



Awards 2024

Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution Name	Mark Dabee Saltmarsh, <i>Cardiff Metropolitan University</i>
Submission title or project name	Outstanding Technician of the Year
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Nominating Mark Dabee Saltmarsh for recognition celebrates his exceptional contributions to Cardiff Metropolitan University and the wider educational community in South Wales. Transitioning from diverse creative industries to teaching in 2010, he emerged as a skilled technician, impacting various projects across the university, including the annual Creative Exhibition. His expertise in traditional and modern design methods equips teachers and students with essential skills. Dabee Saltmarsh's proactive approach and collaborative mindset significantly influences educational initiatives, promoting STEM education and inclusivity. His commitment to collaboration extends to interdisciplinary projects, with consideration for diverse perspectives among students and staff. As chair of the Technician Commitment working group, he advocates for technicians' interests across the UK and successfully represents them on institutional committees, including UKITSS, ensuring their voice is heard in decision-making processes. His leadership, dedication and impact for technicians make him a deserving candidate for recognition within Cardiff Metropolitan University and throughout the UK.



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Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution Name	Ashley Grimmer, <i>University of Cambridge</i>
Submission title or project name	Hyperpolarised C13 projects
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://ncita.org.uk/mission-fumarate-study-ncita-exemplar-2/
Submission	Ashley Grimmer has been instrumental in our hyperpolarised projects, including the pioneering first-in-human fumarate study. His expertise ensures that all consumables are available and equipment is prepared for study visits. This niche research area requires specialised knowledge, which he possesses. He often troubleshoots issues independently and supports three other UK centres using the same equipment. His dedication contributed to an 89% success rate in scanning participants, the highest in the UK and Europe. Academics, postdocs and PhD students rely on his expertise, which has been foundational for many publications and theses. His initiative in optimising the preparation of imaging agents for MRI scans, validating radiopharmacy processes and maintaining lab equipment ensures high operational standards. Mr Grimmer actively participates in the hyperpolarised C13 community, sharing his knowledge at international conferences and fostering global academic relationships. His exceptional contributions and problem-solving skills make him a deserving candidate for this award.



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Institution Name	Jenna Lowe, <i>University of Liverpool</i>
Submission title or project name	Lab Sustainability at The University of Liverpool
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/sustainability/leaf/
Submission	Jenna Lowe is a core/research support technician at The University of Liverpool. She is currently on a two-year secondment as our lab sustainability officer and is taking the opportunity to use her technical knowledge, skills and experience to follow her passion to influence the whole organisation to become more sustainable in laboratory and technical areas. Ms Lowe's drive, influencing and organisation skills are enabling her to excel in her role. She demonstrates perfectly how technical skills can be transferable, highlighting an alternative career route that technicians could take by moving into sustainability, a vital and growing area.



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Institution Name	Jodie Chatfield, <i>University of Nottingham</i>
Submission title or project name	Outstanding Technician of the Year: Contribution to Technical Careers and Neurodiversity
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Jodie Chatfield is an outstanding advocate for the advancement of technical careers and support for neurodivergent staff. In a career of almost 30 years, she has advanced from Apprentice to Head of Technical Services in Life Sciences at the University of Nottingham. Her dedication has transformed the 100+ technicians in the School to a cohesive team fostering excellent performance with constant opportunities for career development. Ms Chatfield's contribution extends to playing a crucial role in University-level Committees, including the Technical Managers Committee, where she leads the University Technician Commitment strategy supporting staff to achieve professional registration and AdvanceHE status. Her work with neurodivergent staff developed from one individual, to developing University-wide systems of support and increasing awareness of training needs. Through MI TALENT, she expanded this nationally, to enable the sector to learn from this established good practice. For this, she was awarded a Vice-Chancellor's award in 2023.



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Institution Name	Sally Carter, <i>Loughborough University</i>
Submission title or project name	Sally Carter – Technical Officer is Sport and Exercise Science
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Sally Carter is a confident, helpful and energetic Technician who has made a positive contribution to the culture of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences. She actively contributes to School Committees and volunteers to help other Technical Teams and encourages this behaviour in others. She is committed to continual learning and applying her expertise and skill set widely. Her expertise is recognised through Professional Accreditation from BASES and she is experienced in providing sports science services to athletes. She excels in her role to support and enable the collection of physiological data from Human participants and the management of laboratories across two buildings. Her excellent relationship with Laboratory users and her creative approach to identifying and solving problems led her to develop and implement a Research Buddy Scheme. This scheme was piloted in 2023/24 and saved 260 hours of lost data collection and improved the employability of students.



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Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution Name	James McStravick, <i>Manchester Metropolitan University (now the University of Huddersfield)</i>
Submission title or project name	James McStravick - Outstanding Technician
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	James McStravick's skills as a Research Radiographer (Technical Specialist) support the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Core Facility. He has proactively engaged with the wider technical and academic community to promote the high-impact research undertaken by the facility and seek out collaborative projects that utilise the MRI facility and generate grant income. Aligning to the ITSS recommendations and with support from UKRI, technicians are now encouraged to be part of grant-funding applications. Mr McStravick has been co-investigator on a Wolfson Foundation grant application. He is a member of the College of Radiographers' Research Advisory Committee where he contributes to the College's research activity and development of its responses for national and international consultations on research-related matters. He reviews grant-funding applications for the College of Radiographers' Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) which supports radiography research. Mr McStravick achieved AdvanceHE Fellowship in 2023 and plays an active role within Manchester Met's Technician Commitment Governance Group.



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Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution Name	Sarah Bennett, <i>University of Warwick</i>
Submission title or project name	Development of BioSRLs and Commitment to Research Culture
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Dr Sarah Bennett, of the School of Life Sciences, has led on two areas of significant change at the University of Warwick: firstly, leading the design and implementation of the Bio-Analytical Shared Resource Laboratories (BioSRLs); and secondly, driving positive research culture change for research technical professionals (RTPs) across Warwick and nationally. Through the BioSRLs, Dr Bennett has united a range of technologies to provide a more organised, accessible and sustainable infrastructure and technical resource. This includes securing £50,000 from Research Culture funds and £500,000 from BBSRC for state-of-the-art equipment, both with Dr Bennett as principal investigator. She has supported the development of the staff in the BioSRL, providing opportunities for training and empowered her staff to take on further responsibilities, creating a positive culture. She is dedicated to creating a positive research culture for technical staff through involvement with several successful Research Culture projects. This includes reducing isolation for RTPs through a series of local and institution-wide forums for RTPs.



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Outstanding Technician of the Year

Institution Name	Mamta Sharma, <i>Wellcome Sanger Institute</i>
Submission title or project name	1-ENCORE Project (2019-2022), 3. Werner (WRN) Project (2021-present)
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.linkedin.com/in/mamta-sharma-7651a076/
Submission	During her 17 years at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Dr Mamta Sharma's expertise in molecular biology techniques has been instrumental in achieving project goals, advancing scientific understanding, and fostering a collaborative research environment. She has consistently delivered impactful contributions across diverse research projects, collaborated with renowned scientists, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and skilled technicians. Her collaborative spirit extends beyond technical expertise, as she has served as a mentor and role model. She has: delivered 30,000 conditional KO vectors for the EUComm/KOMP project, enabling global research on gene function and disease (12,000+ mutations); and developed protocols for CRISPR therapies in the ENCORE project, empowering researchers to explore improved patient outcomes. Beyond her technical expertise, she fosters collaboration and innovation, guiding teams to translate ideas into groundbreaking science and, as a mentor, she inspires creative thinking within the institute. In addition to her technical skills, she has played a role in the Technician commitment programme.