

PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
PRIZES 2020

WELLCOME GENOME CAMPUS
**CONNECTING
SCIENCE**

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FOREWORD

Connecting Science is once again delighted to support the Public Engagement Prizes, which showcase outstanding efforts to engage a wide range of public audiences with the cutting-edge research that takes place on the Wellcome Genome Campus. While we could never have predicted how our working lives have changed this year, the research that takes place on our Campus is built on innovation, dedication and creativity, so it is not at all surprising that these challenging times have led to innovative and creative responses, including in our public engagement. I am delighted to see the same mixture of innovation and dedication feeding into the diverse mix of projects, teams and people that comprise this year's Public Engagement Prize nominations. My deepest congratulations to all of this year's nominees, and thank you for your efforts to open the research of the Campus up to the broader world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian'.

Julian Rayner
Director, Connecting Science



The Wellcome Genome Campus is a vibrant and diverse community of scientists, bioinformaticians and other professionals, and public engagement is a valued part of our culture. In a year that has provided so much uncertainty, it is wonderful to recognise and celebrate staff and students from the Wellcome Sanger Institute and EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) who have led a broad range of activities to share genomics and biodata with the public. We would like to congratulate the nominees and winners, and thank everyone across campus who is involved in our public engagement endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Stratton'.

Mike Stratton
Director,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ewan Birney'.

Ewan Birney
Director,
EMBL-EBI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rolf Apweiler'.

Rolf Apweiler
Director,
EMBL-EBI

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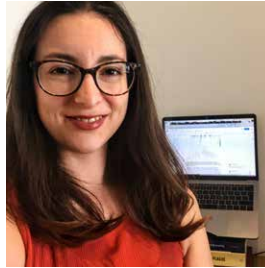
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COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PRIZE

Celebrating staff or students who have demonstrated significant and longstanding commitment to public engagement.



Joint Winners



Nicole Wheeler

Data Scientist, Wellcome Sanger Institute,
Commitment to Public Engagement Prize Joint Winner

Nicole combines her background in biochemistry and genetics with her knowledge of machine learning to help understand adaptation in bacterial pathogens and identify emerging threats to human health. Nicole's work is of international standing. She was recently recruited to join OUTBREAK, an Australian initiative to build the world's first AI-driven surveillance engine for monitoring, forecasting and managing antimicrobial resistance across the country.

She played a key role in developing the Centre for Genomic Pathogen Surveillance's highly popular Diseases Detectives activity, inviting people to investigate an outbreak of an antimicrobial resistant pathogen. The experience encourages conversations on key themes affecting public attitudes towards antibiotic resistance as identified by the World Health Organisation, and provides a platform to explore important views and trust issues around vaccines.

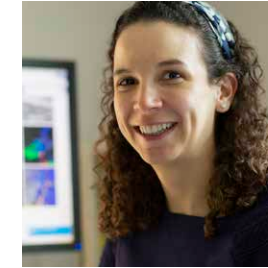
Nicole highlights that empowering different audiences to build their confidence and creativity in discussing scientific advances has been incredibly rewarding. She strives to link her own research to real world problems, and values the importance of a range of voices in shaping new public interventions influenced by scientific evidence.



My public engagement work has allowed me to better explain my research, and has prompted me to more critically assess the impact my work has on the world today.”

Nicole Wheeler

Nicole has embedded public engagement as a routine aspect of her work. She has embraced wide ranging opportunities, from film festivals to educational programs that bring electronics and big data into schools. As a role model for young people, especially girls, Nicole's passion and enthusiasm shine through, and she enjoys sharing and talking about her career path.



Maria Adelaida Duque Correa

Research Fellow, Wellcome Sanger Institute,
Commitment to Public Engagement Prize Joint Winner

Maria's passion for involving the public in her research is driven by her aspiration to create better health outcomes for people affected by the infectious diseases she studies. She is also committed to raising awareness of these diseases which, despite having devastating impacts in low and middle income countries, are often underrepresented in research, media and policy circles.

Maria became a UK STEM Ambassador in 2016 and has since championed a number of projects, particularly with young people in the UK and overseas. She was recognised through an Innovator award in the 2018 Connecting Science Public Engagement Prizes for some of this work, which included the Worm Hunters collaboration – aimed at fostering greater understanding of parasitic diseases with children and their families in Colombia.

Maria's ongoing commitment to public engagement can be seen most recently in a project with Susanna Repo of EMBL-EBI, which brings a long term, immersive workshop experience to youngsters aged seven to eleven at the Great and Little Shelford primary school. The age range was chosen to align the science of infection and molecular biology with the

school curriculum, through activities which encourage the children to make connections with their everyday lives. The aim is to sustain a year-round program which will look into complex concepts, such as microorganisms and infection, the central dogma of biology, and ideas of genetic variation. Maria also hopes the project will inspire students to see themselves as scientists in the future.



