

## 12<sup>th</sup> RSC BMCS Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Postgraduate Symposium Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

This symposium was the latest in the annual series designed to showcase the very best postgraduate research in the fields of biological and medicinal chemistry.

The 12<sup>th</sup> BMCS biological and medicinal chemistry symposium was held in Cambridge on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and attracted an audience of over 150 registered attendees who heard three plenary lectures and 8 student lectures. There were also 21 poster presentations and the quality of the science presented was yet again extremely high. The symposium also included a Flash 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, all of whom highlighted the key influences in their career path as well as outlining some of the science they are involved in – Nadia Ahmad (Vertex Pharmaceuticals), Martin Ambler (LifeArc) and Alex Alanine (Nanna Therapeutics).

The overall winner for the best oral communication was Gina Washbourn from the University of Liverpool (*'Synthesis, Computational and Biological Evaluation of Novel Benzimidazole Compounds for the treatment of Cryptococcus neoformans'*) while the runner-up was Ellen Watts from the Institute of Cancer Research (*'Design and synthesis of dual ALK-BRD4 Inhibitors'*). The prize for the best poster communication went to Camille Metier from Kings College London (*'Rational Design of Covalent Inhibitors for a Bacterial Glycosyltransferase'*), who received a cheque for £150, while the runner up prize and the participant's prize went to Christopher Woodley from the University of Liverpool (*'Development of Novel Tetraoxane Containing Endoperoxide Antimalarials'*) and Corentine Laurin from the University of Oxford (*'Chemical tools to probe the role of bromodomains in the parasite Trypanosoma cruzi'*), respectively. Apart from receiving a cheque for £300, Gina will also represent the UK at the Young Medicinal Chemists Symposium in Athens on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019. All the prize awardees were given an RSC certificate commemorating their achievement and one year's e-subscription to MedChem Comm. Ellen and the poster prize-winners will also be awarded bursaries of up to £250 to attend the 'Mastering Medicinal Chemistry V symposium' at Lilly in Windlesham on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The organising committee are grateful to all those companies and individuals who provided sponsorship for this 'Free to Attend' meeting, without which it would be difficult to hold

***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. They also would like to express their thanks to the following organisations for their generous sponsorship of this symposium:***

***Astex, AstraZeneca, Cancer Research UK, Charles River, Concept Life Sciences, , Evotec, Giblin Consulting, GlaxoSmithKline, Heptares Therapeutics, JD International Consulting, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Redbrick Molecular, Pfizer, Sygnature Discovery and Vernalis Research***

They also wish to acknowledge the generosity of the University of Cambridge who allowed us free use of the lecture theatre and facilities in the Department of Chemistry and the RSC Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector who underpinned this symposium financially as well as the efficient symposium secretariat support by Maggi Churchouse Events



**2018 oral presenters**

**NB Look out for information on the 13<sup>th</sup> BMCS Postgraduate Symposium which will be held in Cambridge on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Organising committee: Dave Alker (David Alker Associates), Anthony Coyne (University of Cambridge), Ashley Jarvis (Domainex), Gordon Saxty (Fidelta) and John Skidmore (University of Cambridge)