



[sydney.edu.au](http://sydney.edu.au)

# **Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence ceremony**

Recognising and rewarding  
staff achievements

Monday 6 December 2021  
The Great Hall and online  
The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

# Order of proceedings

## Order of ceremony

### Acknowledgement of Country

#### Master of Ceremonies

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annamarie Jagose

#### Welcome

Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson AC

#### Award presentation

To be presented by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Mark Scott AO

#### Close

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Mark Scott AO

#### Reception

We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

# From the Vice-Chancellor

I am delighted to congratulate the recipients of the 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.

As we reflect on the year, we pay tribute to everyone who has contributed to the vital work of our University. There are many outstanding achievements for us to celebrate, which are made all the more remarkable given the sustained impact of the pandemic.

This is, of course, the first time I have the pleasure of being involved in these Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. It has been inspiring to learn more about the impressive, world-class work that colleagues are doing across the institution. This year's 95 award winners – 16 team and 33 individual awards – epitomise excellence in teaching, research and service to the community. Their efforts, and those of the colleagues and teams who support them, represent the very best of our University community.

Yours,  
Mark.



**Mark Scott AO**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



# Thank you from the selection committee

The Selection Committee had, as ever, a challenging task this year. We received a large number of nominations, impressive in breadth and calibre.

Our University community has a lot to be proud of in 2021. So many across the University have gone above and beyond; so many have produced excellence in education, research and service even amid the second year of a pandemic.

We are pleased to have selected 49 nominations for awards, across 15 categories. It was a pleasure this year to acknowledge in the mix outstanding contributions to the University's new Sustainability and *One Sydney, Many People* strategies.

On behalf of the Selection Committee, I thank everyone who nominated colleagues, and acknowledge all those who were nominated for an award. And to the 2021 award recipients, our warmest congratulations.

**Professor Tim Soutphommasane**  
Director, Culture Strategy



## Selection Committee

- Director, Culture Strategy Professor Tim Soutphommasane (chair)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Professor Pip Pattison AO
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Duncan Ivison
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver AM
- Chair of the Academic Board Professor Tony Masters
- Vice-Principal (Operations) Stephen Phillips
- Faculty of Science General Manager Emma Bowen
- Co-President of SUPRA Yige Peng

# Awards

## Outstanding Contribution to the *One Sydney, Many People Strategy*

---

This award seeks to promote, recognise and reward outstanding and innovative contributions to the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy, *One Sydney, Many People*. It is awarded by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) and is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics, professional staff and affiliates. The nomination should explicitly relate to one or more pillars of the Strategy:

- Nguragaingun – Culture and community
- Eora – People – our staff and students
- Ngara – Education and research
- Pemulian – Environment – a sense of place

