## AWARD 1 - EARLY CAREER

### Austin Taranta, Engineering and Physical Sciences

Austin has delivered well beyond the expectations of his role in the Zepler Institute. His managerial and technical contributions meant he was able to lead and secure a £1.1M contract, as well as building a strategic partnership with Honeywell, while still conducting his PhD research.

### Izzy Housego, Professional Services

When Student Communications transitioned into Student Services, alongside industrial action and the COVID-19 pandemic, Izzy worked tirelessly to deliver excellent work. Izzy is a huge advocate for our students and wants them to have the best student experience. This shows in the campaigns she delivers.

### Niamh Herman, Professional Services

Niamh is an exceptional asset to the Curriculum and Quality Assurance Team. She has taken on greater responsibility at short notice, worked collegially with colleagues, and shown great commitment to the University.

### Shengjie Lai, Environmental and Life Sciences

Shengjie's nominator has said that he is without doubt the most outstanding, innovative and productive early career researcher they have worked with. Since early 2020, he has been at the forefront of research relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and conducted a series of important studies focused on understanding COVID-19 transmission and intervention effectiveness that have influenced policy around the world.

## AWARD 2 – ENTERPRISE AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

# The Future Worlds Team, Professional Services, and Engineering and Physical Sciences

Future Worlds is the UK's most important student-start-up accelerator. It is a jewel-in-thecrown exemplar of cross-University partnership. Future Worlds is the gateway that enables our Southampton start-ups access to Silicon Valley.

### Nicky Marsh, Arts and Humanities

Nicky is a vital, inspiring, and energetic colleague who keeps everyone around her motivated. Her dedicated work on the REF return has helped us to show the impact of research that takes place in Arts and Humanities, and will help us make future plans with renewed ambition and confidence.

# National Biofilms Innovation Centre Operational and Interdisciplinary Research Fellow Team, Environmental and Life Sciences

The NBIC represents a platform for academic–business connectivity that is the largest knowledge exchange consortium of its kind within the UK. NBIC's Interdisciplinary Research Fellows work across the University and with external partners to develop technologies and interventions that tackle some of the most urgent societal challenges, including antimicrobial resistance and food security.

## AWARD 3 - EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Ignite Team, Professional Services

The Ignite Programme supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds and provides a platform for them to succeed. Funded solely by donations, Ignite was launched with a single scholarship in 2017 and this year it has supported 31 students, through a holistic programme of workshops, mentoring and internships.

### Eleanor Wilkinson, Environmental and Life Sciences

Eleanor is the Environmental and Life Sciences ED&I Lead. She has driven through real culture change in the Faculty, challenging the leadership when appropriate, and championed Disability Confident activity in a dynamic way.

### Emma Rowsell, Professional Services

Emma has taken the lead in the development of our response to student cases of harassment and sexual misconduct on campus. She has worked tirelessly with colleagues across the University to develop a joint student and staff action plan and ensured that this has been successfully delivered.

## AWARD 4 - EVERYDAY HEROES

### The Exams, Awards and Graduation Team, Professional Services

The EAG Team has gone above and beyond to deliver the very best for our students and faculty colleagues. The team has produced online graduation ceremonies, new processes to deliver digital certificates and awards, and much more with dedication, determination and innovation.

### Jenny Russell, Medicine

Jenny has gone above and beyond in facilitating COVID-19 work in the biological containment level 3 (CL3) suite at University Hospital Southampton. Without Jenny's involvement, the CL3 suite would not have made the impact it has, which includes experiments that contributed to the rapid validation of the PeRSo personal respirator.

## Student Hub Team, Professional Services

The Student Hub team has been responsible for creating and building many key processes used this year to help manage student arrivals and activities. The team has shown resilience in the face of these challenges, always ensuring our students needs have come first.

## Teaching Space Team, Professional Services

In June 2020, the decision was made to commit to in-person teaching in the autumn term. This required the Teaching Space Team to get over 150 teaching spaces ready for safe, hygienic, socially-distanced use. This was achieved in 12 weeks with professionalism, ingenuity, resourcefulness, and commitment.

