

## CONNECTING SCIENCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PRIZES

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### GUIDANCE

Specific questions should be directed to the Public Engagement team at [engage@wgc.org.uk](mailto:engage@wgc.org.uk)

WGC in the following guidance means the Wellcome Genome Campus. In the context of this Prize scheme 'public engagement' means an activity or body of effort created and/or led by a member of staff or student that fosters a reciprocal relationship based on WGC science/research with external groups or audiences.

Due to COVID-19, we appreciate that many public engagement activities have had to be postponed or cancelled. This will be taken into account and, where appropriate, judging will focus on the development, design and creativity of public engagement activities that were unable to take place, as well as the proactivity and innovation shown by the nominee.

## What are the prizes intended to celebrate?

The Connecting Science Public Engagement Prizes were launched in November 2017 to recognise, reward and celebrate staff and students across the WGC who have demonstrated exceptional efforts in public engagement.

The Prizes are overseen by the WGC Public Engagement team – part of Connecting Science. Five categories of prize will be presented in 2020:

### Commitment to Public Engagement

Celebrates individual members of staff or students who have demonstrated significant and longstanding commitment to public engagement. One winner will receive £500.

### Public Engagement Innovator

Recognises individual members of staff or students who have demonstrated outstanding proactivity or creativity in public engagement. One winner will receive a personal prize of £250 and plus a development award of the same amount to be directed towards a public engagement or related professional development activity.

### Public Engagement Advocacy

Recognises members of staff or students who have enabled positive change in public engagement through leadership, guidance, practical measures or emotional support. Prize can go to a group or individual. One winning individual or group will receive £500 (or £1000 for a group).

### Collaboration in Public Engagement

Recognises a group of individuals who have worked particularly well together to embed public engagement into their work. One winning group will receive £1000.

### Public Engagement Prize for Technical Staff

Recognises members of Technical staff who have undertaken or supported high quality public engagement as part of their work at the Wellcome Genome Campus. One winner a personal prize of £250 and plus a Technician Commitment Grant of the same amount to be directed towards a public engagement or related professional development activity. This category is sponsored by the Technician Commitment.

## What are the judges looking for?

While it is hoped the Prize scheme will stimulate a wide variety of entries describing a broad mix of public engagement activity, applications that reflect more elements of the following list are likely to be scored more highly by the judges:

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- Activities that demonstrate relevance to WGC science and research including those that tackle issues surrounding the applications of genomics and biodata to society.
- Creative and innovative approaches to public engagement that promote involvement and dialogue.
- Efforts to reach external groups or audiences, particularly underserved audiences and those who would not normally engage with WGC or science more generally.
- Evidence of achievement in promoting equality and diversity through public engagement including activities that seek to tackle gender imbalances in science.
- Initiatives that foster collaborative approaches to engage with bespoke groups such as educators, patient groups or policy makers.
- Demonstrable impact on audiences backed up by feedback or evaluation.
- Activities that have a positive impact not just on the external groups but also colleagues, team members or peers.

### Who can be nominated?

- Anyone who works, or whose research is principally based, at the WGC (including PhD and pre-doc candidates) can apply or be nominated.
- Nominators must work at, or do research that is principally based at, the WGC.
- Individuals who have received a prize will not be eligible for the same prize for a further three years. For this purpose, the Public Engagement Advocacy Prize is considered equivalent to the 2019 Support for Public Engagement Prize. Previously unsuccessful applicants may reapply for any category.
- Applications for the Commitment to Public Engagement Prize should demonstrate sustained commitment to public engagement over a period of 2 years or more.
- Nominees for the Public Engagement Prize for Technical Staff must be a member of technical staff at the Wellcome Genome Campus. We are adopting the definition of technical staff used by the Technician Commitment initiative, namely: A member of technical staff is defined as a person who is trained and/or skilled in the techniques, tools and technology of their subject, who provides the practical application of knowledge, including hands-on support, directly contributing to teaching and learning, research and enterprise activities. This could include, amongst others, members of the Animal Technician, Technical Assistant, Research Assistant, Scientific Manager, Computational and Bioinformatics job families
- Applications for the Collaboration Prize may involve members outside WGC however more than 50% of the team must be members of staff or students at WGC. The application should demonstrate initiation of, and considerable weight of input to, the public engagement from those team members based at WGC. Lead applicants in this category must be based at WGC.

### When and how to nominate

Nominations will be open until Monday 15 June 2020. Nominations can be submitted online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEPrizes2020](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEPrizes2020). Self-nominations will be accepted.

Any person who receives a nomination will be contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire providing further details of their public engagement activity. Once this information has been received by the Public Engagement team, that person will be a nominee and considered for a prize by the judging panel.

### Summary of terms

- Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.
- In the instance of multiple nominations being received for one candidate, the number of nominations received will not be taken into account during judging.
- Nominees to all categories agree for their public engagement work to be highlighted in publicity channels produced by the WGC Public Engagement team. This may involve interviews and filming requests.
- Nominations will be assessed by a judging panel of internal and external experts in genomics, science communication and wider public engagement.
- Staff based across WGC where public engagement features in a major advocacy capacity or as an identifiable part of their role are not eligible to be nominated.
- Nominees can obtain feedback on their entries upon request.
- Winners will not be eligible to apply for the same prize for a further three years. There is no restriction on nominees who do not win re-submitting applications in subsequent years. Individuals can be nominated for the same prize as part of a group, as long as the work done by the group and more than 50% of the individuals are different.
- We expect that nominees across all categories will be informed of decisions by mid-August 2020.
- Prizes will be presented at a Campus celebration event planned for the Autumn, currently under review in line with the COVID-19 Campus phased return plans.
- For the Public Engagement Innovator Prize, a development fund equivalent in value to the cash prize will be provided to the winner for public engagement activity or professional development activity of their choosing. These funds will be administered by the WGC Public Engagement team and should be drawn down within 12 months of the prize being awarded.
- The administrators of the prize scheme reserve the right not to award a prize or prizes in any category in a given year in the event of applications not meeting minimum standards set by the judging panel.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.