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**Nomination for the Tam Dalyell Prize 2021**

**for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science**

**About the Award**

The ***Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science*** is an annual prize to recognise and reward the University of Edinburgh’s outstanding science communicators.

The award is open to any individual or group employed by or studying at the University and covers the very broad scope of public engagement and/or science communication activities. These activities must have a primary objective of enhancing public engagement with research led at the University of Edinburgh. This includes working with schools or other community groups, publishing, broadcasting, organising/ participating in public events such as lectures, demonstrations and debates. Preference will be given to early career researchers (undergraduates, postgraduate students or those in the first six years after their PhD). Group submissions are welcome.

**The recipient or the winning team will give a high profile presentation as part of the Science Festival 2022 followed by an award presentation on Sunday 17th April 2022 in the Playfair Library Hall. This will be a key University event.**

The award consists of a medal(s) and a grant of £500 for the winner’s public engagement or science communication activity.

***Please note:*** *The nominee has the right to request this nomination form under data protection rules. Non- identifiable sections of this form could also be released to the public in response to a freedom of information request. Further guidance available at:* <http://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management>

**Tam Dalyell**

Tam Dalyell was the 47th Rector of the University, a post he held from 2003 to 2006.

He taught English, History and Mathematics at Bo’ness Academy from1956-61 and was seconded as a Director of Studies in the ship-school Dunera from 1961-62. He was MP for West Lothian from 1962 to 1983 and from 1983 to 2005 MP for Linlithgow. He is the author of eight books and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

For 36 years from 1967 to 2005, Tam Dalyell was a weekly columnist for the New Scientist. When he retired from writing his column in 2005, New Scientist marked his retirement by stating:

*“THE best columnists do not merely present opinions. They provoke, educate, pursue the truth and challenge authority and orthodoxy. By those standards, Tam Dalyell, whose final Westminster Diary appears this week, has done an exemplary job.*

*In the New Scientist, Tam provided a conduit for researchers to speak to Parliament and vice versa. He wrote about everything from dam safety to the plight of war veterans and the availability of antivenin. He covered all manner of environmental issues, nuclear power and chemical weapons.*

*Tam displayed the same doggedness in preparing his column as he did in the House.*

*For this, for the revelations, the tenacity, the integrity and entertainment, we thank Tam and wish him well for the future.”*

**Criteria for The Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science**

The University wishes to recognise a current member or group within the University community who has, in the last 3 years, made an outstanding strategic impact with their science engagement activities and have achieved national and/or international recognition for their work.

These activities may include: hosting school visits or visiting schools with talks and demonstrations, running workshops, writing or broadcasting about medical/scientific topics etc. Whatever the form of engagement the primary objective must have been to enhance and/or increase public understanding of science.

**Who Can Nominate?**

Any current member of the University community may nominate. Self-nominations are allowed. Please send all nominations to your relevant Head of School. Previous nominations can be resubmitted

**How to Nominate:**

The relevant Head of School must approve all nominations in the first instance before passing to the Head of College for ranking. Colleges should rank nominations in order of preference - please indicate clearly the top two choices.

Colleges should submit ranked nominations to Angela Penman via email – [a.penman@ed.ac.uk](mailto:a.penman@ed.ac.uk)

The information required for submission (Arial 11 font, 2 cm margins):

* Please submit a brief statement **(no more than 2 A4 pages)** that sets out the major impact/contribution. This could include feedback from audiences, press reports, views, downloads, ‘likes’, etc evidencing the nominee’s ability to make an effective and positive public presentation.
* Please attach a brief CV of the nominee(s) which should detail all relevant science communication activities. (**No more than 2 A4 pages**)

# Action

* **Complete the contact details and the nomination section on page 3**
* Once completed, **email this form to your Head of School by 5pm on Friday 14th January 2022** **along with the brief statement and CV as indicated above.**

*Please note:* - Nominees will be contacted only if they are to be offered an Award.

- Nominators will be informed whether or not their nomination

has been successful.

**Tam Dalyell 2021 Nomination Form**

**Nominee’s details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title, First name & Surname:** |  |
| **Staff - position currently held:**  **Students - Matric Number or degree:** |  |
| **School/Department/Centre/Institute:** |  |
| **Correspondence Address**  **(work address is fine):** |  |
| **email address:** |  |

**Nominator’s details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title, First name & Surname:** |  |
| **email address:** |  |
| *Please note:* -Nominees will be contacted only if they are to be offered the Award.  - Nominators will be informed whether or not their nomination has been successful.  - The Selection Panel relies on the nomination form being an accurate and complete  description of the reasons why an award should be bestowed. | |

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| --- | --- |
| By submitting this nomination form, you declare that the information you have provided is – to the best of your knowledge – accurate and complete. Providing information which is inaccurate or incomplete may lead to your nominee being removed from consideration for an award or withdrawal of an award already made.  ***Please confirm agreement by marking the box on the right with an X*** |  |

**PREVIOUS WINNERS**

**2008**

Professor Sergio Della Sala, Professor of Human Cognitive Neuroscience, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences

**2009**

Professor Chris Bishop, Professor of Computer Science, School of Informatics; Chief Research Scientist, Microsoft Research Cambridge

**2010**

Professor Jose Torrero, Building Research Establishment (BRE)/Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) Chair in Fire Safety Engineering; Head of the Institute for Infrastructure & Environment; Director of the BRE Centre for Fire Safety Engineering

**2011**

Professor Colin Pulham, Professor of High-Pressure Chemistry, School of Chemistry

**2012**

Professor Clare Blackburn, MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine

Dr Amy Hardie, Scottish Documentary Institute, Edinburgh College of Art

**2013**

Professor Harald Haas, Chair in Mobile Communications, School of Engineering

**2014**

Sarah Keer-Keer, Public Engagement, Outreach and Communications Manager, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology

**2015**

Professor Sethu Vijayakumar, Chair in Robotics, School of Informatics

**2016**

Professor Jon Oberlander, Professor of Epistemics, School of Informatics (special lecture)

**2017**

Dr Niki Vermeulen, Dr Bill Jenkins and team, Curious Edinburgh, Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS), School of Social and Political Science

**2018**

Dr Steve Brusatte, Reader in vertebrate palaeontology, School of GeoSciences

**2019**

Dr Andrew Manches, Senior Lecturer, Moray House School of Education

* ***Note, lectures are delivered the following year.***