Prizes galore for the Reading School of Pharmacy

Staff and students have been winning prizes this year

In April, the Teacher Practitioners (Sam Weston, Dan Grant, Kate Fletcher, Terry Ng, Sue Slade and Saadia Khalid) received the University Team Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning. The award is made to recognise and reward teams of staff who have made significant, on-going contributions to teaching and learning support. It is open to teams involved in both the development of existing teaching practices and/or new teaching initiatives to support student learning.

Catherine Langran has won a prize at the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice conference for her poster on “A pharmacy student led service as perceived by other students”. This poster documented the success of the Student Health Check Clinics that Catherine and Angela Alexander championed this year.

Undergraduate students have also been getting in on the action, with prizes being awarded to two of our current students. 3rd Year student Anna Douglas has won 1st prize at the BPSA ‘responding to symptoms’ competition, with 4th Year student Kristina Sakenyte winning a prize for the research project poster at a recent BPSA meeting.

Finally one of our postgraduate students, Rajkumar Sundaram won a runners up prize at the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Bioorganic Group Postgraduate symposium.

Staff promotions

Several staff in the School of Pharmacy received promotions this year. Che Connon was awarded the personal title of Reader, with three staff members Andre Cobb, Francesca Greco and Katja Strohfeldt-Venables awarded the title of Senior Lecturer.

In addition Kat Bicknell was awarded an Early Career University Teaching Fellowship.

Reading staff’s impact on prescribing errors

The General Medical Council published a report on prescribing errors in general practice in May 2012 (http://www.gmc-uk.org/about/research/12996.asp). This report is the result of research conducted by Dr Rachel Howard and colleagues at the Universities of Nottingham, and, Hertfordshire and University College London. This report has generated an enormous amount of international media attention and is likely to impact on the training of general practitioners and the systems of work in UK general practice to maintain the safety of prescribing in primary care.