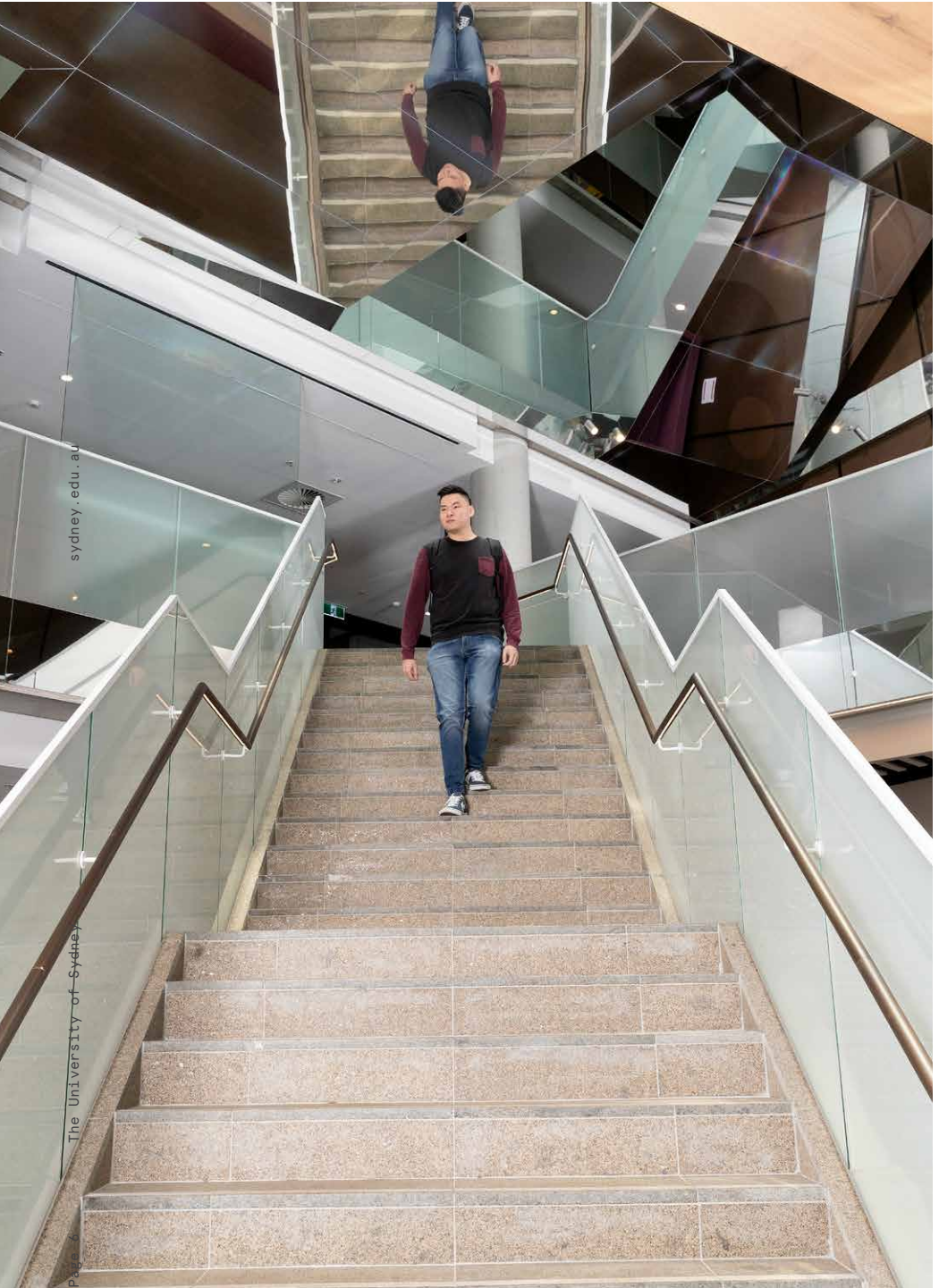
## Award recipients

### Dr Antonia Mocatta, University of Sydney Library

Dr Antonia Mocatta led the implementation of the University of Sydney Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols. The protocols, informed by a cultural audit in 2019, are sector-leading within Australian academic libraries. They demonstrate the University's commitment to embedding culturally competent practice across services, spaces and resources; implementing them is helping to ensure that all Indigenous staff, students and community members that the Library interacts with feel safe, valued and respected. Moreover, the protocols will ensure that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage held within the Library's collection is recognised and protected in line with Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property principles.









## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching

---

This award celebrates the achievements of academics who excel in education through their contribution to an outstanding educational experience and outcomes for students.

### Award recipients

#### DATA1001 Leadership team, Faculty of Science

- Dr Diana Warren
- Professor Jean Yang
- Dr Michael Stewart
- Dr Ellis Patrick
- Dr Garth Tarr

The leadership team involved in teaching DATA 1001 have created an innovative, high impact course on the foundations of data science. Their work, which follows the introduction of the data science major in the new Sydney curriculum in 2018, has established an engaging, innovative and accessible unit that has been taught to more than 4000 students. DATA 1001 has embedded statistical thinking and computational skills into the curriculum. By introducing concepts through words, rather than formulae, the team has ensured that students from all disciplinary backgrounds, and with varying mathematical abilities, are capable of developing statistical literacy. They have demystified “coding” by introducing students from day one to bespoke data visualisations and data presentation skills.

### **Vaccination Training Program team, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

- Professor Peter Carroll
- Professor Jane Hanrahan

In 2019, Professor Jane Hanrahan and Professor Peter Carroll developed a comprehensive vaccination training program for pharmacy students, ensuring Sydney Pharmacy School graduates are equipped with contemporary skills. They extended this program in 2020 to provide clinical experiences for Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy students. They further adapted this course in 2021 to provide the required training for the NSW Health COVID-19 vaccinator surge workforce. The course, which is structured with a blended learning format, is the first comprehensive training program of its kind in Australia. As demonstrated by its adoption by NSW Health, the program in only a short period of time has had significant impact for the broader community.

### **FASS1000 team, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

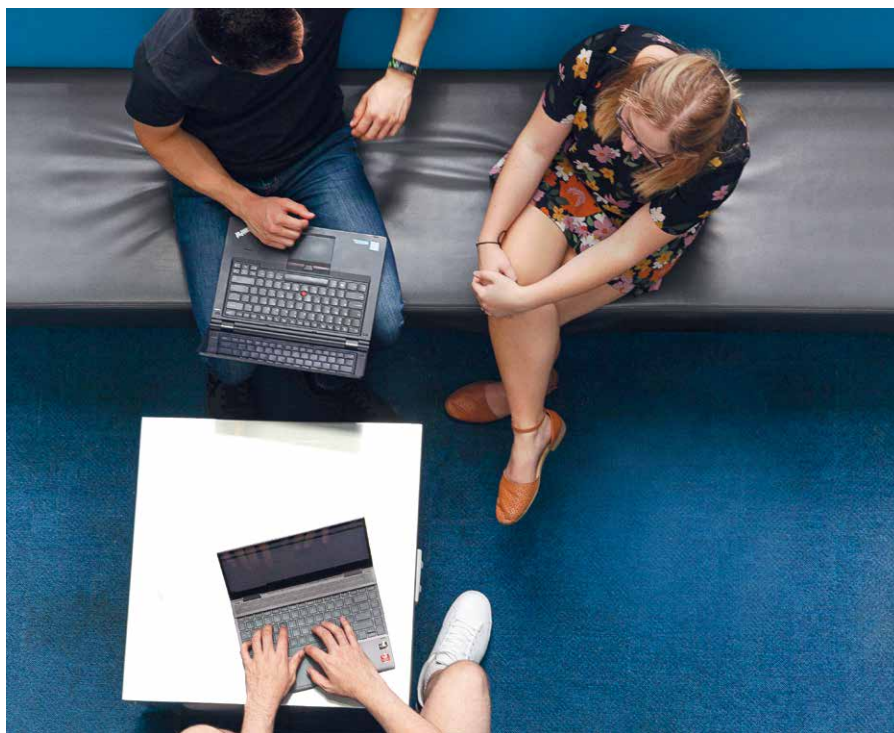
- Associate Professor Bruce Isaacs
- Dr Alix Thoeming

In 2021, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences launched a major curriculum project in the form of an inaugural core unit for the Bachelor of Arts. The unit, FASS 1000: Studying Arts and Social Sciences, was designed to meet the transition requirements of every commencing undergraduate student in the first semester of their enrolment. Associate Professor Bruce Isaacs and Dr Alix Thoeming were responsible for conceptualising, designing, coordinating, and leading a Faculty-wide teaching team to deliver the unit in its first iteration. Their innovative design and cutting-edge delivery methods have set a Faculty benchmark for a supportive and deeply rewarding learning experience for first-year students.

