

# King's Engaged Research Awards 2025

## Awards Shortlist

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# Breakdown of nominations

After a successful inaugural year we are pleased to announce that the number of nominations for this year's KERN awards has only built on last year with 100 nominations for the 2025 awards. We were delighted by the high quality of this year's submissions which reflect both the breadth and depth of Public and Community Engagement with Research activities that are taking place across the University. The shortlisted nominations are announced below.

Please note that shortlisted awards are listed in alphabetical order.

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Shortlisted</b>
Life Sciences and Medicine	16	9
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	21	9
Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	4	1
Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	5	1
Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	10	2
King's Business School	8	1
Arts & Humanities	10	4
Social Science & Public Policy	18	8
Dickson Poon School of Law	7	3
Research Management and Innovation Directorate	1	1

# Communicating Research (Local)

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HEALTH RESEARCH: GOING TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES (IoPPN)

*Dr Juliana Onwumere*

The Building Race Equity and Diversity (BREaD) in research network, South London, was established with several key objectives including to serve as a driving force in embedding race inclusion, diversity and equity approaches in our research practices at King's and our South London Health Partners. Through doing so, tackling the barriers that prevent participation. BREaD delivered a targeted programme of online community conversations that aimed to provide a platform and mechanism for building trust about research in our local populations from racially minoritised backgrounds. This was created in response to the under-representation of racially minoritised groups in health research and local communities' mistrust towards research. The community conversations were held between December 2023 – September 2024, with a total of 150 attendees.

## DEVELOPING BRAIN WORKSHOPS (FOLSM)

*Tomoki Arichi, Leila Hadiyat, Claudia Gracia and Fatemeh Mozaffari (Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre)*

A series of 4 workshops about early brain development and differences in children with neurodevelopmental conditions were co-developed by researchers, clinicians and the PE team in BMEIS School, and Coin Street Centre. This was a response to local families' desire to learn more about why some children develop differently and to understand the research. Attendees included parents, family support workers and local health visitors, with a variety of presentations from both researchers and NHS care services, followed by enthusiastic interactive discussions. Overwhelmingly positive feedback has helped to build new bridges with the local community for further workshops and interactive working.

## THE KING'S FESTIVAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (NMES)

*Catherine Healy*

In May 2024 the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence welcomed over 1500 people to the Strand to explore the latest advancements and discussions in AI at lectures, panel events, demonstrations, screenings, and more. Events were free and open to anyone, covering an array of topics including philosophy, social justice, healthcare, education, sustainability, and creativity. 44 activities took place over the five-day period, including a day of interactive demos and a dedicated Family Zone, targeted at a younger audience.

The Festival featured a range of diverse perspectives on AI from across King's, academia, the arts, and beyond.

## **STICH AND STEM (FoLSM)**

*Philippa Harding and the Stitch and STEM Team*

“Stitch and Stem” is a science-outreach workshop developed in the Centre for Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine (CGTRM). In the workshop, members of the public embroider beautiful scientific images which have been produced by scientists from the Centre during the course of their research and rendered into templates by an artist. During the workshop, volunteers explain how the images relate to their research and the public can ask questions directly to researchers about their work, learning about the fascinating stem cell research being done in our Centre, and how this work may influence the future of healthcare.

## **Communicating Research (National)**

### **ASPEN-STUDY (ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD) (FoLSM)**

*Kaat De Backer, Abigail Easter and The Maternal Mental Health Alliance*

The ASPEN-study (Attempted Suicide in the PERiNatal study) is a qualitative study explore women's experiences of perinatal suicide attempts, the circumstances that surrounded this event and the support that was available to them. Additionally, we explored these events with nominated 'significant others' to understand the wider context of perinatal suicide attempts. With our partners and expert by experience members, we organised a national dissemination event and made it to prime-time radio, to raise awareness and break the stigma surrounding perinatal suicide attempts.

