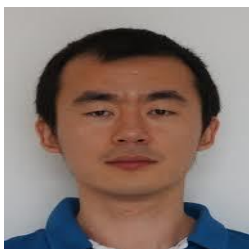


## Celebrating and Recognising the Achievements of Research Staff in the Faculty of Science and Engineering

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 Science and Engineering.

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 Ying Chen**, Roll-Royce Research Fellow in the Department of Materials, has many outstanding achievements and is the Faculty's **Research Staff of the Year 2021** winner. Ying has gained recognition for his pioneering work on protective coatings including securing funding and support from industry partners. His many and impactful publications are among the most cited in this field and he is regularly invited as a discussant to conferences and industry workshops. This is in addition to excellent supervision of PGRs, teaching and engagement in collegiate activities.



**Dr Qian Yang**, Leverhulme Research Fellow in the Graphene Institute, has published two significant and impactful papers in *Nature* on capillary condensation providing first experimental proof of the century-old Kelvin equation and opening up possibilities to address materials science at its smallest scale. This work has received broad media attention, has been recognised internationally, and is the Faculty winner of the **Best Outstanding Output by Research Staff**. Also in this category, the outputs of **Dr Robert Nixon** and **Dr William Finnigan** were highly commended.

Robert has recently published two uncovering the unusual reactivity under tension of carbene precursors in *Nature Chemistry* and *Journal of the American Chemical Society*) whilst William's work on developing a novel platform for the computer-aided design of biocatalytic cascades and reactions was recently published in *Nature Catalysis*.

**Dr Michael Winn, Dr Luis Bering, Dr Sarah Shepherd, Dr Imtiaz Khan** in the Micklefield Lab in the Department of Chemistry are the Faculty's winner for **Best Outstanding Contribution to Research Impact by Research Staff, Faculty of Science and Engineering**. The team of researchers have discovered new and more environmentally friendly ways of making pharmaceuticals and other essential products by exploring new enzymes and by combining the best of both chemo- and biocatalysis. This work is a significant advancement in the fields of Chemistry and Biochemistry, demonstrating a real practical application that could become widely adopted.

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