**Associate Professor Steven Lu,  
The University of Sydney Business School**

Associate Professor Steven Lu has developed renown among his colleagues for using state-of-the-art development in research and analysis to improve teaching and learning in marketing. An innovative teacher, he is prepared to develop new approaches and content to meet the needs of students and industry. In 2018–2019, he worked with engineering colleagues on an educational innovation project that linked marketing students and engineering students learning about the development of new products. In 2021, he developed one of the first machine learning in marketing courses in the world, transforming complex, sophisticated research in machine learning into practical and user-friendly techniques for students.

Recognising and rewarding staff achievements



Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Page 9

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Early Career Teaching

---

This award celebrates the achievements of early-career University academics who excel in teaching through their contribution to an outstanding educational experience and outstanding educational outcomes for students.

### Award recipients

#### **Dr Yu Heng Lau, Faculty of Science**

Dr Yu Heng Lau has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to enriching student learning, making an outstanding contribution to teaching in chemistry across multiple units of study. Known for going above and beyond the responsibilities expected of an early career academic, he has led the development of two new Chemical Biology subjects, pioneered innovative teaching methods and driven research-led teaching. Internationally recognised for his teaching excellence, Dr Lau's outstanding contribution is all the more remarkable when considering his position as a research-focused academic. His powerful, sustained contribution to teaching and education leadership exemplifies academic excellence.

#### **Dr Reyne Pullen, Faculty of Science**

Dr Reyne Pullen is recognised by students and peers as an exceptional teacher across lectures, tutorials and laboratory environments. His care for students is renowned, with his commitment to education extending to his establishment with colleagues of a Science Educators Community of Practice within the Faculty of Science. Dr Pullen brings an innovative approach to pedagogical design, as demonstrated through his work to increase student engagement through gamification and authentic research in citizen science and reflective assessment. This has included exercises allowing students to propose potential solutions to real-world research targets relating to protein folding.



### **Dr Nicholas Bromfield, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Dr Nicholas Bromfield is a leader in the core teaching of the Master of Public Policy degree, and exemplifies commitment to student-centred learning and evidence-led instruction. Regarded by students as an exceptional teacher who goes above and beyond, he adopts a positive approach to teaching and learning, regularly employing surveys to ensure his teaching practice aligns with students' needs and regularly reviewing his courses through peer feedback. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Bromfield has expertly led colleagues through multiple units of teaching since the 2020 transition to online learning, and has proven himself as an educational leader within his department and discipline.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Educational Engagement and Innovation

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academic staff who excel in realising the University's ambitions for an education that draws authentic industry and community challenges and opportunities into the educational experience, and also ensures that students are challenged and supported to develop the capacity to respond creatively and effectively to these challenges and opportunities.

### Award recipients

#### Leading in a Post Crisis World, The University of Sydney Business School

- Associate Professor Peter Bryant
- Associate Professor Juliette Overland

Associate Professor Peter Bryant and Associate Professor Juliette Overland have developed and led "Leading in a Post-Crisis World" (LPC). The course is a unique offering that is now a key element of the Business School's Student Experience strategy, addressing critical risks arising from COVID-19 impacts on students. Developed in 2020 as the pandemic unfolded, LPC initially provided interconnected extra-curricular experiences for students, aimed at developing students' critical business education skills. It has since evolved into an offering incorporating masterclasses, experiences in students crowdsourcing solutions to global and local problems, and workshops allowing students to build connections with leading researchers. What began as a one semester experience for Business students in 2020 has been transformed into a whole-of-program offering, to be further expanded in 2022 via an OLE unit available to all undergraduate Sydney students.



## **SOPHI Education, Engagement and Innovation Team, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

- Dr Julie-Ann Robson
- Peter Adams
- Dr Ben Brown
- Rebecca Hebbard
- Madeline Robinson
- Dr Toner Stevenson

Over the past two years the SOPHI Education, Education and Innovation team (SEIT) has built a novel strategy to enhance education, engagement and careers opportunities for students. It has shown commendable creativity in adapting educational engagement to the challenges of COVID-19. Since the pandemic began, SEIT has held more than 60 high-quality, staff led events, including podcasts and high-profile events involving external participants from First Nations communities and the arts. SEIT has established strategic partnerships with NSW Education, the Australian Museum, Sydney Living Museums and the Chau Chak Wing Museum to share resources and expertise. Among other highlights, it has also partnered with the Careers Centre and the Alumni Office to provide opportunities for students to engage directly with alumni who have recently entered the job market.



## **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Educational Excellence**

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University professional staff who excel in their contribution to achieving the University's ambitions for educational excellence through an outstanding educational environment, and outstanding educational experience and outcomes.

## Award recipients

### Tristan Enright, Education Portfolio

Over many years, through various projects, Tristan Enright has made an outstanding contribution to educational excellence and the student experience. Since 2019, he has helped lead efforts to improve the University's progression process, spearheading wide consultation across the University that resulted in a nuanced and evidence-based set of indicators for identifying students at risk. Of particular note, he has helped the University navigate the implications of the Government's Jobs Ready Graduates package. His leadership on education has been consistent and long-standing, and include contributions to an overhaul of education integrity processes as well as the delivery of the University's student experience strategy.

### Educational Integrity team, Education Portfolio

- Rebecca Dinnie
- Lucy Nobis

The Office of Educational Integrity is a high performing unit defined by a student-centred focus on innovation, data analysis and evidence-based strategy. As acting Senior Manager, Rebecca Dinnie has led the Office with deftness, demonstrating care in assembling data, and displaying a consultative approach with faculty staff. Lucy Nobis in the team has driven the implementation of an initiative, developed with the Automation and Innovation Hub, a 'take-down' bot that searches file sharing sites for the University of Sydney name and logo and issues take down notices: an initiative that resulted in the removal of 360 links containing University exam, assignments and course material during 2020. Together, they have worked tirelessly to uphold the University's reputation in the face of major external threats to educational integrity, their approach marked by careful deliberation and graceful professionalism.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academics who excel in research, including in relation to the quality, originality and impact of their research as it pertains to their discipline(s) and/or the broader community.