### **GLOW: ILLUMINATING INNOVATION (A&H)**

*Sarah Atkinson*

'GLOW: Illuminating Innovation' showcased groundbreaking work by women innovators in digital art and technology through an artist programme and multi-sited exhibition on Strand/Aldwych (March-April 2024). Based on research examining gender diversity in emerging digital technologies, GLOW presented interactive, augmented and virtual reality experiences featuring first-of-their-kind historical works alongside new commissions, including a major installation 'Second Nature' in St Mary Le Strand church. Accompanied by [25 public events](#) including an [International Women's Day live-streamed launch](#) chaired by Julia Gillard, artist talks, panels, VR programme, guided walks, GLOW engaged diverse audiences through physical and virtual platforms, attracting thousands of visitors.

## **MERCY (LAW)**

*Cari Hyde-Vaamonde*

MERCY is an innovative platform using interactive 3D environments to communicate complex ideas about AI in the justice system to diverse audiences. Developed through collaboration between legal research and artistic practice, it has evolved through iterative feedback from different user groups across the UK. Activities in the past year include presentations at AI UK Westminster, workshops at the King's AI Festival, and use as a teaching aid in business education. The project continues to develop through regular collaboration between researchers, artists, and software engineers, with plans to create an accessible online offering based on user feedback.

## **WORKING WITH PARENTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY IN CONTACT WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND FAMILY COURTS (SSPP)**

*Mary Baginsky*

Findings from this NIHR SSCR-funded project identified the need for social workers and lawyers working with parents who have a learning disability to modify their practice. For social workers, a key message was the importance of curiosity when conducting assessments, recognising that identifying needs early on dictates the level of support required and influences whether children remain in parental care. For lawyers, the findings underlined the need for modified communication styles, using simpler language with clients and slowing the pace of proceedings in family courts.

# **Communicating Research (Global)**

## **CREATIVE WOMEN IN LAGOS: A NETWORK AND DOCUMENTARY FILM (A&H)**

*Lauren England, Eka Ikpe and Roberta Comunian*

This collaborative project facilitated knowledge exchange amongst female creative entrepreneurs in Lagos, Nigeria, and raised greater awareness of their accomplishments and experiences through a documentary film. A peer-led network (17 entrepreneurs) was established at a workshop in Lagos, now providing ongoing support for female creative entrepreneurs in the city.

The documentary showcases the partners as successful entrepreneurs while additional short videos (4) centre the wider network addressing key issues raised: education, finance, business support, and networks. The project aims to inform policy and support women engaged in creative work in Lagos. Efforts to shape future policymaking in Nigeria are ongoing.

## **DESTINATION HALLUCINATION (NMES)**

*Johanna Walker*

Destination Hallucination is the world's first podcast musical about Artificial Intelligence using the style of Northern Soul to highlight approaches and risks of using generative AI such as ChatGPT. Johanna has partnered with playwright Lucy Bell and composer James Otto to produce a podcast musical aimed at people who have no expertise in AI, based on research with the public on how they relate to generative AI at work. Key concepts of AI and how we interact with it in daily life are inaccessible to many, but musicals are highly emotionally accessible to a wide demographic, including those who are more passive consumers of AI.

## **NEUROVERSE PODCAST (IOPPN)**

*Carolina Soares*

Neuroverse podcast was founded in February 2022 by PhD students Carolina De Fonseca Soares and Clara Lenherr with the aim of exploring ideas, innovation and perspectives in neuroscience. The podcast has more than 800 followers from over 50 countries and has released more than 80 episodes.

The Neuroverse podcast plays a vital role in advancing neuroscience research across the School of Neuroscience at King's College London by fostering a culture of curiosity and inclusivity. Neuroverse believes that neuroscience should be easily accessible to everyone, everywhere. To sustain a long-term interest in neuroscience and produce disruptive science, it must be cultivated from a place of innate curiosity and community that creates a safe space.

