**Researchers receive awards for Public Engagement**

Physicists across the South East region have received prizes for excellent engagement activities in the inaugural SEPnet Public Engagement Awards. SEPnet (the South East Physics Network) has awarded prizes to 4 researchers from across their partner institutions for their exceptional contribution to engaging the public with their research.

The quality of all nominations was very high and the judging panel had a difficult time picking the winners. A further 4 researchers were highly commended for their projects. We are delighted to see the standard of public engagement in the region is so high.

Prizes are as follows:

Public engagement with research to enrich cultural life: Project awards

Winner: Brian Wecht, Queen Mary University of London

Highly Commended: Claudia Maraston, University of Portsmouth

Media and Communications Award

Winner: Natalie Starkey, The Open University

Highly Commended: Shakardokht Jafari, University of Surrey

Newcomer Award

Winner: Benjamin Williams, University of Oxford

Highly Commended: Sophia Goldberg, Queen Mary University of London

Highly Commended: Michael Hodgson

Achievement Award

Winner: Malcolm Coe, University of Southampton

All prize winners have been invited to attend a prize-giving ceremony at the SEPnet Graduate Network Summer School at NPL, presented by Prof Jim Al-Khalili.

**Background information:**

For more information on the awards or details of the individual projects, please contact:

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**Photo opportunity:**

Prize giving ceremony is 5.30pm on Wednesday 11th June at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington. SEPnet will also take photos which will be available after the ceremony.

SEPnet (the South East Physics Network) is a consortium of university physics departments in the South East aiming to promote physics across the region. Departments involved in the outreach programme are as follows:

* University of Hertfordshire
* University of Kent
* The Open University
* University of Oxford (Outreach Associate)
* University of Portsmouth
* Queen Mary, University of London
* University of Reading (Associate Partner)
* Royal Holloway, University of London
* University of Southampton
* University of Surrey
* University of Sussex

For more information on SEPnet please see the website, [www.sepnet.ac.uk](http://www.sepnet.ac.uk)