### Award recipients

#### **Professor Albert Zomaya, Faculty of Engineering**

Prof Albert Zomaya has contributed many innovations to the sustainability of distributed computing in the data centres that we all rely on in the era of big data. His work on energy efficiency has led to novel approaches that have saved server farms up to 20% off their electricity bills. His research has been cited over 30,000 times, demonstrating his influence in the field. Throughout his prestigious career, Professor Zomaya has been awarded over \$24 million in funding from the ARC, CISCO, Defence, Facebook, IBM, SUN, Microsoft, DSTO, EU Frameworks, among others. He has also received numerous accolades, including fellowships and a NSW Premier's Prize, from professional societies and learned academies.

#### **Professor Luigi Fontana, Faculty of Medicine and Health and Charles Perkins Centre**

Since his recruitment to the Charles Perkins Centre in 2018 Professor Luigi Fontana has established a highly ambitious program of clinical research, education and clinical translation activity focused on disease prevention and healthy ageing. He has also created a "Longevity Program" for strategies to combine dietary, demographic, educational and cultural approaches to preventing and treating ageing-related diseases. Professor Fontana's exceptional scientific contributions have led to him to become one of the most recognised clinician scientists in the field worldwide. Few scientists can claim to have discovered such an array of metabolic and molecular pathways with critical roles in ageing and disease.

**Professor Jody Webster,  
Faculty of Science**

Professor Jody Webster's multidisciplinary research has redefined our knowledge of how the Great Barrier Reef has evolved in response to global environmental changes, allowing a clearer understanding of the implications of climate change on the reef's future. Professor Webster developed a model that explains the growth and demise of the reef over the past 30,000 years in response to major global climatic and oceanographic disturbances. With major competitive grant successes (\$5 million grant income and \$44 million in competitive scientific shiptime and infrastructure funding) and an outstanding publication record. His impact includes uptake by national agencies (GBR Marine Park Authority, Geoscience Australia) and international institutions (including the IPCC). Professor Webster receives significant media and public interest, as well as requests to provide expert advice, and specialised research training programs (including for SINOPEC, the second largest company in China).

**Professor Muireann Irish,  
Faculty of Science and  
Brain and Mind Centre**

Professor Muireann Irish is an innovator in cognitive neuroscience and psychology; an internationally recognised leader whose work has shifted fundamental assumptions. Her breakthroughs include the demonstration that the ability to daydream is grossly compromised in dementia and reflects the breakdown of large-scale functional brain networks. Professor Irish's work has opened the door to new perspectives on some of the most puzzling and foundational aspects of the human mind: our memory and our imagination; our very selfhood. In addition, Professor Irish is a dedicated science communicator, skilfully articulating cutting-edge findings in neuroscience and psychology to the general public. She has also cultivated a balanced, compassionate, and productive research environment, acting as a pivotal influence on her students' careers.

### **Associate Professor Wanli Ouyang, Faculty of Engineering**

Professor Wanli Ouyang uses artificial intelligence to tackle a range of social issues. He has developed new deep learning models for a broad range of computer vision applications, including pedestrian detection, human pose estimation, human interaction factor recognition, and salient object detection. These topics have applications in transport management, saving lives with driving assistance system. Professor Ouyang's research has over 15,000 citations and has attracted \$8 million in competitive research grants. He actively engages with industry partners and has 12 patents granted and 60 patents filed in Europe, the USA and China. He also plays an active role in research leadership in the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, driving communication and improved performance in the Excellence in Research Australia rankings.

### **Melanoma Institute Australia, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

- Professor Georgina Long
- Professor Richard Scolyer

Professor Georgina Long AO and Professor Richard Scolyer AO are co-medical directors of Melanoma Institute Australia, the world's largest research-treatment centre for melanoma. They research determinants of risk, disease progression and treatment response in melanoma. Together, Professors Long and Scolyer have made key discoveries and transformed melanoma patient care, from a new rapid diagnostic test to new therapies for previously untreatable cancers. Their work has been translated into guidelines for the management, diagnosis and pathological reporting of melanoma used in Australia and worldwide. They are both international experts with over 50,000 citations each, hundreds of high-impact peer-reviewed publications and recognition through many awards.



## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Early Career Research

---

This award celebrates the achievements of early-career University academics who are already achieving outstanding research outcomes, including in relation to the quality, originality and impact of their research, as it pertains to their discipline(s) and/or the broader community.

### Award recipients

#### **Dr Amandeep Kaur, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

Dr Amandeep Kaur has established herself as an emerging leader with an innovative research program at the forefront of nanoscale imaging technologies, addressing one of the main technological challenges in medical research today. Applicable in super-resolution imaging, Dr Kaur's groundbreaking sensors provide unprecedented access to the alien world of the extraordinarily small, revealing intricate details of biochemical interactions impossible to discern using conventional imaging methods. For example, she developed the first super-resolution sensor to image amyloid proteins involved in Alzheimer's disease with an unrivalled resolution. Her accomplishments include \$1.8 Million awarded in competitive research funding, 1 patent, 18 national and international awards and 27 high-impact publications in leading journals.