## **PROMOTING CLARITY IN COMPLEXITY: THE LCI'S ROLE IN GLOBAL CHINA POLICY (SSPP)**

*Kerry Brown, Konstantinos Tsimonis, Lau China Institute members of staff*

Amid rising threat perceptions, geopolitical antagonisms, and growing mistrust and complexity in relations with China, the LCI team provides nuanced insights into China's domestic and global agendas through active engagement with policymakers worldwide. The LCI flagship annual event, "China Week," as well as many tailored professional trainings, government reports, and bespoke seminars and talks, serve as platforms to facilitate informed dialogues and shape global understanding and responses to the 'China challenge'. By actively communicating primary research produced at King's, the LCI empowers policy makers with a balanced, context-rich understanding of China's evolving role in the global arena, that support nuanced policy responses.



# Collaboration (Local)

## CELEBRATING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COIN STREET COMMUNITY AND CME/BMEIS (FoLSM)

*Deanne Naula and Coin Street Community Partners*

Local charity and social enterprise, Coin Street, and the School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences, first partnered in 2021 as part of King's Civic Challenge. King's College campus is next to the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre on Stamford Street, in Waterloo. BMEIS researchers and support staff, have continued to develop a strong working relationship with Coin Street, through open conversations, and knowledge sharing, to understand local community priorities and needs, and areas of mutual interest. We have worked together on a number of exciting projects and events over the past three years, including art projects and family support events.

## CO-DESIGNING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENERGY IN NEWHAM (KBS)

*Anna Rebmann*

Dr. Anna Rebmann's project pioneers an inclusive approach to community energy, embedding diverse local voices in Newham's green transition. Through long-term partnerships with Newham Council and Repowering London, Anna used co-design workshops to engage underrepresented groups in shaping local energy initiatives. This collaborative approach led to the creation of Newham Community Energy, accelerated solar installations, and influenced sector-wide practices for improving diversity. By fostering meaningful two-way relationships between academia, local government, energy organizations, and diverse community groups, the project demonstrates how engaged research can drive equitable climate action and create lasting impact.

## EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE: WHO KNOWS BEST? (RMID)

*Nat Gohlan, Meghan Peterson, Nadine Aranki, Sohail Jannesari, Vita Moltedo, Abigail Easter, Eloise Funnell, Maciej Matejko, Myrofora Kakoulidou, Amber Johnson, Issy Jackson, Tiegan Winne, Lauren Low, Steve Lukito, Angela Sweeny, Laura E. Fischer, Sullivan Holderbach and Marcia Mihotich*

Experts by Experience: Who Knows Best? Is a co-produced exhibition and event series exploring the value of lived experience in research. The project was co-developed with 16 co-researchers (King's and peer researchers) with varied expertise and lived experiences through a series of online workshops. Displayed at Science Gallery London from April-June 2024, the exhibition challenges the idea of 'the expert' and explores the limitations of traditional approaches to research through interactive games, case studies and a manifesto.

It advocates for research that enables those most affected by an issue to generate knowledge that can bring about positive social change.

## **MAUDSLEY EDUCATION CONSULTATION SERVICE (IOPPN)**

*William Bennett and Jacqueline Phillips-Owen*

A growing number of children in UK schools are at risk of emerging or escalating mental health problems. To address this, the Maudsley Education Consultation Service (MECS) was set up in collaboration between King's researchers, South London and Maudsley clinicians, and local schools. Through innovations such as myJournE – a digital platform developed at KCL – we provide schools with health intelligence, enabling systematic wellbeing planning. As MECS expands, we aim to enhance research by producing large, anonymised datasets of student mental health in local boroughs. The collaboration between educators, academics and clinicians is integral to the MECS approach.

## **Collaboration (Global)**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND PEACEBUILDING: EXAMINING THE IMPLICATIONS OF MINE CLEARANCE IN ANGOLA AND SOMALILAND (SSPP)**

*Eka Ikpe*

This research is impact-informed and has helped shape understanding on the relationship between mine clearance as a technical security-related activity on the one hand, and humanitarian and long-term sustainable development on the other hand. It used the mine clearance interventions in Somaliland and Angola to take the debate beyond the military imperative of Anti-Vehicle Mines (AVM) clearance to exemplify the advantages of the intervention on agriculture, conservation, trade, and infrastructural development. It shaped policy and funding priorities for future mine clearance in post-conflict societies.

