

Joint call for Nominations for the RDM and WIMM supervisor awards

We'd like to hear about some of the excellent supervision that goes on across the Radcliffe Department of Medicine (RDM) and the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM). PIs across RDM and the WIMM are training and nurturing the next generation of scientists. To celebrate and recognise excellent supervision of DPhil students and postdocs, the RDM and WIMM Graduate Studies Committees have a joint call for nominations for the 2023 RDM Award for Excellent Supervision and the Sir Andrew McMichael Medal for Mentorship.

What is excellence in supervising and mentoring?

There isn't any single definition of what might constitute excellence in supervising and mentoring people. Each supervision relationship is unique, but there are some broad descriptors which many excellent supervisors embody.

Excellent supervisors nurture their trainees by being available to them, taking an interest in their development and careers, and respecting them, among other things. They are inspiring role models who act as guides, assisting their trainees to achieve their potential.

One excellent resource in outlining common themes of outstanding mentors in science is '*Nature's guide for mentors*'.¹ This will give you a good idea of the kind of things we are looking for.

Who's eligible?

Nominees need to be RDM or WIMM PIs who have actively supervised DPhil students or postdocs in 2022/23. Senior Post-docs who have actively supervised students can also be nominated. You can nominate people who have previously been nominated but were unsuccessful.

Who can make a nomination?

Supervisor nominations can be made by RDM and WIMM DPhil students (including DTC students) and postdocs (current or completed/left the department/WIMM during 2021/22).

How to make a nomination?

Send your nomination to Jill Walker (graduate.enquiries@rdm.ox.ac.uk) by 12 noon on Monday 13 February 2022.

Your nomination should be in the form of a short supporting statement of no more than 500 words setting out concrete examples of how the PI or senior postdoc demonstrated excellence in supervising and mentoring. If there are multiple people nominating the supervisor, you may each submit a nomination of no more than 500 words each.

Assessment

Nominees will automatically be considered for both schemes (subject to eligibility). A panel consisting of representatives from RDM and WIMM, the RDM Career Development Committee and the RDM Athena SWAN Steering Group, as well as RDM and WIMM student and postdoc representatives will read the nominations and select one winner for each award based on the strength of the written support received. No nominee will receive more than one award. Additional commendations may be made at the panel's discretion.

What does the winner get?

Both awards are titular. The winners will be announced at the RDM Symposium on 14 March 2023 and the WIMM Day on 17 July 2023 and will receive a certificate to commemorate their achievement. They will also be listed on the RDM or WIMM website.

Any enquiries about the award should be sent to **Jill Walker (graduate.enquiries@rdm.ox.ac.uk)**.

¹ Lee, A., Dennis, C. & Campbell, P. *Nature's guide for mentors*. *Nature* **447**, 791–797 (2007).