#### **Dr Fengwang Li, Faculty of Engineering**

Dr Fengwang Li explores renewable-electricity-driven energy conversion and production technologies that enable a carbon-zero future. Dr Li is leading his team to create new catalysts and processes to convert captured CO<sub>2</sub>, plus water, into the building blocks of common everyday materials, ranging from plastic to Lycra. This helps create a market for captured carbon, while providing a low-carbon alternative to fossil fuel-based manufacturing processes. Dr Li has an outstanding publication track record, an ARC DECRA Fellowship, the 2021 Nicklin Medal from the Institution of Chemical Engineers, 2020 Metrohm ANZ and Electrochemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Young Electrochemist Award and the Journal of Materials Chemistry A named him as an Emerging Investigator 2021 for his significant contribution to energy materials.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research Engagement and Innovation

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academic staff who excel in realising the University's ambitions for engagement in research, through the development, translation and/or application of their research to address societal challenges and opportunities.

### Award recipients

#### **Professor Anita Ho-Baillie, Faculty of Science**

Solar is perhaps the key energy source that will take us into a carbon-free future. It is also a career-long research passion of Professor Anita Ho-Baillie. In recent years, as silicon solar cells have approached the limits of their efficiency, Professor Ho-Baillie has turned her attention to what comes after silicon; a class of crystalline compounds called metal halide perovskite. Her research on this substance has moved us further toward a new generation of solar cells that are cheaper to produce and more versatile (they can be printed onto surfaces). Apart from research excellence, Professor Ho-Baillie has been outstanding in communicating her work to the research community (as a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher), high school students and to the general public.

#### **Dr Matthew Griffith, Faculty of Engineering**

Dr Matthew Griffith is pioneering our ability to communicate with the human body via technology. Dr Griffith has developed a revolutionary printed artificial retina with the potential to restore full colour vision to the 200 million people suffering from vision loss worldwide. He has established a nationally recognised scientific and clinical translation program through a series of highly competitive fellowships, including a NEDO (Japan's most prestigious ECR Fellowship) and Prime Ministers Australia-Asia Endeavour Award, NHMRC and industry funding. His reputation is driven by a strong publication record, and high-profile media exposure, promoting his breakthroughs to an international audience of over 11 million unique viewers.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Research Excellence

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University professional staff who excel in their contribution to achieving the University's ambitions for research excellence through an outstanding research environment, research quality, impact, engagement and partnerships, in support of the University's research objectives.

### Award recipients

#### Kane Williams, Office of General Counsel

Kane Williams has improved health outcomes by providing legal support to researchers to navigate complex and changing national health systems. At the start of the pandemic, researchers in the Faculty of Medicine and Health wanted to rapidly deploy a digital support program for patients with breast cancer and lung disease when clinical services were shut down. This required extensive legal support to navigate ethics, research governance and law, but within weeks Kane had managed negotiations. The resulting Texting for Wellness Program was rolled out to over 1500 patients, and was supported by the Lung Foundation, McGrath Foundation and Cancer Council. Kane's positive attitude and ability to communicate clearly and find pragmatic solutions is highly valued by researchers.

### **All Hands on Deck, Faculty of Medicine and Health, NHMRC Clinical Trial Centre and Research Portfolio**

- Ellen Brodie
- Vanessa Cochrane
- Yumi Guo
- Thalia Hambides
- Eliza Robinson
- Helen Towle
- Nicole Wong

The University's large portfolio of clinical trials, which contribute to our research excellence and impact, are supported by the Research Portfolio's Clinical Trials contracting team. In 2021 this team was down to one staff member. With hundreds of live matters in play, newly funded and complex clinical trials to set up, and COVID-19 giving academics time to advance administrative matters, the University's distinctive clinical trial offering was at risk. An army of volunteers responded to the call of "all hands on deck" – from the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Office of General Counsel and other teams in the Research Portfolio. The quality and speed of work was impressive, reducing the queue for contracts down from hundreds to a handful. The volunteers also gained skills, subject matter expertise, established new best-practice processes and relationships. The cohesive and collegial network forged through this effort will see lasting positive effects in support of clinical trials.

### **FMH Research Support team, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

- Dr George Carayannopoulos
- Fiona Pearson

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Research Support team provides comprehensive research support services to researchers, working in partnership with other key areas of the University. The team is responsive, helpful, efficient, and go above and beyond to assist academics. They have introduced refined processes, templates, training and personal support for researchers. Importantly, the team has developed a collaborative culture by bringing together researchers to share information, engage in development and network. Current satisfaction levels are above 90% which is very high in a service environment and a testament to the team and leadership of the group.

## Sydney Manufacturing Hub team, Research Portfolio

- Christina Alcover
- Renee Barber
- Dr Katja Eder
- Dr Mehdi Eizadjou
- John Mai
- Zachary Stock
- Dr Hongjian Wang

The Sydney Manufacturing Hub (SMH) team have established an outstanding research environment via the University's newest Core Research Facility. Over the last year, this team has made a monumental effort to install over \$6 million dollars' worth of state-of-the-art research equipment into a bespoke research laboratory, develop protocols and train researchers. The SMH concept is a facility that delivers an end-to-end Additive Manufacturing capability, from design to production for a wide range of materials. Via SMH the University has established a strategic research partnership with GE Additive. The opportunities for SMH to engage in innovative research with university researchers, industry and government are limitless, and will produce high quality and ground-breaking research for years to come.



## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research Higher Degree Supervision

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academic staff who excel in fostering an outstanding experience for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students. Recipients have demonstrated success in timely completion of HDR candidatures and a commitment to developing the HDR student as a researcher.

### Award recipients

#### **Professor Paulo Ferreira, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

Professor Paulo Ferreira has a long history of outstanding supervision of HDR students. Since 1998, he has supervised more than 50 research students to completion, including 16 PhD students. His students have been awarded prestigious national and international fellowships, grants and prizes, and achieved exceptional research outcomes. He currently supervises 7 HDR students and despite the impact of COVID-19, he works closely with his students to develop flexible plans that ensure timely completion of thesis and research activities. Professor Ferreira actively encourages peer mentoring within his research group and has a distinctive practice of including HDR students in grant opportunities. His record is one of all-round excellence in higher degree research supervision.

