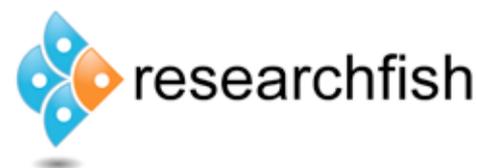


STFC ResearchFish 2014: Recognition



As part of the Researchfish data collection process we ask our principal investigators (PIs) to inform us of any significant awards they or a member of their team have received. Following the submission period in early 2014 we have received almost 4,000 reported outputs of awards and personal recognitions. The types of recognition range from being personally invited to speak at a conference, taking up an honorary or advisory position to an external body, to OBEs and medals received as part of the PI's work.

As classified by our PIs, over 90% of the awards and recognitions received have been on a national or international scale, demonstrating the global reputation our researchers have. Receiving an award or recognition can lead to

further impacts for a researcher; in particular it provides a chance to disseminate their work to a selected audience, it can also lead to the PI being asked to speak at larger conferences with a higher attendance and increased media coverage. Receiving a prize or honour will also increase the esteem of a researcher in their field, which can be particularly important for more junior researchers as they look to gain recognition of their work from their more senior peers.

STFC-supported researchers have received awards and recognitions from some of the most prestigious scientific institutes across the world including NASA, CERN, the European Space Agency and the Institute of Physics.



Types of recognition

The main recognition reported via Researchsh is a personal invitation to speak at a conference, with researchers informing us of over 2,000 such instances of this type of recognition. This indicates that the researcher is respected as a leader in their field and valued highly to be asked to present to fellow scientists. Speaking at conferences can lead to significant impacts for a researcher. It has allowed STFC researchers to form collaborations, produce joint publications, apply for telescope time, disseminate their work and steer the direction of future research. As many of the reported conferences are international, researchers are able to increase the global reach of their work.

Phillip Leverhulme Prizes

The Phillip Leverhulme Prizes recognise the achievement of early career researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising.

Richard Alexander received a Phillip Leverhulme Prize in 2013 in the Astronomy and Astrophysics category. Richard, an STFC Advanced Fellow at the University of Leicester, is a leading star-formation theorist and researcher. He has written important papers on the formation and orbit of circumbinary planets, protoplanetary disc evolution, and on the subject of super massive black holes. A large proportion of Richard's work involves theoretical and numerical models; this entails the use of various supercomputers including DIRAC, which has been partly funded by STFC.

As reported to us via Researchfish, ten other STFC-supported researchers have received a Phillip Leverhulme prize since its inception in 2001. Receiving the award has allowed researchers to further their work by providing them with backing to hire post-doctoral researchers, by facilitating research collaborations that have led to publications and also provided an increase in media coverage of them and their work.



Dr Alexander, recipient of a Phillip Leverhulme Prize in 2013. Credit: Richard Alexander

Royal Astronomical Society Eddington Medal

In 2013 Professor James Binney was awarded the Eddington Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of his investigations of outstanding merit in theoretical astrophysics. Professor Binney's work looks at the formation and structure of galaxies from a theoretical perspective. He helped to establish the importance of velocity anisotropy in elliptical galaxies and to show that many such galaxies have triaxial shapes. He has also worked on the role of intergalactic gas, helping to establish the role of massive black holes in arresting star formation in massive galaxies and proposing a theory of how such gas sustains star formation in galaxies like our own.

Professor Binney's more recent work has been to focus on our own Galaxy – the Milky Way, with the goal of deducing the galaxy's history from its current state. The European Space Agency's Gaia mission will play a key role in this endeavour, by mapping our Galaxy in three dimensions. GAIA was launched in December 2013 and following commissioning began its science mission at the end of July 2014, with masses of data expected to be received and analysed over the coming years. Professor Binney is well decorated for his work, receiving the Maxwell Prize in 1986, the Brouwer Award of the American Astronomical Society in 2003 and the Dirac Medal in 2010.



Professor James Binney

For more information on STFC and Researchfish please visit: www.stfc.ac.uk/1846.aspx