



Dear

Every January I present Review of the Year to the School highlighting all the key activity and achievements across Life Sciences. 2019 was another busy but productive one. An overview of some of those events are included in this newsletter which I hope you will enjoy and make you feel that you are still part of our Life Sciences community. It is our staff and students, past and present, who have been and are essential to our success.

Professor Julian Blow FRSE FMedSci

Dean of Life Sciences



[Knighthood for Professor Mike Ferguson for services to science](#)

Professor Mike Ferguson, Regius Professor of Life Sciences, received a knighthood for his services to science in July at the Palace of Holyrood from Her Majesty, The Queen.

"I am thrilled to receive this great honour, but minded immediately that it recognises the efforts of many at the University of Dundee – my home for 30 years and an institution

where collaboration and cooperation are truly valued, and where advancing knowledge into solutions is highly-prized," said Professor Ferguson.

Alongside Mike's work within his field he has worked more widely in developing and strengthening the outputs of the scientific realm in general. Highlights include co-founding our Drug Discovery Unit, co-leading and championing commercialisation ventures and acting as Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors of the Wellcome Trust.



[Geoff Barton & Victoria Cowling made new Fellows of RSE](#)

Professor Geoff Barton, Professor of Bioinformatics and Head of the Division of Computational Biology and Professor Victoria Cowling, Professor of Biology and Deputy Head of the Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression were named as new Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy.

[Life Sciences students named amongst World's best](#)

Three Life Science students have been named as some of the top undergraduates in the World, with one named as the top undergraduate in Europe. Scott Sheldrick was named European winner with James Osbourne and Nicholas Gallagher highly commended in the Life Sciences category of the 2019 Global Undergraduate Awards.

Innovative Targets Group announce three key partnerships

The group consisting of of ~12 cross-disciplinary scientists is part of the Drug Discovery Unit. They created 3 distinct projects with pharmaceutical companies in 2019 - [Takeda](#) for Alzheimer's treatment development, [Bukwang](#) for Parkinson's and [Corbin Therapeutics](#) for neuroinflammation. These projects have a combined potential value of ~£46 million with additional royalties.

News in Brief

- The University of Dundee has been named [University of the Year for Student Experience](#) by The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020. The title confirms that Dundee is one of the best places in the United Kingdom to be a student.
- **Dr Mattie Pawlowic** was named as the inaugural winner of the [British Society of Parasitology's President's Medal](#), a new award recognising the UK's best young researchers in the field of parasitology.
- Researchers from the **Drug Discovery Unit** have been awarded the ["Project of the Year 2018"](#) from **Medicines for Malaria Venture** for their discovery work on potential new drugs for malaria.
- **Professor Kate Storey** was awarded the [2019 Waddington Medal](#) by the British Society for Developmental Biology.
- The University was ranked **1st in the UK for course satisfaction molecular biology, biophysics and biochemistry** in the [2019 National Student Survey](#).
- The University of Dundee is one of the **world's top 100 universities for research quality**, according to the [Nature Index 2019](#).
- PhD student **Senga Robertson-Albertyn** awarded the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Public Engagement Innovator's Medal and named [Early Career Researcher of the Year in the University of Dundee Stephen Fry Awards for Excellence in Public Engagement](#).

People's Award Winners Presented at Review of the Year

Now in its second year, the People's Award is presented for positive contributions to School culture. There was so many high standard nominations that three winners were announced:



- Stores team (Michael Hannan, Gary Anderson, Andrew Pryde, Gordon Bain, George Michie, Doug Robertson): "In recognition of dedication to the School"
- PhD Admin team (Gail Guild, Nikki Wilson, Lesley Coats, Louise Stanley): "For going above and beyond in supporting research students"
- Helge Dorfmueller: "For leading change to increase flexibility and fairness in parental

leave policy”

You can find out about the other School prize winners [here](#).



We need you! University Archives Call for Life Sciences Material

The University Archives are looking for material related to the School of Life Sciences that might be useful in putting together an

exhibition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the appointment of Peter Garland as the first Chair of Biochemistry. This is also an opportunity to ensure that the past and present achievements of the School are recorded and preserved for the future.

If you have anything of interest then you can contact the Archives by visiting directly in the Tower Building basement and bringing along any material, or get in touch through [email](#) or telephone (01382 384095). Further information [here](#).

Photo: Peter during a visit to University archives in 2019.

Not enough news?

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