper secured the Editor's Choice and has generated a new avenue of research in the area of swallowing related metaplasticity.



Dr Katherine Rogers is the Faculty winner of **Best Outstanding Contribution to Research Impact by Research Staff**. This is in recognition of Katherine's substantial contribution to clinical practice, health policy and practice guidelines in relation to Deaf signers' mental health. Katherine and colleagues translated, reliability-tested, validated and published a suite of psychometric assessments in British Sign Language. In addition, the NHS England commissioning guidelines on interpreting and translation in primary care incorporated in full the eight quality practice principles that Katherine co-wrote.

The **Faculty's research staff reps** are the winners of the University wide category of **Best Outstanding Contribution to the Research Staff Environment**. The reps have made a significant contribution to supporting the research staff community through a very challenging year. In spite of the impact of COVID-19, the reps network remained vibrant and active, organising virtual events, which played a crucial role in connecting researchers. The reps played an active role on the Faculty Campus Re-opening group and helped to ensure a safe return to campus activity.

Many congratulations to all of the winners and highly commended research staff, your significant contribution to the research excellence of the Faculty is appreciated.