

# Postdoctoral Research Conference (EPS & LES) 2021

## Conference Report



The 2021 PERCAT Postdoctoral Research Conference for EPS and LES took place online on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, encompassing two half days of stimulating talks from broad research areas spanning psychology through to materials engineering and chemistry. A total of 84 delegates from across the two Colleges attended the conference, which included one plenary speaker, nine contributed talks and three Postdoctoral Careers and Experiences talks. New for this conference, we included Poster Spotlight sessions that enabled poster presenters to give one-slide presentations on the main stage for a minute each.

Our plenary lecture was delivered by Prof. Emma Kendrick from the School of Metallurgy and Materials. Prof. Kendrick discussed the ups and downs of her journey through academia, industry and back to academia, and described how her continued interest in high energy density devices has shaped and driven her career. Through the contributed talks, the delegates were able to learn about a vast range of scientific research in the University, including quantum clocks, computational modelling in psychological studies, photodegradable plastics, genomic modelling of antimicrobial resistance, and feeding a drowning world in the face of climate change. In addition, there were three inspiring career-focused talks discussing career paths alternative to the traditional academic route, such as working within the funding office, entrepreneurship, and navigating an academic career when life throws you curveballs.



Of course, an event such as this cannot proceed without generous sponsors, and in this regard we thank Peter Rignall from Eppendorf for not only sponsoring, but also for attending the conference and engaging with the delegates, as well as helping select a poster prize recipient. We would like to acknowledge Prof. Laura Green and Prof. Tim Softley for their opening and closing remarks respectively and their support and engagement with the conference. Moreover, Prof. Softley announced the conference prize winners; the delegate's choice Poster Prize was awarded to Dr. Jo Cutler and the sponsor's choice Poster Prize to Dr. Sameh El Sayed. The Oral Presentations first place prize was awarded to Dr. Rory Osborne, with second place going to Dr. Josh Worch.

As the conference organising committee, we are pleased to have received positive feedback from the delegates regarding the content and delivery of the conference and will take this into consideration for future events. Particularly, conference attendees enjoyed the Poster Spotlight sessions, as this allowed poster presenters more exposure and a chance to pique the interest of the audience members ahead of the dedicated poster sessions. All in all, after having to cancel the in-person 2020 event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to have been able to deliver the PERCAT Postdoctoral Research Conference this year in the online format. We are grateful to the UoB conferencing team for their outstanding support in running the EventsAir platform and their help troubleshooting through the inevitable technical glitches.

We would like to thank everyone who engaged with the conference, and we look forward to the 2022 event!

**eppendorf**