#### **Professor Richard Payne, Faculty of Science**

Professor Rich Payne is a recognised leader and role model for HDR supervision in the Faculty of Science. Over the past decade, he has supervised 27 PhD students and 3 Masters students to completion. All of his PhD graduates from that period have remained active in scientific research in academia and industry and have won hundreds of national and international awards for their research. An exceptional mentor, Professor Payne is dedicated to ensuring his students have the very best all-round training, spending time with his students inside and outside the lab. He has developed and implemented a number of strategies to ensure his students have both hard and soft skills in order to forge a successful career in science.



## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Research

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academics who make outstanding contributions in both research and education. Award winners have been recognised for the breadth and excellence of their contribution to these two primary aspects of academic work.

### Award recipients

#### **Professor Pauline Ross, Faculty of Science**

Over a sustained period, Professor Pauline Ross has led ambitious education transformation, including in curriculum redesign in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences and the School of Medical Sciences. As Associate Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Science, Professor Ross led the implementation of the new undergraduate Science curriculum. Her teaching has been pivotal in the lives of thousands of students, renowned for her masterful lectures. This teaching excellence is matched by her excellence in research, most notably her leading industry-partnered research investigating solutions for the impact of climate change on marine organisms. With her standing at the very top of her field in Australia, she has achieved research excellence concurrently in science education.

#### **Associate Professor Rebekah Moles, Sydney Pharmacy School**

Associate Professor Rebekah Moles has been a member of the Sydney Pharmacy School's academic team for more than 20 years. As the program director for the Master of Pharmacy degree, she has had a profound impact in reshaping the education of future pharmacists – in particular, in pivoting the way the School has taught, assessed and prepared students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her teaching is defined by her passion and dedication to the profession, while informed by her outstanding research relating to the use of medicines for children. Her commitment to research-led teaching extends to leading her students to incorporate research evidence into their future professional practice.

**Professor Laura Shepherd,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Professor Laura Shepherd is a world-leading scholar in the field of security and international relations, particularly the United Nations Security Council's Women, Peace and Security agenda. Her research impact includes collaboration with UN agencies, governments and civil society organisations. In her teaching, particularly her supervision of research students, she models generosity and respect. Through her supervision, Professor Shepherd has formed a community of early career researchers who are committed to carrying her ethos forward, acting with integrity and openness themselves in their future careers.

**Professor Stefanie Schurer,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Professor Stefanie Schurer is a leading international scholar of health, inequality and economics. Her research focuses on human development, the development of life skills and health for at-risk populations. A research powerhouse, with currently more than \$6 million in external research income, she ranks in the highest echelons of the economics profession. Professor Schurer's research has informed policy development, including in Indigenous early childhood interventions. In her teaching since joining the University of Sydney, she has taught thousands of students, consistently receiving high commendations.



## Outstanding Contribution to Sustainability

---

This award celebrates the achievements of professional and academic staff who excel in contributing to the objectives of the University's Sustainability Strategy, which lays out how the University can adjust to, and ultimately be a model for, sustainability best practice across our research, education, operations and governance.

### Award recipients

#### Arthursleigh Farm Team, University Infrastructure

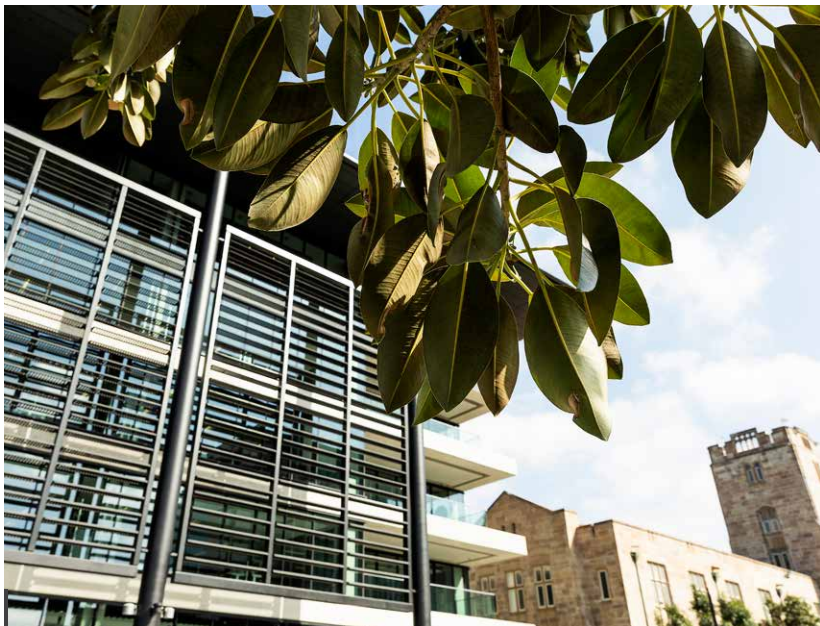
- Stephen Burgun
- Brian Farrell
- Matthew Corby
- Michelle Burgun

The Arthursleigh Farm team live with their families on the 7000-hectare farm near Goulburn. The farm is not only a commercial grazing property used to assist animal, medical and scientific research, but is also playing a major role in restoring native flora and fauna in the area. They have revegetated 13 kilometres of the Wollondilly River, created wildlife corridors to save plant, animal and bird species, established over 140,000 native trees and shrubs, and fought erosion and invasive weeds. Their initiatives are adapting the property to support a future impacted by climate change, and set new standards for productive, sustainable farms in the region.