I have a responsibility to help raise awareness of the importance of science in everyday life, and to highlight how critical it is when we face emerging and novel challenges such as the current pandemic. I also want to tackle long-standing situations which have increased inequalities among people around the world.”

Maria Adelaida Duque Correa

Joint Winners



“

Nicole has developed a thoughtful approach to her engagement work, with a clear understanding of why she is doing it, and the broader benefits it brings to society. It’s also been good to see work included that specifically responded to those who are experiencing disadvantage.”

Helen Featherstone, 2020 judge

“

Maria is actively working with school children of different age groups to help them understand the basics of biology and strives to align her scientific expertise to the school curriculum. Her commitment to public engagement is ongoing in an effort to continue inspiring young children.”

Geetha Sankaranarayanan, prize nominator



Nominees



Anna Wilbrey-Clark

Senior Staff Scientist, Wellcome Sanger Institute

Anna is passionate about communicating her research within the Human Cell Atlas to different audiences. She has fostered partnerships with external collaborators, such as the Unity Schools Partnership across East Anglia, in order to deliver a suite of captivating experiences to students aged eleven to fourteen, exploring different aspects of biology. This includes a series of ‘WOW’ lessons delivered by researchers. *“We need to break down the black box around what scientists do”*. Anna highlights the important message that science is for everyone; that it should be inclusive and accessible.



Birgit Meldal

Senior Biocurator, EMBL-EBI

Birgit has actively engaged with young people in a variety of settings, from shopping centres to schools. *“I want children to know that science isn’t a magic wand but that with experiments we can make real sense of the world”*. She has delivered activities to inspire youngsters, especially girls, into the world of science. For example, when the World Health Organisation declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic in February 2020, she responded by adapting a popular handshake hazard activity with local preschool children, teaching the importance of hand washing to help prevent spread of the virus.



Claire Rye

Scientific Manager, COSMIC (Catalogue Of Somatic Mutations In Cancer) team, Wellcome Sanger Institute

Claire has fostered a partnership with local STEM charity Cambridge Launch Pad, providing insight for A-level students into the intriguing world of cancer genomics and the pioneering research undertaken at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. She provides students with real world applications which she strives to align with their own lesson plans guided by the curriculum. A particularly valuable aspect of her interactions with the public are the spontaneous, often unplanned, conversations that arise from the individual stories or experiences people have of cancer, and sometimes leading to discussion on how to be more involved with research.

Nominees



Sophia David
Staff scientist, Wellcome Sanger Institute

Sophia has the remarkable ability to turn genetic epidemiology data visualisation software into an accessible public engagement tool, providing an interactive experience for curious audiences. Her work with the public has instilled a sense of pride and achievement in herself and others. With an international perspective, she has researched her audience carefully, gaining funding to run workshops in Romania after discovering it has one of Europe’s highest rates of antibiotic resistance. In an effort to continue this initiative during lockdown, she has been adapting materials to allow for remote, supported delivery of workshops and in accordance with local lockdown rules.



Valerie Vancollie
Advanced Research Assistant, Scientific Operations,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Valerie is incredibly enthusiastic about public engagement and has contributed to a wide range of activities since 2009. *“I am particularly glad when I get a positive reaction from someone who hadn’t thought science was for them, especially girls or those from an underrepresented group within science.”* In these past eleven years, Valerie has become a UK STEM Ambassador, a proactive champion for accessible Campus experiences and is now exploring the opportunities of digital engagement with audiences overseas.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
INNOVATOR PRIZE

Celebrating individual members of staff
or students who have demonstrated outstanding
proactivity or creativity in public engagement.





Ioanna Kalvari

Senior Software Developer, EMBL-EBI,
Public Engagement Innovator Prize Winner

Ioanna obtained her degree in computer science before completing a PhD in molecular biology – a mix of expertise that enabled her career path in bioinformatics. She is passionate about the creation and delivery of interactive experiences which are inspired by her work at EMBL-EBI: The popular activity Genome Explorers, co-developed with Anton Petrov, is based on her work with large databases such as Rfam (a collection of RNA families) and takes people on an exciting investigative journey. It introduces the difference between RNA and DNA and is then followed by a three step hands-on challenge featuring card sorting, genome scanning and RNA searching and comparison. Discussion and debate is threaded throughout, enhancing the whole experience even further.

