

# **Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2020**

## **Collegiality**

This Award celebrates an employee or a team who embodies our spirit of collegiality: one team working, planning and delivering together, toward our shared vision.

The nominees are:

### **Gemma Fitzsimmons, Research & Innovation Services**

Gemma has worked tirelessly to deliver the University's REF2021 submission, a demanding role in which she has personified the spirit of collegiality, going above and beyond on many occasions to provide help and advice to academic and professional services staff in all faculties.

Feedback from colleagues has included:

"Gem goes out of her way to accommodate other's needs, while at the same time being highly efficient and professional."

"Gem is a fantastic colleague: she combines a solid and detailed understanding of the complexities of the REF process, exacting analytical and data skills with a helpful and engaging attitude towards all academic colleagues. She is patient and generous with her time and I know that this has been valued by everyone involved in the faculty"

### **Kate Lapage, Library & Arts**

Kate designed and created a Virtual Staffroom on Teams for Library & Arts colleagues to have a break from work and catch up with people during lockdown. The Virtual Staffroom has been positively received and well used, with 226 users in the last three months.

Kate demonstrates collegiality in everything she does, contributing to staff wellbeing and building networks outside of her immediate team which help deliver the University of Southampton shared vision.

### **Sally Dady, Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Sally has worked in Chemistry for 28 years and supports the whole School in many ways including as Wellbeing Champion. Sally is often the first-person staff and students turn to in need and she always offers friendly help and advice; she embodies collegiality.

Sally always goes above and beyond, noticing anyone looking distressed offering them a quiet space to take a breather and directing them to the appropriate services. She also successfully manages Chemistry's common room, ensuring a supportive, family and community feel.

## **Early Career**

This Award celebrates the commitment and achievements of a colleague with up to five years' service, who has exceeded the expectations of their position and demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the University.

The nominees are:

### **Chaitanya Paruchuri, Engineering and Physical Sciences**

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Chaitanya has had an outstanding year in which was awarded a prestigious five-year, £500,000, RAEng research fellowship, published more than 18 research papers and filed seven patents. He has mentored colleagues on fellowship writing, is the ISVR Infrastructure Manager and been instrumental in re-opening laboratories.

Chaitanya has demonstrated his ability in the various aspects of academic life, with achievements in teaching, publications and proposal submission, while only receiving his PhD three years ago.

### **Jane Parry, Social Sciences**

Jane has made several outstanding research-related achievements, including being awarded a Parliamentary Academic Fellowship (ESRC IAA), and, very recently, led a team to win £194,000 of funding from UKRI Ideas to address the COVID-19 Recovery Call (ESRC), as well as being appointed Deputy-Head of Research for her department.

Fostering strong collegiality, she has performed far beyond expectations, becoming a significant driving force within the department.

### **Shengjie Lai, Environmental and Life Sciences**

Shengjie received his PhD at the University in 2018. Since then, working in the WorldPop group, he has undertaken a huge amount, including supporting the response efforts to COVID-19 around the world, and being the lead author on a research paper in *Nature*.

Aspects of his work have been disseminated and used by the WHO, European CDC, Africa CDC, US CDC, Chinese CDC, and many other national and international organisations for tailoring strategies to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and resurgences. These studies have been widely reported by media across the World, boosting the reputation of the University.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

This award celebrates a colleague or team who has worked towards a more inclusive culture at faculty, departmental and the wider University.

The nominees are:

#### **Intersectionality: Politics – Identities – Cultures Research Group**

**Shaun Cole, Associate Professor of Fashion, WSA;**

**Valentina Cardo, Associate Director of Doctoral Research, Director of Internationalisation, WSA;**

Shaun and Valentina organised a screening of *Beyond: "there is always a black issue dear"*. The film explores and celebrates black LGBT identities and the ways in which they have influenced fashion, fine art, dance, music and language.