### **'WHAT DOES RADIOTHERAPY MEAN TO YOU? CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT (FOLSM)**

*Lisa Whittaker, Liane Harris and RadNet Patient Participants*

This project brought together 13 people who have had radiotherapy, their family members/carers, radiation researchers and a therapeutic radiographer to create art based on the question 'What does radiotherapy mean to you?' The project was co-led by RadNet PPIE coordinator, Lisa Whittaker, and artist facilitator, Liane Harris. Everyone came together in 5 online workshops (June-September 2024) where Liane introduced a selection of creative practices e.g. collage, photography and drawing, and encouraged people to try

these methods and find a way to express their answer to our question. Following the workshops, we unveiled the artwork at a celebration event (1st October).

## **THE HOST-MICROBIOME INTERACTIONS IN NOMA DISEASE (FODCS)**

*Ifeanyi Joshua Uzochukwu, Gordon Proctor, Mark Ide, David Moyes*

This project investigates host-microbiome interactions in Noma disease, a devastating condition with high child mortality in West Africa. By analyzing proteomic and microbiomic data from affected children, gingivitis cases, and healthy controls, the study aims to identify biomarkers for early diagnosis. In collaboration with local scientists and clinicians at the Noma Children's Hospital in Nigeria, this work represents a crucial step toward pioneering advancements in Noma prevention, treatment, and public healthcare. By establishing validated protocols and fostering strong international partnerships, the project strives to make a significant, long-term impact on Noma-related health policies and clinical practices in affected communities.

# Participatory Research (Local)

## REACH YOUNG PERSON COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS (IOPPN)

*Thai-Sha Richards, Nii Okani Tettey, Karima Clement-Gbede, Adna Hashi and Jonas Kitisu*

“They make the REACH team think differently about everything we do.”

These 5 young people have been at the heart of REACH since 2016. REACH is a cohort study of adolescent mental health in South London. The YPCC work in part-time, paid roles to ensure every part of the research process includes young people’s voices.

They shape research design and practice, playing a pivotal role in generating research ideas, and in interpreting and communicating results. They are a voice for young people, advocating for and sharing their extensive knowledge of youth participation in research.

## US AND THEM (A&H)

*Alana Harris*

The “Us and Them” project creatively re-imagined 19th-century asylum photographs to highlight issues surrounding disability and challenge how people with disabilities have been portrayed over time. This powerful collaboration brought together eight disabled artists from Freewheelers Theatre and Media Company to explore how historical images of people with disabilities can be reinterpreted to interrogate past and present stigmas.

In partnership with Surrey History Centre, a wet-plate collodion photographer and community oral historian, the project unearthed archival photographs taken in local psychiatric institutions and paired them with newly commissioned portraits to create new images posing questions about ableism, mental health, and inclusive representation. The project culminated in a public exhibition (attended by over 300+ visitors) and a Q&A event with the disabled artists at "The Horton Arts Centre" at which they discussed their engagement with history, their pride in their portraits, and the 'friend in the archive' paired with.

# Participatory Research (National)

## PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SICKLE CELL DISORDER AND THEIR FAMILIES (NMPC)

*Jane Chudleigh, Pru Holder, Addassa Follett (Sickle Cell Society), Ethan Mcfarlane-Griffith (Young Person with Sickle Cell Disorder), Derick Abuo (Young Person with Sickle Cell Disorder), Josh (Anon) (Young Person with Sickle Cell Disorder), Imani (Young Person with Sickle Cell Disorder)*

We wanted to listen, hear, and understand what is important to children and young people (CYP) to address disparities in research involvement for underserved and underrepresented groups, including CYP and minority ethnic groups. We worked with CYP with sickle cell disorder (SCD), their families and researchers to co-produce an [animation](#) to enable equitable and inclusive PPIE and research involvement for CYP with SCD and their families. The CYP designed the characters, wrote the script and voiced over the animation.