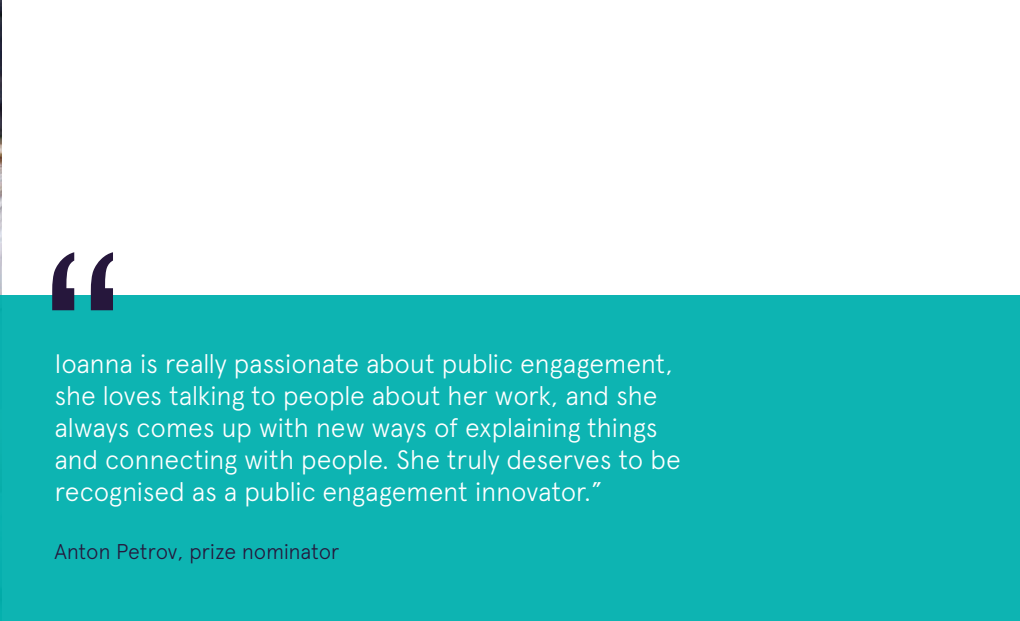
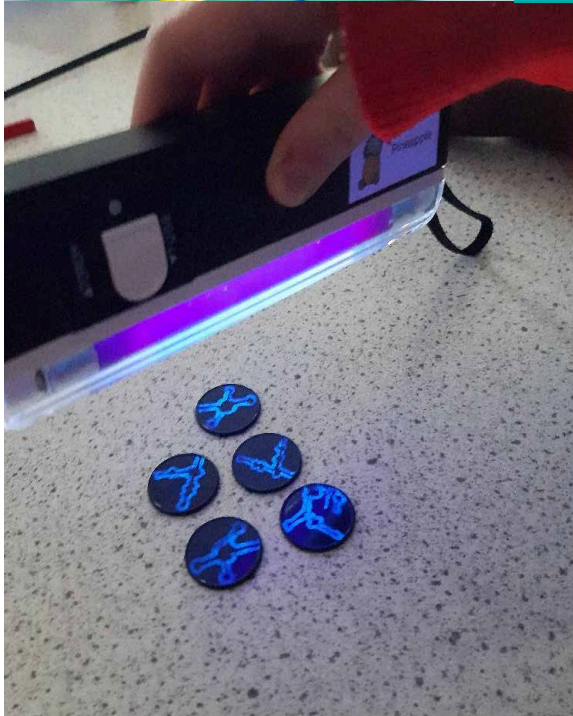
Ioanna’s enthusiasm for sparking conversations on genomics comes from a deeply held passion to share her work at the Wellcome Genome Campus with external audiences. This has not only changed the way in which she views her work, but also how she sees herself, better understanding her own strengths and weaknesses as a scientist, a role model, and potentially a mentor in the future.

Winner

Ioanna believes in the importance of evaluating her work with the public, collecting feedback from participants, teachers and recording their reactions, questions and discussions. After running her interactive pilot session at Cambridge LaunchPad, a STEM competition for eleven to twelve year old students, she received informative and encouraging feedback which helped refine and improve the activity. She has since showcased it both on Campus and offsite, recently reaching underserved audiences at the Downham Market Library as well as a young female audience at the Girlguiding Cambs East Stem day.

“The interaction with people of all ages and backgrounds enabled me to see my work from different angles, stimulating the need to acquire more in depth knowledge and answer personal questions, which accelerated my growth as a scientist.”

Ioanna Kalvari



“

Ioanna is really passionate about public engagement, she loves talking to people about her work, and she always comes up with new ways of explaining things and connecting with people. She truly deserves to be recognised as a public engagement innovator.”

Anton Petrov, prize nominator

Nominees



Carmen Diaz Soria

Postdoctoral Fellow,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

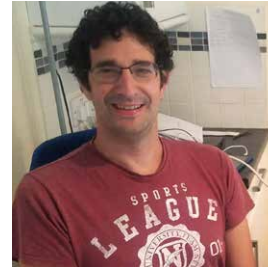
With an inclusive and innovative focus, Carmen has transcended prison walls with her Golden Eagle project, where she has devised science activities for prisoners and their visiting families, bringing cutting-edge Campus research in genomics and biodata to a less conventional setting. Despite the restrictive surrounding and unique challenges, Carmen has fostered a positive space for families and children, with little or no contact with science, to freely explore and build confidence in the subject, while highlighting potential career paths.