As one of the keystone events in the University's 2020 calendar of LGBT History month celebrations, Shaun and Valentina contributed to a well organised and visible engagement and diversity strategy across multiple campuses, helping to ensure that as many parts of the University were included and participating in a really important dialogue.

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## **University of Southampton BAME Network**

**Bhupinder Siran, iSolutions;**

**Gwen Gordon, Social Sciences;**

**Peter Kargbo, Health Services Library**

Our staff networks play a crucial role in advancing the interests of under-represented groups and make a valuable contribution to the University. Although the BAME Network is small, this group is dedicated to growing the engagement of our BAME community in university life. It shares best practice and personal experience to improve the personal outcomes for individual employees, builds empathy, provides support, challenges mind-sets, influences policy, and so much more.

In a challenging year for our BAME colleagues, which has seen them have to respond to, and manage community feedback on many challenging issues including but not exclusively incidents linked to COVID-19, the direct and indirect contributions of this group to informing and shaping policies and practices should not be under-estimated.

## **Southampton Stonewall Lecture team**

**Julie Gammon, Senior Lecturer, History, Arts & Humanities**

**Mark Cornwall, Professor of Modern European History, History, Arts & Humanities**

**Michael Williams, Professor of Film, Arts & Humanities**

Julie, Mark and Michael organise the annual Southampton Stonewall Lecture, which this year was given by Dr Jill Liddington, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, exploring how Anne Lister has been presented by successive generations of editors and historian.

They organise a ground-breaking schedule of LGBTQ+ history teaching. Indeed, the Alternative Sexualities course has been one of the most popular in the department. Their teaching shows students the long tradition of homophobic repression, and also reveals a long history of sympathy and tolerance of queer men and women. It has encouraged students to see that LGBTQ+ history is now mainstream and not just a minority subject.

## **International Engagement**

The International Engagement Award celebrates an employee or a team whose efforts have made a significant contribution to our international impact in fields including, but is not restricted to, research, education, the student experience, policy and alumni relations.

The nominees are:

## **Gemma Barnes, Global Recruitment & Admissions**

Gemma has shown tireless dedication to ensuring the welfare of the University's study abroad students in the face of unparalleled adversity this year. As Study Abroad and Exchange Manager, Gemma has been the first point of contact for more than 400 students affected by COVID-19, with fifteen students caught up in the unrest in Hong Kong and has simultaneously been navigating the University's Erasmus programme through Brexit.

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Throughout all of this, Gemma has demonstrated outstanding leadership of her small team and an unwavering commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of our students by consistently providing emotional support and practical advice not only to Southampton students abroad, but also to visiting students in Southampton and their families.

### **Valentina Cardo, Associate Director of Doctoral Research, Director of Internationalisation, WSA**

Valentina's accomplishments in the area of international impact this year have been remarkable and wide-ranging, from international student recruitment to the establishment of strong partnerships with a number of institutions and researchers around the world.

Her recently launched research group has already attracted contributions from international researchers, leading to interdisciplinary and cross-faculty engagement across the whole university.

Through her hard-working attitude, she is making a real difference to international engagement in our university.

### **SETsquared @ Southampton team, Research & Innovation Services**

#### **David Bream, David Woolley, Diana Galpin, Karen Brooks, Kerrie Graham, Sarah Rogers, Thea Glasspool**

The SETsquared Partnership, which was founded by our University along with Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Surrey, was ranked the global number one university business incubator for the third time in a row in November 2019, a title held since 2015.

Leadership in this ranking of over 1,500 university incubators around the world enhances the University of Southampton's profile both nationally and internationally and its reputation among students, researchers, funders and companies, as an institution that is successful at applying its knowledge to deliver impact and outcomes through business.

### **Public Engagement and Outreach**

This Award celebrates an employee or team who has made exceptional connections with one or more public audiences. This may include engaged research, partnerships between the University and a public group, work with schools and colleges, or outstanding contributions to public-facing events.

