

2021 University of Melbourne Excellence Awards

CITATIONS

Engagement Excellence Awards

The **Award for Excellence in Engagement (Public Value)** is awarded to **Professor Larissa McLean Davies** who has made significant contributions to the education sector's understanding of 21st century literacy practices and the impact of embedding literacy knowledge at system and school levels. Since 2019, she has worked extensively in partnership with State and Territory Governments on priority translational research and custom education projects which explore the ways in which literacy disciplinary knowledge, taken to scale, can transform school leadership and teacher practices, and enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for diverse students.

The **Award for Excellence in Engagement (Public Value)** is awarded to the **Indigenous Eye Health Unit**, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, led by **Melbourne Laureate Professor Hugh Taylor**. Over the past decade IEHU has implemented a national program, The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision, to improve eye health services and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. IEHU established the evidence base and sector-endorsed recommendations for reform and improvement of eye-care systems and services that have been progressively introduced across Australia. Key to success is engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who are now taking leadership.

The **Award for Excellence in Engagement (Public Value)** is awarded to the distributed modelling team led by **Professors Jodie McVernon and James McCaw** whose work to support COVID-19 policy in Australia and our region informed an early and proactive response, and ongoing strategic measures to reduce the burden and impact of the pandemic on health and society. They have undertaken multiple projects for the Commonwealth Departments of Health, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and Foreign Affairs and Trade and translated outputs through membership of key national policy advisory committees and direct advice to National Cabinet.

Professional Excellence Awards

The **Award for Professional Excellence and Innovation** is awarded to the **Australian Postgraduate Research Intern team**, a division of AMSI, led by Lisa Farrar and Glen Sheldon. The team has demonstrated outstanding service and vision through its unique PhD internship program that drives industry-university collaboration across the country. Under a recent government grant, the team scaled the program from placing 31 PhD interns a year to 197 interns a year – a 500% increase, while maintaining a 99% program satisfaction rate. The team's efforts have earned praise both within the University and from its national network of industry and academic partners.

The **Award for Professional Excellence and Innovation** is awarded to the **Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory Genomics Team of Professor Benjamin Howden** for their significant contribution to Victoria's public health response for the COVID-19 pandemic using pathogen genomics. MDU PHL were one of the first laboratories globally to develop a rapid next-generation sequencing and analysis pipeline for SARS-CoV-2 to investigate COVID-19 transmissions, outbreaks and inform public health policy and decision-making. Their efforts revealed the source of the second wave in Victoria and has led to national and international initiatives in building pathogen genomics capacity to improve public health preparedness and response.

The **Bronwyn Jane Adams Memorial Award** is awarded to **Sarah Marcola**, who provided outstanding support to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah made innovative and strategic changes to improve the overall functioning of the department, enhancing the Medical Student experience and adding exceptional value in her Executive Assistant role. She went above and beyond to support the Head of Department, Professor Sue Walker and our partner hospital, The Mercy Hospital for Women. Sarah also created and launched the Melbourne Medical School Professional Staff Network, which now has 120 members.

The **Bronwyn Jane Adams Memorial Award** is awarded to **Steven Damen** for his dedication and innovative contributions for physics lecture demonstrations and live lecture streaming during the pandemic. Steven recorded over two hundred demonstrations to be incorporated in the online environment as well as filming and supporting live streaming of lectures in dual delivery mode. His tireless effort in keeping academic staff and students connected and engaged online throughout the COVID-19 lockdown was outstanding.

The **Gerry Barretto Award for Outstanding Student Services** is awarded to **Maria Lodola-Price and Chris Lambert** who created an entirely online orientation experience for students commencing undergraduate and graduate coursework degrees in the Melbourne School of Design. Early in 2020, Maria and Chris noted that it was likely that orientation would be held at least partially online due to COVID-19. With no previous experience, Maria and Chris upskilled themselves to create an orientation program equal to that of the in-person offerings. The online orientation program is now a permanent resource, allowing the Faculty to deliver more engaging in-person orientation activities.

The **Gerry Baretto Award for Outstanding Student Services** is awarded to the full staff of **Student and Scholarly Services** for their collaborative, sustained efforts in supporting students globally through the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. The 700+ staff across SASS coordinated a whole-of-university response and facilitated critical operational adjustments to teaching and learning systems, reconfiguring timetabling, exams and enrolments. They worked tirelessly to support students through travel restrictions and online learning, enabled and distributed emergency funds and meals through a network of staff volunteers, delivered expanded Counselling services and made outreach calls to students, ensuring accessible and continuous student support and communications throughout the pandemic.

Research Excellence Awards

The **Award for Excellence in Industry-Engaged Research** is awarded to **Professor Richard Sandberg** who has pioneered the integration of high-fidelity simulations with machine learning techniques to develop new physical understanding and novel industry-ready models. Working with internationally leading industries, such as GE Aviation and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, his work has led to demonstrated impact beyond high-quality publications, such as reduced global fuel consumption and emissions. It has also exposed many students to cutting-edge research on industry relevant problems, ensuring that we are educating the next generation of skilled engineers that can help further improve technology to meet the world's challenges.

The Award for Outstanding Graduate Researcher Supervision is awarded to **Professor Meredith Temple-Smith** who is described by her students and colleagues as a super-supervisor. She leads a comprehensive research and professional training program which scaffolds students' research experience and enhances their academic life. Using a disciplined environment alongside a responsive supervisory approach, she encourages each student to reach their full potential. She guides and supports students who face outstanding barriers to progression, and mentors their supervisors. To develop the next generation of effective supervisors, she also provides ongoing mentoring to students as they grow their careers.