Frank Schwach

Senior Computer Biologist,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Frank thrives on exploring novel ways of sharing his passion for science. His drive to foster direct interaction creates dynamic dialogues which has benefitted even further from the reach and accessibility of online engagement platforms explored during the COVID-19 lockdown. His course on molecular biology diagnostic techniques has attracted over 400 participants all over the world. He has been a UK STEM Ambassador since 2017 and has, among many other things, developed the Theatre of the Cell, a performance that uses theatrical and humorous elements to bring the wonder of genomics to young people in new ways.



Guy Naamati

Bioinformatician,
EMBL-EBI

Guy has combined his natural gift for storytelling with his role in bioinformatics to create a set of illustrated books for children. The Travelling Virus with a Crown tackles the COVID-19 pandemic in a way which is both educational and entertaining, dealing with a huge and difficult subject in a visually compelling way. His stories have been shared widely within the Campus community; Guy is now looking to expand his audience, and views this experience as the start of a personal journey as a children's author.



Paul Gibson

Project Manager, Cellular Genetics,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Paul has supported and helped explore new ways to engage with audiences during lockdown as part of a dedicated public engagement programme for the Human Cell Atlas. His proactive involvement and timely collaboration with creative partners resulted in an animation highlighting new discoveries by Human Cell Atlas scientists, which has been shared extensively online. Designed for a wide range of audiences, the animated video gives vital insights into how SARS-COV-2 affects different parts of the human body. *"At a time when there is a lot of false information released, it is more important than ever that we engage the public openly."*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ADVOCACY PRIZE

Recognising enabled positive change in public engagement through leadership, guidance, practical measures or emotional support.





Rob Finn

Team Leader, Microbiome Informatics, EMBL-EBI,
Advocacy for Public Engagement Prize Winner

Rob leads the Microbiome Informatics group, and has framed public engagement as a valued activity within the team, across all career stages. This has included encouraging colleagues to enrol on training and development and to identify and embrace opportunities for public engagement that will support research culture change. Discussion among the team on how to include new voices in their work is now commonplace, with proper time given to reflect and analyse which processes and interventions are most effective.

Rob's journey in public engagement has been partly influenced by high profile, positive experiences of sharing his work.

These include a keynote talk at New Scientist live in 2019, where he presented how biology and computing could identify thousands of novel gut bacteria, and profiling of his work in mainstream media, aimed also at inspiring younger generations into STEM degrees and professions.

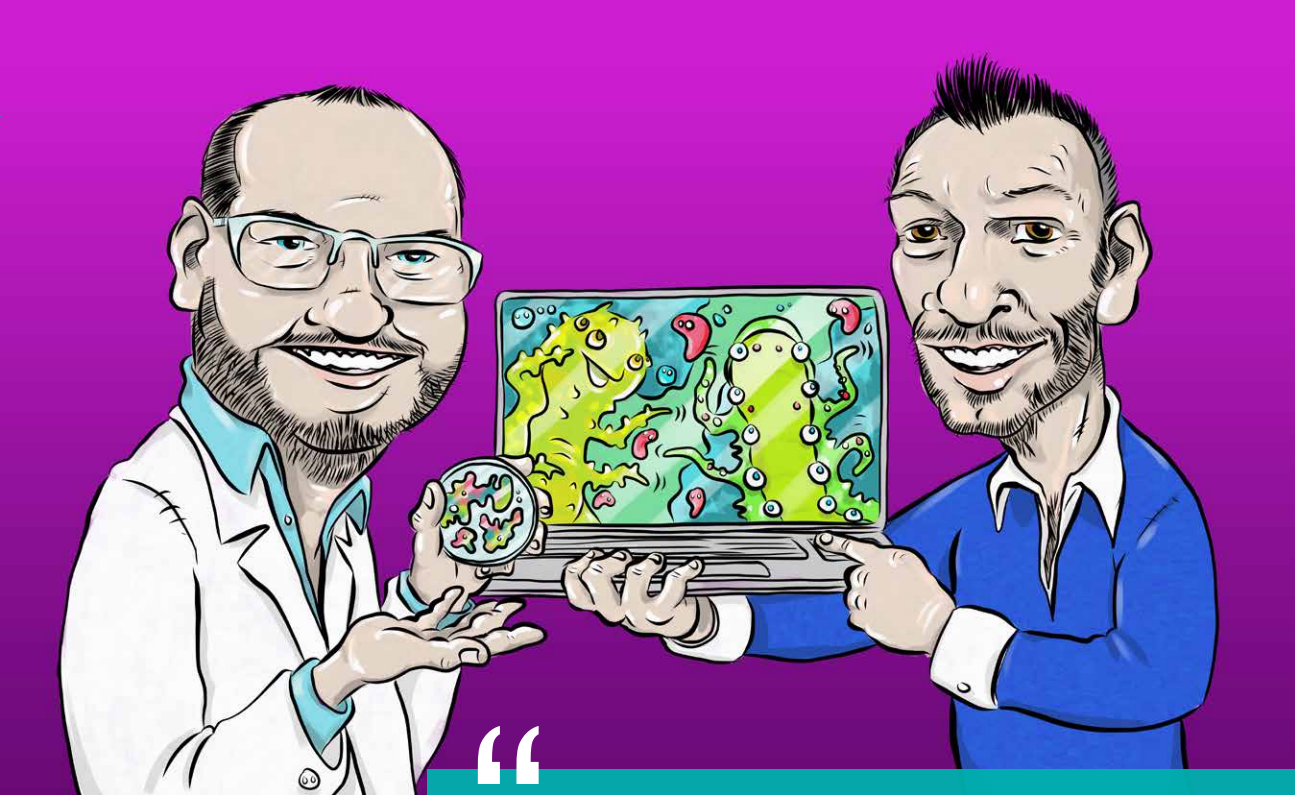
He has made an important shift to viewing public engagement through the scientific life-cycle, from grant writing to the sharing and publication of results, with due recognition to the many engagement champions within his team. At a personal level, Rob has increased his involvement in the development of citizen science projects, such as his participation in the Ocean