The nominees are:

#### **Josephine Corsi, Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Jo brings together a team from across Physics, Engineering and Chemistry; ensuring that outreach is planned and executed to the highest standard. Through the outreach activities Jo has orchestrated, over 1,000 people have directly engaged in electrochemistry, an often overlooked, but essential area of science.

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Jo routinely goes out of her way to champion the research done by the University and she is the driving force behind The Electrochemical Circus – a collection of portable, hands-on activities designed to demonstrate key concepts relating to electrodeposition of new materials.

### **Neil Gostling, Environmental and Life Sciences**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Neil started a Facebook Group, The Dinosaur on your Windowsill, with the aim to help ameliorate the negative impact of lockdown, particularly on school age children by encouraging engagement with nature. The Group now has over 2,000 members.

Neil also ably weaves messages about life sciences onto the Group and all the great work of the faculty. Personal stories from researchers and alumni working in interesting areas help enthuse younger group members and doubtless inspiring them to consider a career in this area. Neil's open and welcoming approach is motivating people across the globe to learn and care about the natural world and the success of the group is evident.

### **Silvia Lanati, Research & Innovation Services**

When the annual Southampton Science and Engineering Festival was postponed in early March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Silvia went above and beyond her daily duty to respond to public and researcher demand for a virtual festival even if a physical one was impossible. After extensive and rapid re-formulation of the engagement infrastructure, she launched SOTSEF Goes Digital in May 2020 with a series of themed and time-limited micro-festivals. Over 20,000 people have accessed the site since the start of May.

Her efforts have been a valuable institutional investment, as it will now enable a comprehensive virtual delivery of the Human Worlds Festival in November 2020 and will support the virtual aspects of the University's contributions to the ESRC Festival of Social Science.

### **Research Impact**

This Award celebrates an employee or a team who has delivered influential research, generated knowledge, technologies and/or public policy impact that has economic and social benefit.

This award includes, but is not limited to, those conducting research and providing other forms of research support, as well as those developing innovative knowledge exchange structures to support evidence-informed policymaking.

The nominees are:

#### **EU QUERO team**

**Amos Channon, Associate Professor in Demography, Social Sciences**

**Pia Riggiozzi, Head of Politics and International Relations, Social Sciences**

Amos and Pia lead an interdisciplinary MRC-Newton funded project called EU QUERO that aims to improve women's and children's health in the first 1,000 days of life in two of the poorest states of Brazil - Maranhão and Goiás, and which have high rates of maternal and child mortality.

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The project is developing tools to improve the quality of maternal and childcare and to empower many of the most vulnerable people with the knowledge and resources to understand and assert their rights.

This is clearly the start of a process within Brazil to strengthen the human right for health and the EU QUERO project has been, and will be, a catalyst for this change.

### **Chigozie Edson Utazi, Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute, Environmental and Life Sciences**

Edson leads work on childhood vaccination in low income settings within WorldPop. Through this work he now regularly engages with governments and international agencies. He also leads engagement with the Gates Foundation and GAVI, developing global and national modelling methods that have fed into their reports and strategic reviews.

Edson has developed into a highly regarded global leader in his field in a short space of time, combining rigorous statistical methods with policy relevant outputs and a strong ongoing record of international impact.

### **Jonathan Dawson, Medicine**

Jon joined the University as a PhD student in 2004 and developed a new type of clay biomaterial for application in orthopaedic medicine. He has remained at the University and successfully won a £2m fellowship from the EPSRC.

Three years ago, Jon founded and spun out a new company, called Renovos, which is bringing cell therapy and biomaterials to patients for the first time. The company is addressing some of the growing needs created, in part, by increased life expectancy and the age-related diseases that go with it. This work, as well as his development of a public engagement feature called the Stem Cell Mountain, has led to an excellent impact case study, which is to be submitted in REF 2020.

### **Student Experience**

This Award celebrates a colleague or team who is helping our students to succeed and become confident thinkers who realise their full potential, delivering an exemplary student experience, promoting and supporting a culture of diversity and collegiality on our campuses.