## The Early Years Centre Practitioners, Professional Services

The Early Years Centre Practitioners have worked tirelessly since last summer, as the Centre remained open when Highfield Campus was mainly closed during full lockdown, caring for our key worker children. The team has adapted seamlessly to changes in procedures to keep the children, and themselves, as safe as possible.

# University COVID-19 Operational Response Team, Professional Services, Engineering and Physical Sciences, and Environmental and Life Sciences

The University COVID-19 Operational Response Team has ensured that all workplace environments were suitable for colleagues to use despite ever-changing government

guidance. This resulted in the team working considerably longer hours, while also maintaining their own roles that provide a crucial support to the University.

# AWARD 5 - KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

### Kelly Aubrey-Harris, Professional Services

Kelly is a great advocate of mental health awareness and has initiated a wellbeing seminar series, bringing together experts across campus to lead sessions. She has a diverse network of people who both trust her and enjoy working with her, which has been vital for the health and wellbeing portfolio at the University.

## **Raymond Skinner, Professional Services**

The Security team has remained on campus throughout the pandemic and Ray has ensured that the team's welfare and wellbeing is at the forefront of everything he does. He has stayed in personal contact with all officers to ensure they are ok and created and implemented a Security Supervisor Development Programme.

# Widening Participation and Social Mobility/Public Engagement with Research unit Team, Professional Services, Environmental and Life Sciences

Due to the pandemic lockdown periods, school and college curriculums were not equally accessible to all learners, in particular learners fulfilling widening participation criteria. The WPSM/PERu Team developed self-contained activity packs, which could be delivered directly to learners' homes via their schools, charities, or youth organisations, to bridge this gap.

## **AWARD 6 - INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

## BRECcIA Leadership Team, Environmental and Life Sciences, and Social Sciences

Breccia aims to deliver research capacity for sustainable water and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. The 2021 funding landscape and pandemic have made international collaboration incredibly challenging, given restricted travel. Despite this, the Breccia team has delivered a high-quality capacity-building programme to African academics in challenging circumstances.

# Pathway Provider Project Team, Professional Services, Arts and Humanities, Environmental and Life Sciences, and Social Sciences

The Pathway Provider Project Team sourced and engaged our new Pathway Provider partner CEG. This project, which is forecast to deliver in excess of £80m in additional income and attract a further 1,500 international students from a wide range of countries, directly supports the University's international strategic ambitions.

### The World Rankings Strategic Major Project Team, Professional Services, Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Medicine, and Environmental and Life Sciences

The World Rankings Strategic Major Project Team aims to increase the University's reputation by showcasing the impact of our research, education and enterprise through content planning and promoting advocacy. The project has led to a remarkable rise of 13 places in the QS World University Rankings 2022, placing us 77th among the 1,300 universities ranked by QS. The project is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through a highly-effective, collegial partnership between professional services and academic colleagues.

# AWARD 7 – PUBLIC GOOD

# COVID-19 Saliva Testing Programme, Professional Services, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Environmental and Life Sciences, and Medicine

Since June 2020, the COVID-19 Saliva Testing Programme has worked extensively to support the safety of University staff and students, alongside a major contribution to testing in the wider community and nationally. Working with University Hospital Southampton, the team has also helped plan, design, build and commission a groundbreaking laboratory for mass-scale testing.

### Hosam Al Kaddour, Social Sciences

Hosam Al Kaddour's work has made an outstanding contribution to the wider public benefit. He has engaged in impactful research, partnerships in the community, other universities, schools, and colleges. He has delivered public policy impact through consultations with HMRC, the UK Parliament and Southampton City Council, and significantly contributes to the Civic University Agenda.

### Parkes Institute Team, Professional Services, and Arts and Humanities

The Parkes Institute team has made an exceptional contribution to public good and the University's Civic Agenda despite COVID-19 restrictions, with a substantial and innovative online programme of events, including a free online course on the ethics of teaching the Holocaust and a virtual peace walk of places of worship in Southampton.