Winner

Sampling Day, an initiative of which EMBL-EBI was part of, and is interested in forging new ways of bringing more diverse voices into his research.

“Increasing awareness promotes increased discussions and will ultimately ensure the reputation of scientific discovery. However, my greatest achievement has been my team – their adoption of public engagement and cultural changes will ensure a broader reach than one person can achieve.”

Rob Finn



Rob is an enthusiastic advocate of public engagement, both through his own public engagement activities, as well as encouraging and supporting his team in their own efforts.”

Lorna Richardson, Microbiome informatics member



Nominee



Lindsey Crosswell

Head of External Relations, EMBL-EBI,
Highly commended, Public Engagement Advocacy Prize

Lindsey cares deeply for the role public engagement can play within EMBL-EBI and across the life sciences more generally. She has actively worked towards creating and enhancing internal value for public engagement, positioning it as something staff should feel supported and empowered to do as part of their job. This includes motivating staff to become UK STEM Ambassadors and actively contributing to major collaborative efforts, such as EMBL-EBI's participation in LifeLab - the Cambridgeshire European Researchers' Night supported by the European Commission. Fostering partnerships between the different parts of Campus and more widely, across Europe at EMBL's sites, Lindsey has helped establish a common ownership and commitment for public engagement which played a significant part in the Campus Silver Engage Watermark award of 2018. *"I feel that by working together, the sum of our activities is greater than the whole of the parts."*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PRIZE
FOR TECHNICAL STAFF

Recognising members of technical staff who have undertaken or supported high-quality public engagement as part of their work at the Wellcome Genome Campus.



Joint Winners



Valerie Vancollie

Advanced Research Assistant, Scientific Operations, Wellcome Sanger Institute,
Technical Staff in Public Engagement Joint Winner

Valerie first got involved in public engagement through the Cambridge Science Festival in 2009 and has been part of a wide range of schools and public facing initiatives ever since. Her efforts to connect the public with the work of the Wellcome Genome Campus began in earnest in 2014, calling on skills and experiences within her own role to create open and considered dialogue on the sensitive topic of animals in research.

Valerie has taken a prominent role in a number of public activities. She was an enthusiastic contributor to Defeat the Helix, the Campus exhibition of 2019 themed on an escape room. She has embraced opportunities to reach new audiences through festivals and events, such as the Peterborough shopping centre pop-up lab as part of European Researchers' Night. Valerie has also been a committed participant in on-campus engagement, both with schools and public audiences.

Valerie recently joined the Golden Eagle project – a collaborative effort to take genomics experiences into a local prison. She has participated in autism friendly sessions at the Cambridge Science Festival,



My contribution to the Golden Eagle project has allowed me to reach an unusual audience – while we are there mainly for the visiting children, we will speak with and engage with anyone who approaches, including the parents and prison guards. It has been an interesting mix of people who, overall, know far less about science and have less normal opportunities to engage with it .”

Valerie Vancollie

rising to the challenge of delivering accessible, sensory balanced experiences. Valerie values the skills she has gained through public engagement, for example in interpreting complex concepts or building

confidence in public speaking, and how these have proven valuable in academic settings also, such as scientific conferences.



Sophie Pritchard

Advanced Research Assistant, Wellcome Sanger Institute,
Technical Staff in Public Engagement Joint Winner

Sophie likes to take real aspects of the lab to the public whenever she can, employing practical devices, props and images to help share her work in spatial genomics. She is part of the Human Cell Atlas, and an active member of the Technician Commitment – aimed at raising the profile and value of technical professions. When talking about her motivation to engage with the public she highlights the need to be transparent and accessible.

