

What is the Furness Prize?

The Furness Prize for Science Communication is an award given to a pathology trainee or undergraduate who has shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year.

The aims and objectives of the award are to:

- cultivate awareness amongst pathology trainees and undergraduates about the importance of public engagement
- reward and recognise trainees and undergraduates who have undertaken sustained high-quality science communication activities

A prize of £200 is generously awarded to the winner of the competition, funded by the previous College President Professor Peter Furness (2008-2011).

The winner will be invited to receive their prize at the College's New Fellow's Ceremony in London in February 2020. The winner will be able to bring a guest and the cost of travel to the ceremony will be reimbursed by the College.

How to apply

Use the application form below to self-nominate for this prize. There is a space on the form for a referee to provide a supporting statement for your application. Refer to the guidance for applicants document below before you complete the form. Please return your completed application form by email to publicengagement@rcpath.org by midnight on Monday 28 October 2019.

Judging process

The decision on the Furness Prize winner will be made by a selection committee composed of the Vice President for Communications, Director of Publishing and Engagement and a member of the Public Engagement department. Selection by the committee will be based on evidence of a sustained commitment to high quality public engagement activities – further information is in the guidance for applicants below.

Prize winner(s)

The Prize winner(s) will be informed in December 2019.

- Winner will be invited to receive their prize at the College's New Fellow's Ceremony in London in February 2020. The winner will be able to bring a guest and the cost of travel to the ceremony will be reimbursed by the College.

Guidance on completing the application form

General We are looking for a pathology trainee or undergraduate (or a team of up to four in either category) who has contributed significantly to science communication over a sustained period of time including some activity in 2019. Please see below for specific advice for the text-based questions.

Q2. This question is about the quality of the science communication work. Consider how you can demonstrate the high quality/originality of the activities you've undertaken, whether you've collaborated with other organisations and if you've used effective evaluation techniques.

Q3. This has to show your sustained commitment to science communication, e.g. development of resources and encouraging others to get involved in public engagement.

Q4. How has the science communication work you have done benefitted the wider community and pathology? Think about whether you have engaged with hard-to-reach audiences, or promoted the importance of pathology for health, for example.

Q5. To have a reference is optional. However, having a reference to back up what you have said would help to support your case. Ask your referee to write here why they think you deserve the Furness Prize for Science Communication.

Eligibility of the Candidate

The prize is open to all pathology trainees and undergraduates in the UK.

- Trainees must have been in a training post while undertaking the work for which they have been nominated but it is recognised that some applicants may no longer be in training by the time the prize is awarded.
- The prize is also open to undergraduates in the UK. This includes all biological science, veterinary science or medical students currently in education, or in education when the public engagement activities took place.

Furness Prize 2018 winners

2018 was the first year that undergraduates could be awarded the Furness Prize for Science Communication, and it was also the first year that saw two nominees be awarded the prize.

Navin and Bogdan first engaged with the Royal College of Pathologists by attending the annual Pathology Summer School run by the College in 2016. They were inspired by the public engagement session delivered by Suzy Lishman and decided to get involved in [National Pathology Week](#) (NPW). They've organised activities for NPW ever since, and have, to date, engaged with over 1,750 members of the public and 500 school/college students across Devon and Cornwall.

Their initial event in 2016 has inspired numerous students from across the UK to get involved in organising and supporting NPW over the years. One example is a series of events organised by students at UCL, who collaborated with Navin and Bogdan to raise awareness of careers in pathology across London. They were subsequently invited to deliver the public engagement session at the Pathology Summer School in 2017 where they shared experiences and offered support to attendees.

The two students have been involved in numerous other science communication activities including "Talk Cancer" which involved working with a local cancer charity to produce a book for cancer patients, written by cancer patients with honest reflections, monologues, poems and artwork to portray the range of emotions and thoughts during a cancer journey.

Nominated by former College President, Dr Suzy Lishman CBE, said "the fact that they have achieved so much while still medical students is remarkable. I hope their enthusiasm for pathology leads them to a career in the specialty. It was a pleasure to nominate them for this prize and I look forward to following their future endeavours."

