

THE AWARDS 2020

Research Project of the Year: STEM

Institution name	University of Central Lancashire
Submission title or project name	Carcinogenic Fallout from the Grenfell Tower Fire
Nominee/key personnel	Professor Anna A. Stec, Professor in Fire Chemistry and Toxicity, School of Physical Sciences & Computing
URL	https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/research-finds-contamination-in-soil-surrounding-grenfell.php
Submission	<p>This independent study showed significant contamination by carcinogenic fire residues in soil surrounding Grenfell Tower. It was driven by the refusal of the UK authorities to accept the presence of any significant contamination.</p> <p>The study was based on collection and analysis of samples collected at selected distances and directions from the Tower. It led to extensive media coverage, including 500 stories in the press and broadcast media. Following these findings, the Government established a Scientific Advisory Group (led by Sir Patrick Vallance and Professor Chris Whitty, with Professor Anna Stec appointed as an expert), which led to a comprehensive programme of environmental checks around the Grenfell Tower to fully assess the risks.</p> <p>In addition, the House of Commons' Environmental Audit Committee made extensive recommendations to conduct a more detailed investigation in their inquiry report "Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life", based on Prof Stec's evidence.</p>