Sophie is keen to stress the diversity of career paths into science, using her own journey to show that it is not always about PhDs and traditional academic routes. She is

particularly passionate about inspiring young people. By devising activities stemming from the science happening in the Human Cell Atlas, she delivers challenging but stimulating sessions about cells and their function, while spotlighting the role technical skills play in supporting and advancing the science.

Sophie recently took part at the virtual 'I'm a Scientist' forum, live chatting with students and teachers from across the UK, whilst showcasing her contributions at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and the Campus' dedication to equality and inclusion in science. She feels this helped contribute to science at home during the difficult period

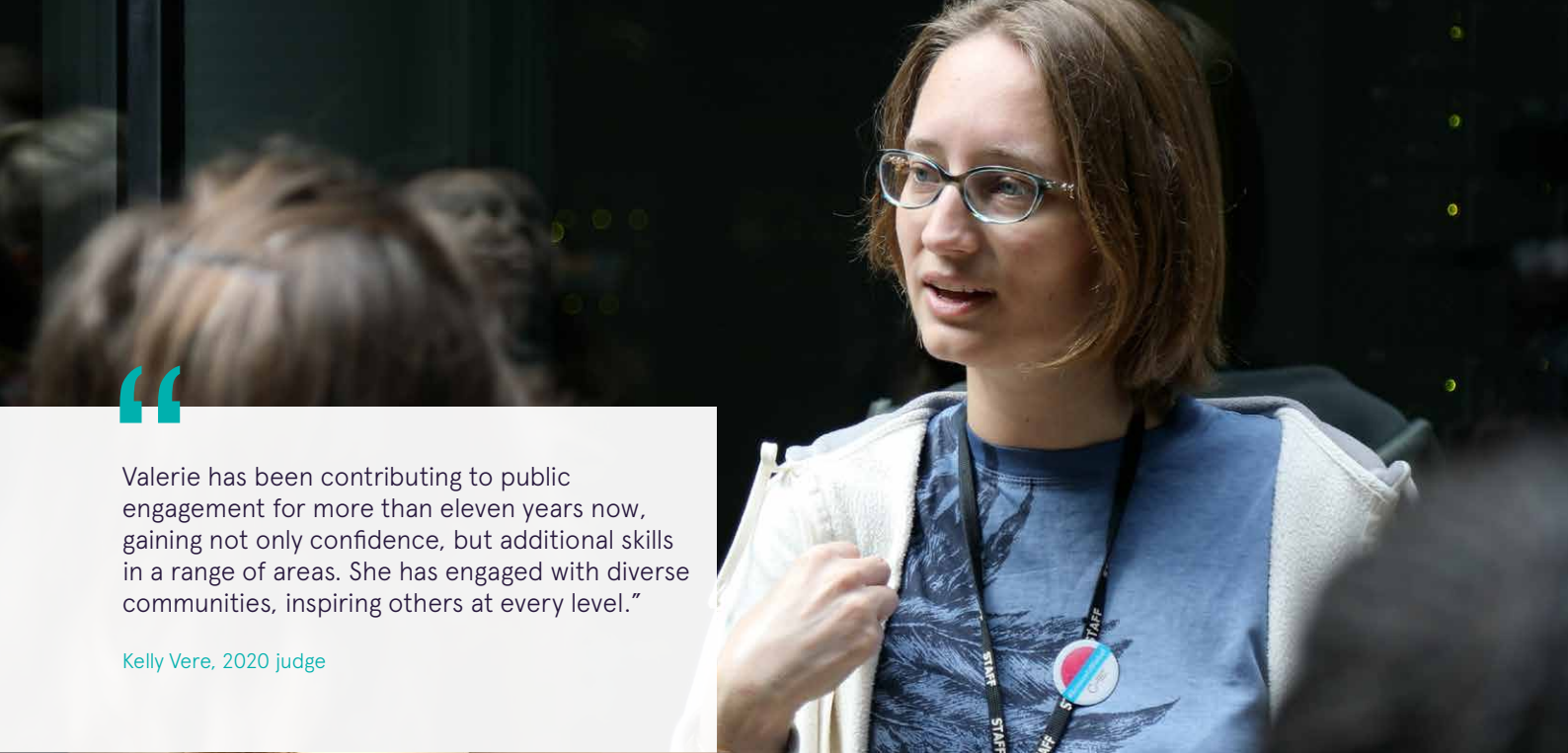
of school closure and home learning. With the COVID-19 crisis placing science in the spotlight, Sophie is keen to use her position to help build trust and confidence with those she interacts with, emphasising the human side of research.



I am proud to call myself a technician and to be able to share my work. Public engagement has added a sense of reward and pride to my job. I love engaging with the public, and when their enthusiasm is reciprocated it makes my job even more worthwhile.”