## Procurement Services, Operations Portfolio

- Philip Chan
- Wendy Pearse
- Graeme Yun
- Sean Green
- Marcel Rose
- Zajaja Awan
- Brett Cooper

The Procurement Services team are driving change through a comprehensive environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) program. They are supporting and enabling staff and suppliers to make ethical and sustainable purchasing decisions. They are collaborating and engaging with colleagues to strive for zero plastic waste and zero emissions power. A project is underway to transform surplus farmlands for sustainable energy projects, achieving environmental impact and a long-term source of income for the University Future Fund. Importantly, their work addresses the One Sydney, Many People and Modern Slavery strategies in addition to the Sustainability strategy.



## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University professional and academic staff who excel in their contribution to advancing the inclusion of staff and students and visitor experience at the University, across one or more aspects of diversity (e.g. disability, gender, sexuality, racial and cultural).

### Award recipients

**Dr Gabrielle Russell, National Centre for Cultural Competence, Indigenous Strategy and Services Portfolio**

Since 2017 Dr Gabrielle Russell has led the conceptual work, development and delivery of the Culturally Competent Leadership Program. This immersive and transformative experience provides leaders with the opportunity to develop capabilities and form a network to make cumulative progress across the University. The program has resulted in widespread implementation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols across the University, and has had a direct effect on the way participating staff think about and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Dr Russell has consistently received positive feedback about her approach, style of facilitation, and the significant impact of the program on people's understanding of culture in relationship to leadership at all levels.

**Safer Communities team, Education Portfolio**

- Annabelle Hung
- Sharon Chung

Annabelle Hung and Sharon Chung have led the Safer Communities team to develop and deliver new initiatives, policies and procedures on the sensitive and complicated issue of gendered violence. Their specialist expertise in case management and trauma informed care has ensured that support for student survivors is compassionate and survivor-centric. During the four years since the Safer Communities Office was initiated Annabelle and Sharon have led the team to develop and deliver best practice prevention programs including online and face-to-face training for staff and students. They also led the creation of guidelines for responding to historic claims of sexual abuse.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the University Community

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academic professional staff who excel in their contribution to the University community through the creation of an environment and/or culture that supports the University in its pursuit of strategic objectives.

### Award recipients

#### **Professor Ramon Shaban, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

As an internationally recognised expert in infectious disease control, Professor Shaban has been a leader throughout the pandemic. Together with colleagues he identified and managed the first cases of COVID-19 in NSW and led the NSW Biocontainment Centre Committee. Ramon is a designated official spokesperson for the NSW Ministry of Health and University of Sydney on COVID-19. In addition, Professor Shaban has given his time to support leaders in the local Redfern Aboriginal community as well as COVID-19 Champions in the Broken Hill Local Health District to ensure they are prepared to protect their communities. His expertise has also been invaluable in guiding the University's Crisis Management Committee. Professor Shaban's tireless commitment has ensured our decisionmakers are well informed, our community is kept safe, and we are well prepared for the re-opening of our campuses.



**Darren Burdon, Office of Senior Deputy-Vice-Chancellor**

For over 27 years Darren Burdon supported senior leaders at the University, with great devotion to his roles and those he supports. He was the epicentre of much that happens in the senior executive and worked collaboratively and fruitfully with all the key executive assistants in faculties, portfolios and professional service units. Darren served as a respected role model and advisor, with a can-do attitude and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the institution, its policies and procedures. In an organisation as complex and fast moving as the University, Darren has played a vital role in ensuring the right people are connected at the right time no matter how difficult that task might be.

**Professor Julie Leask, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

Professor Julie Leask has been a leading commentator on public health communication on vaccines and how to manage vaccine hesitancy at a critical juncture in Australia's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Leask's expertise has been invaluable to the Faculty, University, state Chief Medical Officers, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, colleagues and students. Her willingness to give of her time has been above and beyond, featuring in every major Australian media outlet as well as internationally. Professor Leask has been a strong asset to the reputation of the University of Sydney for world-class research and commentary in public health.



**Professor Inam Haq,  
Faculty of Medicine and Health**

Professor Inam Haq has been instrumental in leading the Faculty's response throughout the pandemic to pivot the education and professional accreditation of students, ensure the safety of staff and students, and provide counsel and support to students in a rapidly changing health care environment. As a co-lead of the FMH COVID-19 Response Team, Professor Haq has enabled over 10,000 clinical placements across the public and private health sector, meeting the imperative that our students graduate to take up their places in a much-depleted health workforce in 2022. Students were also deployed to health settings to address acute shortages of health care staff.

**Nicole Marchhart,  
University Infrastructure**

As University Infrastructure (UI)'s Energy and Waste Manager Nicole Marchhart is making a remarkable impact to the way that staff, students and food outlets on campus can support sustainable practices. Nicole demonstrates exceptional teamwork in all that she does for the University and as the only UI officer solely responsible for sustainability works she has achieved an enormous number of excellent outcomes. She has collaborated and engaged with staff and students through University of Sydney Union's Enviro Week; mentoring engineering students; supporting research translation tests on campus; and chairing a group designing a road map to eliminate single use plastic on campus. Nicole successfully applied for a grant from the Environmental Protection Authority to install an onsite organics composting machine, a key part of the Sustainability Strategy's goal of zero waste to landfill by 2030.

**Ismail Larney,  
Faculty of Medicine  
and Health, Poche Centre  
for Indigenous Health**

Ismail Larney is a qualified Dental Prosthetist who volunteers his time and expertise to deliver up to twelve denture clinics annually in rural and remote areas of NSW. In its seventh year, the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health Denture Service is a clear measure of what can be achieved when you have rare individuals such like Ismail Larney contributing and representing The University of Sydney in its effort to close the gap between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal Australians. The cumulative impact of Ismail's contribution is not just the number of clinics he's run and number of dentures provided, it's the self-esteem restored and ability to smile, to eat, to communicate, which can't be quantified. His ability to do this in Aboriginal communities across NSW with excellence in community relations and dental outcomes is a true testament to his character.