## **PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH APPROACHES TO INVOLVING FAMILY CARERS IN RECOVERY COLLEGES (IOPPN)**

*Bryher Bowness*

This project involved coproducing a focus group study with three family carers, which we are co-disseminating through journal papers, conferences, briefing papers, practice recommendation posters and webinars internationally. This led to me collaborating with four carers and Oxfordshire Recovery College through a Participatory Action Research project to codesigning, cofacilitating and co-evaluating a creative course for family carers. Meanwhile, I worked with the NIHR to create recommendations for involving carers in research, and with SLaM IoPPN Research & Development department to improve governance processes for peer researchers.

## **TRANS\*- INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE (FOLSM)**

*River Újhadbor*

Trans\*- Inclusive Healthcare explored experiences of living life as a trans\* person and seeking gender-affirming care on the NHS. River worked closely with the trans\*-led youth work organisation, Gendered Intelligence, to identify a relevant research topic and recruit five young co-researchers aged 18 – 23. The team used arts-based and qualitative social-science methods to map the obstacles young people face in attempting to access services, and understand the mental-health impact of navigating obstacles. Co-created outputs included a documentary, artwork, a board game, and recommendations for primary care providers to develop safer environments for trans\* people in healthcare settings.

# **Participatory Research (Global)**

## **AL.LOTS (FOLSM)**

*Gabriel Vivas-Martinez*

The Al.lots project is a series of participatory workshops with young men in Majorca, Spain, that are part of Gabriel Vivas-Martínez's doctoral thesis 'Exploring Alternatives to Toxic Masculinity: Developing a theatrical methodology to challenge macho behaviour in the Spanish social context'. In partnership with a local charity, the workshops took place over a

two-months period, with groups of young men aged 12-19 years old in a public High School and a Youth Centre. The aim of the project, using Applied Theatre as Research method, was to provide a space for young men to reflect on the performativity of masculinity.

## **PHOTOVOICE AS A POTENTIAL INTERVENTION FOR LONELINESS AMONG OLDER MIGRANTS FROM MYANMAR (SSPP)**

*Samia Christina Akhter-Khan and Rosie Mayston*

Photovoice as a Potential Intervention for Loneliness Among Older Migrants from Myanmar, leverages the Photovoice method to address loneliness among older Myanmar migrants in Thailand. Participants actively took part in a six-week photography workshop that was co-facilitated by an older participant from Myanmar. Older people used photography to express how they care for others and the environment and curated an exhibition. The local and global exhibitions offered a platform for Myanmar older migrants to share their experiences and gain respect within their communities. The evaluation suggested that Photovoice may be a promising intervention for alleviating loneliness.

## **THE MINA/VEM COLLECTIVE (SSPP)**

*Cathy McIlwaine and Jelke Boesten*

The MinA/VEM Collective project mobilizes visual and embodied methods (VEM) to explore resistance to gendered violence and generation of collective care among migrant women in London. This ongoing work began in October 2023 but represents a longer-term deep collaboration with community theatre group, Migrants in Action (MinA), comprising 4 participatory projects with a core of 36 migrant women. Initially reinterpreting McIlwaine's research on gendered violence among Brazilian migrants through applied drama workshops with outputs showcased across England and beyond, the MinA Collective/VEM work uses creative methods such as Photovoice to generate collective care among 22 migrant women from 10 countries.