Sophie Pritchard





“

Valerie has been contributing to public engagement for more than eleven years now, gaining not only confidence, but additional skills in a range of areas. She has engaged with diverse communities, inspiring others at every level.”

Kelly Vere, 2020 judge



“

Sophie displays such an amount of energy and commitment in all her work with the public, both on Campus and off-site, it instills a sense of pride in what we do, whilst accompanying non technical audiences into the world of genomics.”

Monika Dabrowska, prize nominator

Nominees



Ben Foster

Experimental Animal Technician,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Ben's aim is to humanise science and those involved in it. One way he has approached this is to bring pop culture and humour into his engagement work, for instance in his popular mRNA activity which invites people to explore a set of codes based on amino acid chains. As an animal technician, Ben is passionate about showcasing diverse career paths in science and is a visible advocate for the Wellcome Sanger Institute's apprenticeship programme.



C.D. Tiwari

Cloud Bioinformatics Application
Architect, EMBL-EBI

C.D. is a regular contributor at public engagement events and activities. He joined the Campus community of UK STEM Ambassadors in 2019 and has developed projects during lockdown for children and teenagers on Scratch - a coding platform designed for beginners. He also organises learning sessions for young adults in the programming language Python. C.D's motivation is rooted in inspiring communities and younger generations in science and technology and promoting future career paths in informatics and robotics.



Cindy Smidt

Advanced Research Assistant,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Cindy is dedicated to bringing normally inaccessible labs to schools, such as insectaries, which are vital for a myriad of research topics on Campus. She has showcased her work involving mosquitoes to a number of audiences, particularly school children, where she strives to highlight the variety of roles within science and inspire them with her own career journey. *"By partaking or organising public engagement activities, I feel a sense of pride in what I do as a technician; that it is varied and that it can be an inspiration to many others."*



Colin Barker

Scientific instrument maker,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

Colin uses his diverse skillset as a technician and maker to build and create models which help visualise innovative techniques and processes central for Campus science. *"Having the potential to influence thoughts and ideas of the public by engaging with the scientists of tomorrow gives me a great sense of achievement."* He has devised a set of demonstrations for all types of audiences and settings, from creating an Orrery planetary model for display in a cathedral, to building a 6-axis 3D-printed robot arm which helps teach children how to code.

Nominees



David Yuan

Cloud Bioinformatics Application Architect, EMBL-EBI

David enjoys using his knowledge to help explain the science of bioinformatics and how bioinformatics tools can be used to identify the causes of cancer and rare diseases. His work in cloud computing has caught the imagination of public audiences, inspiring him in turn to start a new research project using machine learning methods in the cloud to analyse viral and human genomes. *"The public places much trust in scientists to find better cures for diseases through research and development. This instills a responsibility in me to advance science and technology, while involving people along the way."*



Ioanna Kalvari

Senior Software Developer, EMBL-EBI

Ioanna applies her technical skills to create experiential activities that break down complex concepts and help engage a wide range of audiences. She enjoys conversations with people in everyday settings, such as libraries or schools, and has supported Primary Science Quality Mark school activities. At Icknield Primary school, for example, she supported the development of RNA activities with ten to eleven year old students, at the same time presenting an accessible female mentor. *"Women are unfortunately still underrepresented in STEM and as a female scientist, I feel the need to make myself available, become a role model for a day."*



Verity Goodwin

Advanced Research Assistant, Wellcome Sanger Institute

Verity enjoys delivering practical interactive activities to the public, especially within particular settings as recently demonstrated by her engagement with elderly community groups. She is part of the Cellular Generation and Phenotyping Public Engagement team, and brings her role, skills and experience into her engagement work. She describes how her and the wider team provide vital support for major projects at the Wellcome Genome Campus. Verity has been a UK STEM Ambassador since 2018, and actively participates in delivering experiences of what happens in a working laboratory.

COLLABORATION IN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PRIZE

Recognising a group of individuals who have worked particularly well together to embed public engagement into their work.



Winner



Golden Eagle Project

Carmen Lidia Diaz Soria, Matt Kleanthous, Michal Szpak, Valerie Vancollie, Faye Rodgers, Melanie Robinson, Stefanie Pryke, Sara Widaa, James A. Baker, Jamie Brannigan, Wellcome Sanger Institute & EMBL-EBI, Winners of the Collaboration in Public Engagement Prize

The Golden Eagle Project has introduced science and research into an unusual setting, looking to positively affect the lives of prisoners and their visiting families at a prison in East Anglia. A main objective is to explore and enrich the social dynamic of the visit session through interaction and discussion catalysed by the science activities and the researchers taking part. Through the sessions, the team aim to make research, and those undertaking it, accessible with positive role models and messages designed to stimulate interest while offering an insight into the work of Campus and the wider applications of genomics.