## **AWARD 8 - RESEARCH IMPACT**

## Max Crispin, Environmental and Life Sciences

Max's research has revealed the fundamental features of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that causes COVID-19, how it disguises itself to enter human cells undetected, and the viral proteins which are the target of antibodies and vaccine research. The findings, published in *Science*, provided crucial information to help develop coronavirus tests and vaccines.

## **RIS REF Core Team, Professional Services**

REF 2021 was the most complex national research assessment exercise to date and this team brought together the contributions of over 1500 colleagues whose research was included. While the outcome of the REF will not be known until April 2022 and will reflect the combined efforts of numerous individuals and teams alongside the RIS REF Core, by common consent our submission to REF 2021 was our strongest for 20 years and the smoothest in its implementation. In feedback provided at the end of the process the team was universally praised for their calm professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile to help colleagues who were having difficulties.

### World-class Laboratory Equipment Team, Professional Services

The University received an allocation of capital funding to support World-class Laboratories in November 2020. The World-class Laboratory Equipment Team managed the procurement process for these state-of-the-art large pieces of equipment, which represents a very significant team effort, with extremely effective and collegial working. The equipment will deliver a further step change in the quality and impact of our research.

## **AWARD 9 - STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

### **Curriculum and Timetabling Team, Professional Services**

Since June 2020, the Curriculum and Timetabling Team has had to re-draw the timetable several times, based on current government advice and the University's offer. What would usually be a mammoth once-a-year job has become a once-in-a-government-announcement job. The team has also worked with staff to update module profiles and programme specifications to ensure that students are provided with relevant information about their programme.

### **Enabling Services Team, Professional Services**

Due to COVID-19, the Enabling Services team had to completely change the transitions offer available to students with a disclosed disability. The team developed an online programme of activities, including appointments, presentations, demonstrations, live chats and buddy opportunities.

### **Elliott Nikdel, Professional Services**

Elliott's role as the Specialist Writing Tutor within Widening Participation and Social Mobility's (WPSM) Enhancement team provides embedded, tailored writing support to programmes across the University as well as individual coaching appointments with students. Elliott's foresight and preparation ahead of the pandemic ensured his work made an immediate and successful transition to an online model of delivery.

## AWARD 10 - TEACHING

### **Rebecca Smith, Arts and Humanities**

Rebecca's support for her postgraduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic has been vital as many of them are mature students facing multiple challenges due to family responsibilities. She is also an inspiring undergraduate tutor, who has successfully transferred her skills onto the virtual teaching platform.

### Reem Alasadi, Arts and Humanities

Reem is constantly building new, innovative ways to improve the education of her students. Her creativity extends beyond her own programme and teaching: she brings value to WSA and the University by working collaboratively with colleagues across the institution and in the community. She has an eye for exciting, inclusive, creative opportunities, which bring people from diverse backgrounds together, working towards shared goals in the most innovative ways.

### Physiotherapy Team, Environmental and Life Sciences, and Medicine

Physiotherapy has achieved the hat-trick – for the third consecutive year, it is ranked number one by the Complete University Guide. The team's innovative use of technology (including simulation), is nationally leading, effective, highly rated by students, and has directly contributed to students being well-prepared to excel on their clinical placements.

## AWARD 11 - TEACHING INNOVATION

# iSolutions Education and Infrastructure Teams, Professional Services, and Social Sciences

The iSolutions Education and Infrastructure Teams have underpinned the delivery of teaching innovation not only in the provision of University-wide remote teaching services, but

also in innovative creation of new approaches to teaching delivery. They have received positive feedback from across the organisation.

### Scott Border, Medicine

Even before the pandemic Scott had an interest in, and commitment to, innovative online and digital education. However, since the rapid shift to online delivery he has continued to develop and deliver high-quality online learning based on evidence and theory and analytical data.

### The Company at Winchester School of Art, Arts and Humanities

The Company is a collaborative, cross-programme, cross-discipline activity that gives staff and students a simulated experience of working in a real company environment. Students from across various programmes of study form a company to organise and produce a fashion show. It has managed to establish a collaboration with the School of Music and is looking to collaborate with other Schools within the University.