# Transforming Research Culture

## THE LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY BOARD (IOPPN AND SSPP)

*Angela Sweeney (KCL), Sonia Thompson, Rachel Hill, Janahan Sivanthan, Bwalya Mulenga, Cassie Lovelock, James Edwin, Raza Griffiths, Rick Burgess and Zazie Lawson (LEAB members)*

The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) at the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health (CSMH) is a diverse group of individuals with direct and/or indirect experiences of disabling barriers, neurodivergence, mental distress, mental illness, trauma, caring/supporting people in mental distress, and/or (ref)using mental health services. They challenge traditional hierarchical power structures and what it means to 'hold or produce knowledge' within academia and beyond. The LEAB have transformed the research culture of CSMH from one of consultation to inclusive partnership working. In doing so, they have co-produced our core ethos, strategic priorities and research, and spearheaded independent LEAB-led projects.

## THE REPRODUCTION RESEARCH GROUP (SSPP)

*Lucy van de Wiel*

The Reproduction Research Group transforms research culture by organizing outward-facing, vibrant events that engage hundreds of professionals from academia, healthcare, law, activism and the arts, thereby positioning King's as a hub for reproduction research. E.g. the Reproduction Salon brings together 200+ scholars, professionals, and artists to engage with the latest advancements in reproduction through unusual media, such as fashion shows, immersive bioart, thought-provoking presentations, poetry performances and DJ lectures. Likewise, film screenings and discussions in Leicester Square cinemas invite hundreds to reconnect in stimulating ways that foster inspiration. The RRG curates memorable experiences to catalyse innovative interdisciplinary research partnerships

# Integrated Education, Research and Service

## DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROBIOLOGY ACADEMY (IOPPN)

*Leigh Wilson*

The Developmental Neurobiology Academy (DNA) is a dynamic widening participation (WP) outreach program for A-level students, hosted by leading neuroscience centres: the Centre for Developmental Neurobiology and MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders. DNA selects 60 WP Y12 students annually for a summer school and a year-long Champions' program, with continued engagement through an alumni network. Blending lab experiences and interactive research exploration, DNA also includes workshops on multidisciplinary thinking, science communication, skill-building, and university application and experience guidance. This program successfully broadens access to higher education through an innovative research-driven approach, fosters a sense of belonging while advancing social mobility, education, inclusivity, and engagement with cutting-edge neuroscience research.

## RIGHTS OF NATURE TOOLKIT: HOW TO PROTECT RIVERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (LAW)

*Theo Thomas, London Waterkeeper and Sue Willman, King's Legal Clinic*

The 'Rights of Nature Toolkit: How to Protect Rivers in England and Wales' is research supervised by Sue Willman, Supervising solicitor and Senior lecturer of King's College, Legal Clinic in collaboration with Theo Thomas, London Waterkeeper. They partnered to share the Toolkit to tens of thousands of river campaigners around the UK, providing in-depth training to a variety of stakeholders to enable them to improve the state of their local rivers from an ecocentric perspective.

*"Together we are writing a new narrative with and not for Nature. We want tales that inspire, nurture, and provide solace. At the same time, we need robust tactics so everyone can hear Nature's voice. The 'Rights of Nature Toolkit: How to Protect Rivers in England and Wales' is a new chapter in this story. It will help those that care navigate the complex legal landscape and hold the system to account."* Theo Thomas, Chief Executive, London Waterkeeper.

## WINDRUSH JUSTICE CLINIC & REFORMING REDRESS SCHEMES (LAW)

*Shaila Pal (King's Legal Clinic) in partnership with Southwark Law Centre*

King's Legal Clinic (KLC) collaborated with Southwark Law Centre (SLC), students, community groups with lived experience of state harm, and legal experts to develop the Windrush Justice Clinic (WJC). The WJC is a service-led education and research Programme



promoting justice for victims of the Windrush scandal and influencing wider discussions on systemic change around Redress schemes.

The WJC provides victims with pro bono legal representation as part of its service-led experiential learning Programme. Informed by casework from this, King's Legal Clinic co-produced two reports on the Windrush Compensation Scheme and Redress schemes. Collaborating with experts by experience, advocacy groups and policymakers has led to new approaches to law reform, advancing advocacy efforts for achieving justice for victims.