**Amgen Biotech Experience Team,  
Faculty of Science**

- Dr Giselle Yeo
- Eugenia O'Brien
- Debra Phillips
- Dr Caitlin Fisher

The Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) team run the ABE global science education program. The team has secured over a million dollars in philanthropic and industry funding since 2016 to deliver the program to over 8000 students in 51 schools across Greater Sydney, focussing on low socioeconomic or geographically isolated regions. While other school outreach programs may bring students to campus for curated sessions, ABE instead focuses on empowering schools to deliver research experiences in local communities. The team has developed an accredited biotechnology lab curriculum directly aligned with the HSC syllabus, and implements these labs in schools by training teachers and loaning all reagents and equipment free-of-charge. The team upskill teachers and lab technicians, ensuring ongoing impact through the transformative influence of teachers with genuine passion and mastery of the subject.

### **Media and PR, Issues Management team, External Relations**

- Shehana Darda-Teixeira
- Rachel Fergus
- Louise Schwartzkoff
- Tess Gibney

The Media team of Shehana Darda-Teixeira, Rachel Fergus, Louise Schwartzkoff and Tess Gibney work every day with colleagues across the institution to successfully bolster and protect the University's reputation. They deal with a high volume of media enquiries and feedback from the wider public, supporting colleagues in the public accountability required of us. They work hard to prevent issues from turning into potentially damaging stories, and inserting nuance into coverage of potential foreign interference, freedom of speech, historical sexual misconduct allegations and more. Beyond media, they also provide advice and guidance to colleagues at all levels on possible ways to manage the many sometimes difficult matters and shades of grey that pop up across the institution.

### **Sydney Foreign Relations Act Team, Research Portfolio and Sydney Future Students**

- Victoria Romaniuk
- Matthew Louie
- Thommy Gatling
- Olive Otedola-Olusanya

The team demonstrated excellence in their extremely thorough and professional handling of the University's Foreign Relations Act reporting. The legislation required Australian universities to report all written arrangements with overseas Government entities and non-autonomous universities, including both existing and prospective arrangements. The legislation required the team to review many databases and thousands of written agreements going back years. The team provided clear guidance and advice to the university community, and took the opportunity to review and update processes, improving our due diligence and strengthen working relationships with overseas partners and other Australian universities.

## Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Mentoring and Leadership

---

This award celebrates the achievements of University academic and professional staff who excel in building the capability of other University staff, creating a work environment and culture aligned to the University's strategic objectives and leading outstanding team performance.

### Award recipients

#### **Dr Amanda Tattersall, Faculty of Science and Sydney Policy Lab**

In only a few years, Dr Amanda Tattersall has made an outstanding contribution to mentoring and personal support for researchers and professional staff across the University. In 2019, she devised and delivered the first series of six two-hour "LabClasses" on behalf of the Sydney Policy Lab. Offered free to all members of staff in evening sessions in person and on Zoom, the LabClasses have since been taken up by five cohorts of academic and professional staff of all levels. The LabClass program is unique in Australia and one of only a handful of such efforts across the world. Through intense, personal work, Dr Tattersall encourages participants to explore their own personal lives, discovering or rediscovering the passions that brought them into the University in the first place and enabling them to share those personal stories in a relatable and engaging way with others. In addition to the LabClass, she has an established and sustained record of effective individual and small group mentoring across the University, assisting staff on how they can collaborate more effectively with each other, with partners from other universities and with the broader community beyond academia.



### **Professor Jean Yang, Faculty of Science**

A leader in the field of statistical bioinformatics, Professor Jean Yang is a distinguished mentor of interdisciplinary researchers across academia, not only within her own research group but outside it. She has mentored 15 Honours and Masters Students, 16 PhD candidates, 6 postdoctoral fellows, and over 10 young academics – helping the launch the careers of many early and mid-career researchers. Professor Yang is renowned for her generosity in mentoring and aiding others in advancing their careers. An accessible leader and an excellent listener, she alerts junior researchers to opportunities that they may overlook and works closely with people on their fellowship applications as if it were her own.

### **Professor Julie Redfern, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

Over the past 15 years, Professor Julie Redfern has been an outstanding mentor, supervisor and role model for students and early career researchers at the University. She has an unmatched commitment to fostering a supportive research environment and strives for the career success of her mentees. An astounding 93 per cent of her PhD students and postdoctoral fellows have won prestigious grants and awards and holding leadership research positions globally. Professor Redfern's outstanding mentoring has led to her staff and students finding and crafting their skills and passion in research to become leaders themselves. Professor Redfern is the model of an empathetic and inspiring academic leader.



**Associate Professor Lee Wallace,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Associate Professor Lee Wallace enjoys a formidable reputation for getting the best out of researchers. With a selfless commitment to the careers of others and an acute appreciation of research strategy, she has helped numerous Early Career Researchers (ECRs) launch their research careers, fostered research cultures, delivered outstanding success for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and built ongoing mentoring relationships that model best practice for younger cohorts of researchers across the University. Performing a key role as FASS Director of Research Development for 5 years, Associate Professor Wallace has delivered highly successful workshops for ECRs that provide a supportive environment for developing collegial relationships and facilitate a robust culture of peer-to-peer feedback. Notably, Associate Professor Wallace has also expanded her mentoring and research leadership focus beyond her school and faculty, to include colleagues from the Conservatorium of Music, Law School, Architecture, Design and Planning, Business School, and even Science.

Recognising and rewarding staff achievements



Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

