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RSC-BMCS Awards

Presented at the SCI/RSC 22nd Medicinal Chemistry Symposium, Cambridge UK, 10th–13th September 2023

Biological & Medicinal



Chemistry Sector

RSC-BMCS Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize

The 2023 Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize was awarded to **Professors Anthony G.M. Barrett** and **Matthew J. Fuchter** (Department of Chemistry) and **Professors R. Charles Coombes** and **Simak Ali** (Department of Surgery and Cancer) of Imperial College, London, for the discovery and early development of the first-in-class cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK7) inhibitor Samuraciclib, for the treatment of breast cancer.



The Team generated novel insights on the role of CDK7 in breast cancer pathology. Samuraciclib was the product of an intensive academic medicinal chemistry and drug discovery programme, successfully prosecuted by raising over £5m in funds from Cancer Research UK and EPSRC.

Based on the IP generated, the team successfully secured a licensing deal with Carrick Therapeutics to progress Samuraciclib into early clinical studies. To date Phase 1/2 clinical studies have established maximum tolerated dose and early indications of patient benefit.

The Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize is awarded biennially to commemorate Professor Campbell's outstanding contributions in a broad range of chemistry and their applications to biomedical science.

RSC-BMCS Hall of Fame

The 2022 inductee **Dr Karin Briner** is widely recognized as a leader of industrial medicinal chemists. She led Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery Teams at Lilly and then Global Discovery Chemistry at Novartis where she had responsibility for over 600 scientists focusing on delivering clinical candidates in unprecedented target space with diverse modalities, such as low molecular weight molecules, radioligand therapies, peptides, antibody-drug conjugates, RNA-based compounds, and contributions to the discovery of umibecestat and branaplam. Very recently, she joined Genentech as head of Drug Discovery.



Those who have worked with Karin have experienced an incredibly committed individual whose sharp analytical skills are coupled with a genuine concern for people. In all her roles Karin has been an outstanding mentor who has furthered the career of many chemists and other scientists.

The purpose of this award is to recognise prominent chemists for outstanding, sustained, and significant scientific impact, or contributions to any area of interest to the BMCS, e.g., medicinal chemistry, agriscience, bioorganic chemistry, chemical biology.



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