

Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize 2019



Presentation of the Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize to (left to right) David R Newell, Patrick Angibaud and Christopher W Murray, presented by Andrew Williams, chair of the BMCS Committee

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Announcement of Winners

The Royal Society of Chemistry Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector is proud to announce the winners of the Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize for 2019.

The prize has been awarded to Dr Christopher W Murray, Astex Pharmaceuticals, Dr Patrick Angibaud, Janssen-Cilag and Professor Herbie Newell, Northern Institute for Cancer Research (NICR), Newcastle University as representatives of the wider team who collaborated to discover and develop erdafitinib.

Erdafitinib, is a novel selective pan-FGFR inhibitor that has great potential in the treatment of metastatic urothelial cancer. Patients with metastatic bladder cancer have a poor prognosis and 15-20 % of these patients exhibit FGFR alterations. Through a collaboration between NICR and Astex, early FGFR inhibitors were identified using a fragment-based approach. These early compounds were further optimized and developed clinically in a collaboration between Astex and Janssen that led to erdafitinib. In March 2018, erdafitinib was given Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the FDA for the treatment of metastatic urothelial cancer and in September 2018, Janssen submitted a New Drug Application to the FDA seeking approval. The Phase 2 study in this patient population showed an overall response rate of 42% for patients whose tumours harboured actionable FGFR alterations.

The BMCS Committee wishes to express its gratitude for the high-quality entries from both academia and industry for the 2019 award.

The Malcolm Campbell Memorial prize commemorates Professor Campbell's outstanding contributions in a broad range of chemistry and their applications to the understanding of bioactivity. The prize was presented formally to the winning team during the 20th RSC / SCI Medicinal Chemistry Symposium held at Churchill College in Cambridge on 8th - 11th September 2019.