The nominees are:

### **BM5 Year 1 Lead and Deputy Lead team, Medicine**

**Linda Turner**

**Stuart Morton**

Linda, the BM5 year 1 lead, and Stuart, the deputy-lead, helped students succeed and realise their full potential prior to, and throughout, the COVID-19 pandemic. Their commitment to ensuring an exemplary student experience is evident in the excellent feedback they received from students and colleagues via e-mails, during Steering Groups and in module evaluations.

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Linda and Stuart have been praised for identifying and supporting struggling students and staff through lockdown; ensuring that learning resources are fit-for-purpose and appropriate for diverse learners; establishing a fair and workable assessment strategy; reassuring, clear and timely communication; and quick, efficient and helpful responses to queries and concerns. They are the best of us.

**Fashion Marketing and Management Lecturers team, Arts & Humanities**

**Amanda Bragg-Mollison, Programme Leader for Fashion Marketing/Management**

**Anna Pegg, Teaching Fellow**

**Linda Mackie, Senior Teaching Fellow**

**Pascal Matthias, Senior Teaching Fellow**

**Richard Rafter, Digital Lecturer**

This team was nominated for truly going 'above and beyond' and for showing incredible diligence and patience in the delivery of teaching and associated student support during COVID-19.

While facing some significant personal challenges, they have continued to inspire their students with passionate lectures; they have listened and responded to their academic concerns; they have made difficult topics accessible to all and, in the case of their nominator, helped them to achieve a grade they never thought they possibly could.

Their student nominator expressed enormous appreciation for the quality of teaching and support provided by this team during this uncertain and challenging time.

**Sandra Wilks, Biological Sciences, Environmental and Life Sciences**

Sandra places students at the centre of her teaching, providing an exemplary educational experience. She supports and coaches students holistically providing career options, confidence-building exercises, and mental health and wellbeing resources to encourage them to thrive. Her ethos focuses on students being individuals, with individual needs, and she goes beyond her role to encourage an atmosphere of inclusivity and engagement.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Sandra has run regular virtual writing groups with students, and helped them cope with the current challenges, including feeling isolated. Feedback includes:

"She actually cares about you as a person, not just a student."

"Is hands-down the staff member who has had the most impact on my time here."

### **Teaching**

The Teaching Award celebrates a colleague or a team who has demonstrated that teaching is helping us to achieve the ambitions set out in our University strategy, which may include: improving the quality of our education; building a reputation for delivering excellence and an exemplary student experience; contributing to the improvement of league table rankings and our reputation; developing education with discovery at its heart; or nurturing graduates who are confident global citizens, equipped to make a positive contribution to the world.

The nominees are:

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## **Dorrie Chao, Southampton Business School, Social Sciences**

Dorrie is incredibly knowledgeable of her research area and teaches concepts and learning in a professional, and relatable way. She has repeatedly proven her commitment and devotion to teaching and her students; and regularly goes above and beyond to help, despite her busy timetable.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Dorrie has continually checked up on students regarding their progress and wellbeing. Feedback includes:

“She is one of a few lecturers with a rare yet appreciated equilibrium of formal and informal.”  
“I cannot explain enough my gratitude for her support. She has been a massive inspiration, and this reward would only be a small token of my gratitude.”

## **Ho Ming (Brian) Yuen, Medicine**

Brian's teaching inspires undergraduate and graduate medical students to enthusiastically and confidently learn statistics. This is remarkable because students often fear and struggle with the subject and find it extremely difficult to learn. Brian has worked whole-heartedly and collaboratively with students to provide exemplary teaching, which is imaginative, interactive and medically relevant.

Brian's love of statistics is contagious. He connects with learners in ways which enable them to discover statistics creatively and evaluatively. He embraces continuing professional development to ensure best practice from a solid evidence-base; he respects individual learners and appreciates diverse learning communities.

