

Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize 2021 Announcement of Winners

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector is proud to announce the winners of the Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize for 2021. The prize has been awarded to British scientists and clinical researchers involved in the fight against COVID-19.

The prize was received by the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance FRS FMedSci FRCP, at the 21st RSC/SCI Medicinal Chemistry Symposium, Cambridge UK held on 13th - 15th September 2021 on behalf of British scientists and clinical researchers who contributed to the COVID-19 response. The prize also recognises the countless numbers of healthcare staff and clinical study volunteers who have selflessly dedicated themselves to the pursuit of patient care and the development of drugs and vaccines for COVID-19.

Much of the ability of British science to respond to the pandemic arose through years of commitment to basic biomedical research, notably the world-leading capability in genome sequencing, the development of vaccine platform technologies, and deep expertise in drug discovery and development.

During the course of 2020 British scientists: pioneered genomic evaluation of COVID-19 to trace viral mutations and monitor spread of the pandemic; initiated clinical studies to evaluate rapidly a range of existing drugs in COVID patients resulting in the discovery that dexamethasone has a significant benefit on mortality in critically ill COVID patients; fast-tracked the development of vaccine candidates resulting in regulatory approval by the end of 2020. These achievements, and investments in further basic research, will have a lasting impact on the global management of COVID-19 throughout 2021 and beyond.

The Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize is awarded biennially by the Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector (BMCS) of the Royal Society of Chemistry to commemorate Professor Campbell's outstanding contributions in a broad range of chemistry and their applications to biomedical science.

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