THE AWARDS 2021

Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution name	University of Strathclyde
Submission title or project name	Covid-19 Modelling for NHS Lanarkshire
Nominee/key personnel	
URL	
Submission	As cases of COVID-19 surged in the UK, fears grew that the NHS could be overwhelmed. Strathclyde worked with NHS Lanarkshire's public health, medical and hospital management teams to help them respond quickly to the initial wave of the pandemic and prepare for subsequent waves in autumn and winter. The team developed a suite of modelling tools to help them predict demand and usage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds – which could literally mean the difference between life and death for a critically-ill patient. NHS Lanarkshire is Scotland's third-largest health board, serving a population of 661,900 people. In response to the pandemic its usual ICU bed capacity of 30 had been expanded to 60 by repurposing operating theatres, all of which require specialist staffing. The modelling proved to be accurate and crucial in effectively managing the demand for ICU care and general ward beds across its three main hospitals.