## **Pete Langdon, Head of Geography and Environmental Science, Environmental and Life Sciences**

Pete is always innovating and trying new things to improve the student experience. He radically revamped one of the core first year modules to include much more practical and hands-on work, even though this is more time intensive to teach.

Even when the COVID-19 lockdown meant that his module could no longer run, he was innovative and managed to engage students with content despite all the limitations and lack of assessment incentives.

## **In the Face of Adversity**

This Award celebrates an employee or team of colleagues who, when faced with the extraordinary challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, was able to deliver something remarkable to the benefit of our internal and/or external community.

Whether it was courage that was shown in the face of adversity, ingenuity, selflessness, or any number of other qualities, this award seeks to uncover the efforts made to overcome what has and continues to be, an extremely difficult period for us all.

In this category, we have eight finalists and four winners.

The nominees are:



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### **Category 3 Lab team, Medicine**

**Christopher McCormick, Jennifer Russell, Karl Staples, Richard Lockey**

The Category 3 Lab team has worked tirelessly to launch the Category 3 Pathogens Laboratory for COVID-19 research, allowing investigators from across the University to lead the fight against this disease.

Under enormous pressure, this team effort has achieved above and beyond normal expectations; a superb collegiate effort on behalf of the whole University not just the Faculty of Medicine.

### **City Testing Programme team, university-wide collaboration**

**Adam Tewkesbury, Barbara Halliday, Ben Johnston, Eychelle Heywood, Grace Grove, Hazel Inskip, Helen Everest, James Batchelor, James Sturgess, Jessica Gow, Jo Musgrove, Jo Slater-Jefferies, Keith Godfrey, Laura Howells, Melanie Haydon, Mike Hall, Mike Travers, Nisreen Alwan, Paul Roderick, Paula Costello**

These nominees are representatives of a much bigger group.

The City Testing Programme team worked rapidly and collaboratively with the University, hospital and city council colleagues to deliver the proposal for the pilot programme of testing and isolation of infected individuals to control COVID-19 outbreaks and prevent rapid spread across the community.

When it finally became public knowledge, the study was able to hit the ground running because of all the extraordinarily detailed planning and input that so many people had brought to the project in the weeks leading up to the launch based on mutual trust and clear vision.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Support team, university-wide collaboration**

**Andy Jennings, Charles Elder, Graham Senior, Mark Dixon, Matt Plant, Nick Povey, Phil Tarling, Simon Bobbett, Steve Bates, George Hallows, Gabriel Bees, Jolene Pacey, Adam French, Stevie Garner, Chris Tuffill, Craig Dooley, Matt Gregory, Michelle Clarke, Ben Jarvis, Jack Murray, Tom Hatchet, Steve Gore, James Topping, Matt Gregory, Helen Stone, Steve Pacey, James Peploe**

Again, the nominees are representatives of a much bigger group.

When work began on a COVID-19 vaccine at Oxford's Jenner Institute in January, Professor Saul Faust and the NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility team stepped up to offer Southampton as a centre for testing the vaccine. The University response lead by the COVID-19 Vaccine Support team, offering the Jubilee Sports Hall as the space to screen thousands of volunteers and then vaccinate them safely and efficiently, was immediate. None of this would have been possible without the University teams who made this logistically possible.

### **Digital Learning Team and Managed Learning Environment Team, iSolutions**

**Anna Ruff, Bobbi Moore, Chrissie Metcalf, Colin Barnett, Dean Wall, Dimitra Makrozonari, Graham Robinson, James Allen, Joe Brett, Jonathan Lightfoot, Louis Pliskin, Matt Deeprise, Mimi Lee, Nic Monks, Paul Blatch, Pei Zhang, Sarah Fielding, Sofy Bazzini, Tamsyn Smith**

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, staff and students had to navigate a completely new way of working from home in a very uncertain time. The Managed Learning Environment team worked

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tirelessly, particularly during the early phase of the pandemic, to move the entire University over to remote learning, providing solutions to help maintain consistency and quality of experience for both staff and students.