# Outstanding Individual (ECR)

## ELLA PARRY-DAVIES (A&H)

Dr Ella Parry-Davies (Lecturer in Theatre, Performance and Critical Theory) has been conducting impactful research at the intersections of migrant justice, anti-trafficking and healthcare access since 2018, innovating methods of knowledge co-creation that are grounded in creative performance. Since joining King's in September 2022 she has worked with grassroots partner organisations including The Voice of Domestic Workers (as PI on research production and policy engagement) and Positively UK (through co-hosting an Activist-in-Residence programme), collaborating with under-represented co-researchers such as survivors of trafficking and migrant women living with HIV. Ella's work prioritizes research co-creation from inception, to data collection, to publication and policy-focused impact activity.

## HANNAH SLACK (IOPPN)

Hannah Slack is a postdoctoral researcher on the U-Belong project, where she leads innovative stakeholder engagement initiatives, including leading on co-produced research activities with students and university staff, and co-developing a podcast series, toolkit, and webinars with students to share research findings and challenge misconceptions about university life. Hannah has also shared student-informed insights with university services staff and academics at national conferences to promote meaningful change. Beyond U-Belong, Hannah actively promotes her research through the 'I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here' initiative, participating in nationwide online discussions with schools to make science accessible and inspire future learners.

# Outstanding Individual (Established Academic)

## ANAND MENON (SSPP)

Professor Anand Menon has played a pivotal role in elevating KCL's research to national and international prominence. Since founding UK in a Changing Europe (UKICE) in 2015, he has built the organization from the ground up to fulfil its mission of connecting wider audiences with leading social science research. Through his publications, media articles, and hundreds of TV and radio appearances, Anand and UKICE have become the central authoritative academic voice and source of evidence in the long and polarised political debates over

Brexit and UK-EU relations, ensuring that high-quality academic insights inform and shape these critical discussions.

## **SAMANTHA TERRY (FOLSM)**

Dr Terry is a committed participant in and advocate for public engagement. She has taken part in many activities, carried out across a large variety of platforms including national radio, podcasts, festivals and carefully curated workshops with people in the local community as well as patients with experience of radiotherapy and their loved ones. Equally, she has inspired and supported others, including senior academics, to create their own large-scale public/community engagement activities, realised novel dissemination routes including in research journals and conferences, directly inspired other activities locally, nationally and abroad, and instigated and supported many large-scale public engagement activities.

# **Outstanding Individual (Professional Services)**

## **ALICE TAYLOR-GEE (FOLSM)**

Alice Taylor-Gee has developed and led the Public and Community engagement strategy as Senior Public Engagement Manager at the School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences since 2017. In that time, she has enabled 1480 academics and professional staff to develop and participate in over 250 engagement activities through training, funding support and facilitated activity. She has built a well-regarded team that has been called a 'pocket of excellence' in Public Engagement at King's and continues to develop and support her team to create high quality engagement opportunities between research, researchers, publics and patients.

## **DEANNE NAULA (FOLSM)**

Deanne has made an outstanding contribution to the sector.

This quote from our academic PE co-lead sums up Deanne's contributions nicely: "Deanne has made the most remarkable progress in reaching out to communities that do not traditionally engage with science, e.g. grassroots organisations in King's very diverse neighbourhoods and people attending popular events such as Lambeth Country show. At the latter I have witnessed first-hand how passers-by engaged with our work. Deanne is thus making very important contributions to societal acceptance of science and removing the "ivory tower" image of universities in their own local communities."

## **LEIGH WILSON (IOPPN)**

Leigh Wilson is an experienced neuroscientist who transitioned to a professional services role concentrating on translating neuroscience research into public outreach and significant engagement work. She has become a pivotal agent of culture change within the IOPPN forging a remarkable synthesis of these elements into a vibrant engagement community of researchers and students, creating a number of high impact engagement projects, a flagship outreach programme and collaborating on a unique set of undergraduate science communication modules. Leigh successfully brings the public and Kings research together and fosters current and future communities of science communicators through her commitment and passion.