THE AWARDS 2021

Research Project of the Year: STEM

Institution name	University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Population Health
Submission title or project name	The Randomised Evaluation of COVid-19 thERapY (RECOVERY) trial
Nominee/key personnel	The RECOVERY trial is fundamentally a combined effort, involving a large team of epidemiologists and data scientists, besides thousands of clinicians in the 175 UK hospitals in the study, not to mention the over 40,000 study participants and their families. Special mention should be given, however, to Professors Martin Landray and Peter Horby, the two co-Chief Investigators of the study who conceived and launched the trial. Over the past year, RECOVERY has dominated their work and personal life, but this has not dented their constant dedication to finding effective treatments for COVID-19, and their encouragement towards all involved in this research.
URL	https://www.recoverytrial.net/
Submission	When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, there were no known treatments for this new disease. With a vaccine at least several months away, the Randomised Evaluation of COVid19 thERapY (RECOVERY) trial was launched by Oxford University to rapidly generate robust evidence on whether any treatments were effective. Using innovative approaches (including a streamlined design and pioneering data linkage), the Oxford-based team coordinated the study simultaneously across 175 UK hospital sites, while minimising disruption to busy NHS hospitals. Through engaging clinicians and strategic communications, the study recruited participants at an astonishing rate: 1,000 within the first two weeks alone. This led to the world's first COVID-19 breakthrough after just three months: the steroid dexamethasone reduces deaths from COVID-19 by up to a third for critically ill patients. In the following nine months, this discovery saved an estimated one million lives worldwide. The trial has also provided reliable information on seven other treatments.