

Swansea University Impact Awards 2015

The Geldards LLP Award for Outstanding Impact in Law and Public Policy

Winner: “Learning from the Past to Protect the Past” - Dr Nigel Pollard. History and Classics, College of Arts and Humanities

Dr Pollard’s research is currently saving ancient sites in conflict-torn Syria from damage and destruction. His research has enabled him to contribute to ‘no-strike’ lists of cultural sites, which have been disseminated to US and allied armed forces striking Islamic States targets in the region. His work is influencing policies, practice and training materials for cultural property protection (CPP) in wartime, and is contributing to the re-establishment of the UK National Committee of the Blue Shield.

Runners-up

- “Sex work research in Wales” - Dr Tracey Sagar, Debbie Jones
- “Cyberterrorism: promoting an international, interdisciplinary response” – Dr Stuart MacDonald, Lella Nouri, Andrew Whiting, David Mair

The Parthian and Library of Wales Award for Outstanding Impact in Culture and the Arts

Winner: “Connected Communities” - Kate Spiller, College of Arts and Humanities

Connected Communities celebrates the history of the Swansea Valley and beyond, promoting community engagement by researchers, students and professional partners through the co-creation and development of activities, research skills and outputs. The project continues to expand, designing successful projects, funding applications and strategies led by the community and researcher network (including applications to the HLF, Wren and CADW). The project encourages collaboration with a broad range of professional partners, including local and national art galleries, museums, archives, libraries, charitable trusts and local authorities. It enables engagement by the project network with hard to reach members of the local community and the development of research and transferable skills with diverse groups from ‘Communities First’ areas, substantially strengthening the University’s reach into some of the most marginalised parts of our locality.

Runners-up

- “Award-winning new writing: from Wales to the world” – Francesca Rhydderch
- “Dylan Live: Rediscovering Dylan” – Professor Daniel Williams, Professor David Britton, Professor Tudur Hallam, Elizabeth Wride

The Age UK Award for Outstanding Impact in Health and Wellbeing

Winner: “Finding the Cause for Paediatric Neurological Disease: Hyperekplexia” - Prof. Mark Rees and Dr Seo-Kyung Chung and the Neurology Research Team, College of Medicine

Hyperekplexia is a severe genetic disorder presenting with excessive ‘startle response’, muscle tension, breathlessness and sudden infant death. Over the past 11 years, Professor Rees and his team have successfully classified the disorder by the novel discovery of five causative genes, stratified the clinical and pathological effects, and have become the leading global centre for genetic and clinical support for hyperekplexia. This has been guiding 145 paediatric neurologists worldwide in the acute and long-term care of this disorder. Nineteen diagnostic gene-testing centres across 9 countries, including the UK Genetics Transfer Network, now use this world-leading evidence-base.

Runners-up

- “Developing the global regulatory policy for nanosafety” - Professor Shareen Doak and the In Vitro Toxicology Group
- “Familial breast cancer: classification and care of people at risk” – Professor Deb Fitzsimmons and the Swansea Centre for Health Economics
- “Reducing perinatal mortality from congenital heart disease” - Dr Mike Lewis, Dr Orhan Uzun and team

The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement Award for Outstanding Impact in Public Engagement

Winner: “Nobody puts baby in the corner” - Dr Amy Brown, with Dr Michelle Lee, Dr Jaynie Rance, Dr Ruth Davies and Dr Sue Jordan, College of Human and Health Sciences

Raising breastfeeding rates is a government priority as low rates impact on health and the economy. Knowledge and confidence increase breastfeeding, however breastfeeding is often portrayed by the media as shameful. This research has engaged the public in a “breastfeeding conversation” to ensure the findings reach those who matter. Public engagement work has reached more than 250 million people, ensuring that parents/professionals have access to the latest research and feel more informed/confident about breastfeeding. The research has also increased the extent to which breastfeeding is promoted, discussed and normalised in the media. The research has reached the public in all populated continents across the globe, been translated into at least 15 different languages, appeared in the international press; featured on the landing screen of the BBC news app 3 times, been the focus of health and parenting blogs, received positive professional/policy reaction, and has been covered extensively by broadcast media.

Runners-up

- “The impact of learning about Greek and Roman cultures and languages on Welsh communities” – Dr Evelien Bracke, Ceri Bradshaw.
- “Mrs Peabody Investigates: Enhancing public understanding of German, European and international crime fiction” – Dr Katharina Hall

The BBC Research and Development Award for Outstanding Impact on Professions, Practices and Services

Winner: “Empowering rural digital communities” - Prof. Matt Jones, Dr Jennifer Pearson and Dr Simon Robinson, College of Science

Research in mobile digital storytelling shows that hundreds of millions of people are disempowered by lack of appropriate digital devices, services and infrastructure. In a programme of research starting with real users in communities in rural India, Southern Africa and rural UK, the team designed, developed and tested new systems, leading to the integration and delivery of new techniques and platforms by major service providers.

The toolkits developed have delivered societal, economic, and public engagement impacts. In particular, the *StoryBank* system was successfully deployed in Budikote (pop. 3,000) and used to create and share content, including education and healthcare contributions. Other systems developed include *TapBack* (providing novel ways for end users to access spoken content), which led to a patent submission by IBM Research India; *ACQR* (a telephone based sharing service); *AudioCanvas* (an internet-free interactive audio photo service); and *PaperChains* (a digital story tool).

Runner-up

- “The burden of gastrointestinal diseases and the delivery of gastroenterology services across Europe” – Dr Stephen Roberts

The TATA Steel Award for Outstanding Impact in Commerce, Industry and Enterprise

Winner: “Novel light therapies for the treatment of skin conditions” - Prof. Marc Clement and the Enterprise and Innovation Team, College of Medicine

Underpinning research by Swansea University has spawned a number of spin-off companies (Cyden, Chromgenex and Energist) that develop laser and IPL products to treat acne, aging and sun-damaged skin, hirsutism and wounds. These three organisations employ approximately 150 people and have launched more than 20 light therapy products. Furthermore, P&G, the primary partner and customer of Cyden, were satisfied that the UK was competitive enough to return manufacturing to Sony UK Pencoed. Sony Pencoed has used the experience from this partnership to repatriate other manufacturing contracts from the Far East, thereby protecting current jobs and creating further employment in South Wales. In economic terms, the research by Clement and collaborators has created more than 1,000 person-years of employment around Swansea, and the city is now one of four global centres of excellence in light therapy alongside Boston and San Francisco in the US and Tel Aviv in Israel.

Runners-up

- “Improving safety and capacity in the UK railway industry” - Professor Faron Moller and Dr Markus Roggenbach, Computer Science, College of Science
- “Development of Bio Micro ElectroMechanical Systems technology” – Professor Owen Guy and Dr Yufei Lie, Centre for NanoHealth