Collaboration has been at the core of the Golden Eagle project from the outset. Firstly, the partnership with the prison team was fundamental. Developing a mutually beneficial relationship with key influencers such as those responsible for efforts to reduce re-offending, and whose support and trust made the endeavour possible. Secondly, significant coordination was

needed within the Campus, involving staff from both the Wellcome Sanger Institute and EMBL-EBI in the creation of a sustained effort that satisfied safety and security issues.

Carmen Lidia Soria Diaz, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and lead of the project, believes their work goes beyond public engagement outcomes for the science itself.

“Really good & interactive for the family day. Excellent.” “The activities engaged my whole family, thank you.” “My son loved it! Very good! Please come again.”

Feedback from visiting families involved in the Golden Eagle project

“Families can find it difficult to relate to each other after long periods of separation. By taking science activities to the prison, we provide a chance for the prison residents to interact with their families. We provide an opportunity for them to engage as a family unit and achieve and complete an activity together”.



“This project has been one of my greatest experiences at the Institute.”

Carmen Lidia Diaz Soria

“For us as a group, it has been a positive experience to work together. We have had to overcome many security obstacles to obtain the vetting. I believe that all of us involved feel that being part of the project has had a huge positive impact on some of the most underserved members of the community.”

Carmen Lidia Diaz Soria



Illustration by Alex Cagan, Wellcome Sanger Institute

Nominees



Art and Tech Styles project

Hannah Curreant, Harriet Craven, Katy Taylor, Deepti Jaiswal Kundu, Claudia Escorcio, Ashwini Chhipa, Frank Schwac, Mahdi Mahmoudy, Paula Weidemüller, James Blackshaw, Arwa Bin Raies, Kathryn Murie, Matthew Astley, Jose Guiherme Coelho Peres de Almeida, Alexie Staffer, Drew Spencer, Katy Marshall, Wellcome Sanger Institute & EMBL-EBI

The Art and Tech-Styles project introduces young people to data science and coding through the use of creative media. Centred on an immersive workshop format, the project empowers fourteen to seventeen year olds to create art inspired by technology that represents and interprets real scientific data. *"The collaboration has been an extremely fun opportunity for all involved. Working with staff across the wider Campus has allowed us to learn more about the work going on in the different institutes and expand our scientific networks."*



CGPS Public Engagement

Centre for Genomic Pathogen Surveillance (CGPS), Wellcome Sanger Institute

The CGPS team have organised and run several activities aimed at raising awareness of antimicrobial resistance and sparking an interest in science and technology in school-age children. Taking part in public engagement has boosted their communication skills as a team and has encouraged them to reflect on, and interpret, key aspects of their research for a general audience. With members from different backgrounds and expertise, the unit strives to engage with the same tools used in their day to day work, sharing what collaborative science looks like with a wider audience.



CGAP Public Engagement

Cellular Generation and Phenotyping (CGaP), Wellcome Sanger Institute

The CGAP team have established a dynamic public engagement group to progress strategic and operational goals for their engagement and outreach work. This has involved creative outlets, such as quizzes and pop-up labs, which have enriched major events such as Campus Open Saturdays and LifeLab – the Cambridgeshire European Researchers' Night. *"We use innovative activities to interact with audiences from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages and interests. The feedback we receive is extremely positive and has a big impact on our day to day work".*



The Travelling Virus with a Crown

Guy Naamati, Petra Korlevic and Astrid Gall, EMBL-EBI

In an effort to interpret and communicate the enormity of the COVID-19 situation to young children, Guy, Petra and Astrid forged an unusual collaboration to develop "The Travelling Virus with a Crown." With a very different set of interests and skills, the trio of Campus researchers have created a set of illustrated stories for children, bringing the role of genomics in the pandemic to their audience in an entertaining yet educational way. The collaboration has also been a reminder for all three that despite the difficulties of lockdown and social distancing, there remain avenues for engagement with wider audiences.

Acknowledgements

The 2020 Connecting Science Public Engagement Prizes attracted a wide range of high-quality entries from across our Campus and we would like to take the opportunity to thank all the applicants and extend our congratulations on their rich and varied work.

We also thank our judging panel who had a difficult task in assessing the winners. They are:



Helen Featherstone
Head of Public Engagement,
University of Bath



Catherine Gater
Equality and Diversity
Programme Manager,
Wellcome Sanger Institute



Annabel Grieve
International Engagement
Relationships Manager,
Wellcome Trust



Gerard Kleywegt
Head of Molecular and Cellular
Structure, EMBL-EBI



Shadrack Mkansi
Science Awareness Platforms
Manager at South African Agency
for Science and Technology
Advancement (SAASTA)



Kelly Vere
Programme Director, Technician
Commitment and Director
of Technical Skills & Strategy,
University of Nottingham



Steven Zemke
Head of Faculty Planning,
Wellcome Sanger Institute



If you could find out one thing from your genome, what would it be?