

Distinguished Achievement Awards 2022

Researchers of the Year

These winners have been selected by the judges on the basis that their recent research has successfully challenged dogma, created a new field of research, elucidated a new paradigm, made a fundamental change to thinking, or impacted significantly on society.

Dr Matt Hepworth, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Matt Hepworth is an internationally-renowned researcher in immunology, repeatedly recognised by external funders via independent fellowships as a leader in his field.

Over his career, he has made fundamentally important insights into how the immune system is controlled, with three standout studies in 2021 that have changed the way we think about immune regulation, identifying novel therapeutic targets for disease.

These studies show how specific molecules control the identity of a crucial immune cell type called ILC3, and that their dysregulation can cause these cells to go 'rogue' and cause inflammatory disease such as asthma and bowel inflammation.

Additional research shows how ILC3s suppress T cell responses in the lung, and how ILCs help maintain immune health and prevent inflammation in the skin.

Matt is an extremely collegiate and collaborative researcher, always willing to help people with their research and to drive new research directions. He is constantly coming up with new ideas to drive transformative research in the division and wider faculty, and to this end sits as both early career representative and research representative on the divisional leadership team.

Dr Beatriz Mingo, Faculty of Science and Engineering

Dr Beatriz Mingo is a rising star in the engineering research community, and already exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding scientist, colleague, mentor, with extraordinary courage in raising awareness and promoting Manchester University's pioneering spirit.

Bea is part of the Manchester Gold Access mentoring scheme, she organises dedicated outreach events to promote awareness about Women and Girls in Science, and initiated workshops for early career researchers to apply for UK fellowship schemes.

Bea's outstanding research centres on extending the lifetime of lightweight components used in transport and energy conversion, which will contribute to creating energy-efficient vehicles and guarantee sustainable consumption and allocation of resources.

Bea's achievements have been recognised by the *Royal Academy of Engineering* and in 2021 she was awarded a prestigious *Royal Academy of Engineering Fellowship*. Bea also received in 2020 the Oronzio and Niccolo DE Nora Foundation Young Author Prize (International Society of Electrochemistry).

Her ambitious goals promise to re-set our engineering principles on environmentally friendly surface treatments.

Dr Edmond Smith, Faculty of Humanities

Edmond Smith came to the University as a Presidential Fellow in 2018. Since arriving, he has raised over £600,000 as PI and Co-I on projects funded by the ESRC, the AHRC and the British Academy.

Edmond's impressive volume of research in field-leading peer-reviewed journals continues to create significant academic impact. His work has initiated a fundamental change in thinking about mercantile activities and institutions in the early modern world.

His book with Yale University Press, *Merchants: The Community That Shaped England's Trade and Empire, 1550-1650*, breaks new ground in the writing of economic history. The Times Literary Supplement described it as having 'clear relevance for contemporary debate about Britain's role in the world, and how to understand global economic change'.

His emerging trajectory in paid consultancy for financial and banking institutions demonstrates impressive scope for Business Engagement activities, rare in the discipline. Smith has written on innovation for Insurance Times, advised block chain start-up SETL, and worked with Rhonda Best to develop a series of workshops for the Centre for Management Consulting Excellence.

Edmond has also proved himself an excellent teacher and a collegial member staff in History, offering mentoring in terms of researcher development and research.