

THE AWARDS 2020

Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution name	Áine McGuckin, <i>Queen's University Belfast</i>
Submission title or project name	
Nominee/key personnel	Áine McGuckin, Technician, School of Pharmacy
URL	
Submission	<p>My innovative work contributes meaningfully to education, research, and the community.</p> <p>Education: During 2018-19, I influenced the development of a world-class simulation centre (£5.2M, opening 2020) to enhance the student experience and create interprofessional opportunities. I fostered clinical and dispensing skills in pharmacy students and school pupils.</p> <p>Research and Professional Development: I provide expertise about good laboratory practice, the Human Tissue Act, and specialist equipment which is fundamental to research outputs. In 2019, I contributed to policy development to ensure greater visibility, recognition and career progression for technicians. I organise technician-led conferences and, having recently gained HEA Associate Fellowship, mentor technicians about this.</p> <p>Impact on the Community: I led International Women's and Men's Days educational events (2018-2020) and supported 'End Period Poverty' by negotiating donations from local businesses to help hundreds of women. In response to the pandemic, I used my expertise to help make >1100 face shields.</p>