This symposium was the latest in the annual series designed to showcase the very best postgraduate research in the fields of biological chemistry and medicinal chemistry. There were eight postgraduate oral presentations of 30 minutes while the lunch-time postgraduate poster session had 21 contributors. The symposium also used the Flash Poster format to invigorate the poster session, where the poster presenters ‘pitch’ a 2 minute slide to the audience to attract them to their poster, a format which has always generated lots of discussion afterwards. There were also three plenary speakers; Alessio Ciulli from the University of Dundee, who outlined his recent research on bromodomain chemical probes, Charlotte Griffiths-Jones of Astex Pharmaceuticals who shared some recent results from their fragment-based approach which led to the discovery of a potent, low nanomolar, balanced dual cIAP1/XIAP antagonist and Nicola Steadman from Selcia who talked about the discovery of teixobactin, a novel antibacterial from a previously uncultured organism. 

Registration for the Symposium was free and the meeting was attended by over 150 scientists whose feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

NB Look out for information on the 10th BMCS Postgraduate Symposium which will be held in December 2016.

Prizes were awarded for the best oral presentation as follows:

- Oral Presentation - Winner: Kathryn Price, University of Liverpool, ‘Antimalarial Drug Discovery: Exploring the MEP Pathway’
- Oral Presentation – Runner-up Prize: Andrew Brown, University of Sheffield, ‘Novel Pyrazole- and Sydnone-Based Vascular Disrupting Agents for Use in Cancer Therapy’
- Poster presentation – Winner: Mairi Littleson, University of Strathclyde ‘Coronatine, a Phytotoxic Polyketide Lead for Herbicide Discovery’
- Poster presentation – Runner-up Prize: Lewis Turner, University of Leeds, ‘Identification of Novel Inhibitors of FGFR Kinases for the Treatment of Bladder Cancer Using De Novo-Based Drug Design’

Participant’s prize for best poster: Anna Dysko, University of Oxford, ‘Synthesis of oligonucleotides containing triazole backbone linkages’

In addition to a cheque for £300, Kathryn also received an expenses paid invitation to give an oral presentation at 3rd ‘Young Medicinal Chemists Symposium’ in Manchester on 1st and 2nd September 2016 while poster winner Mairi received a cheque for £150 and a bursary to present a poster at the Mastering Medicinal Chemistry Symposium in Huddersfield on 9th March 2016. Oral presentation runner-up Andrew was awarded a bursary to attend 2016 East of England Medicinal Chemistry symposium on 21st April 2016 in Hatfield while Lewis and Anna were offered bursaries to present a poster at the Mastering Medicinal Chemistry Symposium in Huddersfield on 9th March 2016.

In addition the organising committee gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the MedChemComm editorial board who gave all prize awardees an RSC certificate and one year’s free e-subscription to MedChemComm.
Organising committee: Dave Alker (David Alker Associates), Gordon Saxty (Fidelta) and John Skidmore (University of Cambridge) and

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*We would also like to thank exhibitors Alfa Aesar, RSC and Strem*