MLE has always been a great example of a team that pushes business as usual into successful outcomes through sheer dedication, and this characteristic has never been of greater importance to our university community.

### **PeRSO Project team, university-wide collaboration**

**Alex Dickinson, Alexandra Mant, Antonio De Grazia, Clint Styles, Constantinos Regas, Dan Spencer, David Marshall, Diana Garay-Baquero, Hywel Morgan, Kerrie Graham, Laura Diment, Liku Tezera, Mark Mavrogordato, Paul Elkington, Philippa Reed, Ric Gillams, Roel Mingels, Sebastian Rosini**

The PeRSO Project team, in its design of a simple personal respirator system, from concept to product in six weeks, has managed to make an enormous impact on the safety of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The lifesaving design is now being used by thousands of healthcare workers across the country, with modified designs for the Developing World in production.

Frontline staff have said they feel safer with the respirator system, and that the amazing thing for patients is that staff can smile and communicate emotionally with them, which is very important in the recovery process. This project is a stunning example of how an interdisciplinary team can bring innovation and teamwork to solve a real-world problem at pace.

### **Residences Pandemic Response team, Estates & Facilities**

**Caitie Mainstone, Charlie Handy, Claudia Whiting, Dan Barnes, Dan Watson, Dave Francis, Gee Wibisono, Hannah Butler, Jalessa Drake, Julian Jarrett-James, Karl Lickiss, Kaylie Scott, Kev Terry, Laura Palmour, Lorraine Drake, , Lorraine Prescott, Marta Marques, Martin Sealy, Rachel Nash, Rachel Wootton, Raf Persaud, Ross Blainey, Ross Carpenter**

From the first suspected COVID-19 case in halls, every process was reviewed, adjusted and then communicated to staff and students, sometimes daily in response to quickly changing PHE and government guidance. The Residences Pandemic Response team did everything within their ability to keep students and staff safe, as well as relocating residents to enable accommodation for homeless and NHS workers.

This service delivery transformation occurred while many University services moved to work off site which heightened the anxiety levels of remaining students and staff. The team used creativity, collaboration, determination and additional hours to manage this scale of change while also managing their own wellbeing.

### **Southampton Clinical Trials Unit team, Medicine**

**Andrea Corkhill, Beth Stuart, Catherine Simpson, Cherish Boxall, Debs Ellis, Elice Marwood, Emma Wrixon, Fran Webley, Jacqui Nuttall, Josh Northey, Karen Martin, Keira Fines, Kelly Cozens, Louise Stanton, Mike Radford, Nicole Keyworth, Sara Yeats, Sean Ewings, Susannah Condie, Tom Oliver, Zina Eminton**

The Southampton Clinical Trials Unit team has made an outstanding contribution to COVID-19 research, alongside wide-ranging changes to home and personal lives, while maintaining the safety of patients continuing trials.

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The team's work has been highlighted in local and national media and staff across the SCTU have overcome many challenges in order to contribute to the University's response to this national crisis.

**Transition to Online Learning & Engagement Week Project team, university-wide collaboration  
Anna O'Neil, Bobbi Moore, Caroline Willers, Dave Key, Fiona Sutherland, Gemma Parker, Helen Carmichael, Jane Stephenson, Jo Lisney, Mike Weaver, Neil Ford, Nicola Adcock, Patrick McSweeney, Roz Stanton, Sarah Chapman, Sarah Watson, Shelley Parr, Sonia Cottrell, Tara Chilcott**

The nominees are representatives of a much bigger group.

The Transition to Online Learning & Engagement Week Project team designed and delivered online materials and support for our students in eight days; 14,000 students accessed the materials developed and most students appear to have transitioned into this new way of studying well.

This team effort is a brilliant example of professional services, faculty and SUSU staff working together and supporting each other in the face of adversity to deliver for our students.