Strategic Priority Awards

Award for Excellence in a Priority Area – Internationalisation of Research is awarded to **Professor Jan de Gier**, for his vision and leadership in the establishment of MATRIX, Australia's first research institute for the mathematical sciences. Operating in partnership with Monash, ANU, UQ, the ARC and the US-based Simons Foundation, MATRIX demonstrates the benefits of successful cross-institutional collaboration and is essential research infrastructure that enhances internationally competitive research through intensive residential research programs.

The **Award for Excellence in a Priority Area – Internationalisation of the Student Experience** is awarded to **Dr. Kelley Graydon and Mr. Chris Waterworth**, whose dedication in developing an international placement program has provided Master of Audiology students unique perspectives on collaborative clinical work in low- and middle-income countries and has helped to promote global citizenship and community engagement. Their work also fostered the development of an innovative telehealth program from Cambodia, providing all students with valuable placement hours, as well as supporting and educating students as leaders, change agents, and providing them a sense of community and collaboration, purpose and place.

The **Award for Excellence in a Priority Area – Social Inclusion** is awarded to the FEIT team of **Ms. Hope Perkins, Professor Elaine Wong, Associate Professor Juliana (Kaya) Prpic, Ms. Michelle Bellino, and Mr. Ross Peek** whose work on the Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School (VIEWS) has brought over 100 Indigenous secondary students in Years 10 to 12 to Victoria to experience the impact that Engineering and IT study and research. With many of these students pursuing tertiary study, VIEWS has made an outstanding contribution towards achieving the University of Melbourne's goals in the area of Indigenous inclusion. VIEWS continues to be an exemplar of excellence in Indigenous STEM education and outreach for Indigenous secondary students on a STEM pathway.

The **Cornelius Regan Trust Award** is awarded to **Miss Mariam Hachem** who is the Clinical Trial Manager for the FlashGM Study - Australia's first multi-centre, randomised controlled clinical trial for Indigenous Australians with type 2 diabetes using flash glucose monitors. Commencing the NHMRC funded study at the onset of COVID-19, she, alongside her team are conducting the trial in over 8 urban, regional, rural and remote Aboriginal Medical Services, hospitals and healthcare centers. This Award will enable Miss Hachem to undertake a Specialist Certificate in Clinical Leadership at the University of Melbourne, to further develop her leadership skills to improve outcomes for people with diabetes.

The **Patricia Grimshaw Award for Mentor Excellence** is awarded to **Professor Natalie King OAM** who has dedicated herself to supporting, mentoring and advocating for colleagues, students, faculty and artists at the University of Melbourne as well as the tertiary and arts sector more broadly since 2001. King's mentorship extends the capabilities of mentees as she firmly believes that we rise by lifting others. She has built on Patricia Grimshaw's legacy by championing female academics, artists and First Nations' colleagues through sustained mentoring, guidance and leadership within the creative arts.

Teaching Excellence Awards

The **Award for Excellence and Innovation in Indigenous Higher Education** is awarded to the team that delivers the **Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work** as a partnership between the Department of Social Work and Dulwich Centre. This program is based on collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty and the First Nations All Star participants. This degree has seen 32 Indigenous Australian graduates who have generated 15 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters or video productions. The Masters has also attracted students from over 21 countries and collaborations between Indigenous and international students is one of the great highlights of the program.

The **Barbara Falk Award for Teaching Excellence** is awarded to **Associate Professor Paula O'Brien** for her innovative and impactful teaching in law. Paula has enlarged the opportunities for study in health law at the University through the creation of a suite of new undergraduate and JD subjects, which provide a rich and immersive, inter-disciplinary experience and which offer a pathway to post-graduate study. Paula has created learning environments which spark students' curiosity about the law, nurture students' intellectual capabilities, enable all students to reach their academic potential, and inspire students to be mature and confident participants in a community of learning.

The **David White Award for Teaching Excellence** is awarded to **Dr Clare Anstead** for her dedication and passion to teaching and mentoring students in Parasitology in the Melbourne Veterinary School. Clare use of a student-centred pedagogically purposeful blended learning of teaching, where the students form the learning community and multiple technologies and modern multimedia are used to deliver lectures, laboratories and tutorials. This teaching style has been highly effective and well-received by students as it significantly aids engagement and recall of subject matter.

The **Edward Brown Award for Teaching Excellence** is awarded to **Associate Professor Mei Dong** for her commitment to excellent teaching that motivates students to learn macroeconomics in a rigorous but enjoyable way, and contributes the foundation preparing students for the future. In teaching large classes, Mei supports students who have diverse backgrounds and different capabilities with patience and care. The student-focused approach makes positive impacts on students through teaching and mentoring. Mei also takes a special role in motivating female students to learn economics and helping them make informative career choices.

The **Norman Curry Award for Innovation and Excellence in Educational Programs** is awarded to **Professor David Grayden, Associate Professor Kwanghui Lim and Associate Professor Simon Wilkins** who developed and teach BioDesign Innovation. Students in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology and Melbourne Business School work in multidisciplinary teams to invent and commercialise medical technologies. Significant student engagement with clinicians, faculty, alumni and industry experts ensures they address unmet medical needs with viable medical products. BioDesign has succeeded at fostering entrepreneurial thinking, with half of the BioDesign teams forming start-ups and many alumni working as innovators across multiple industries.