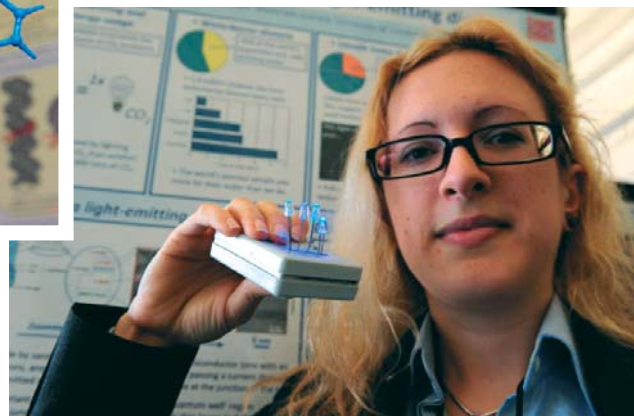
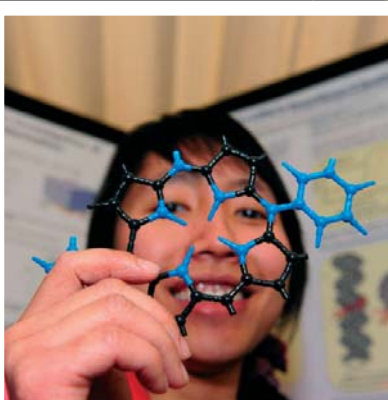
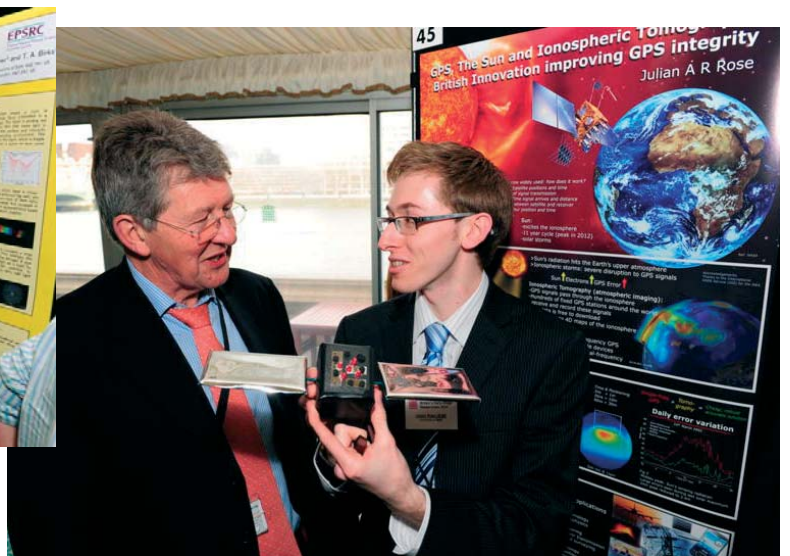
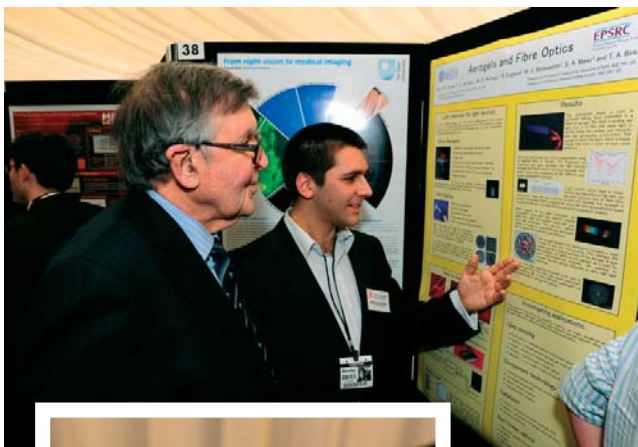
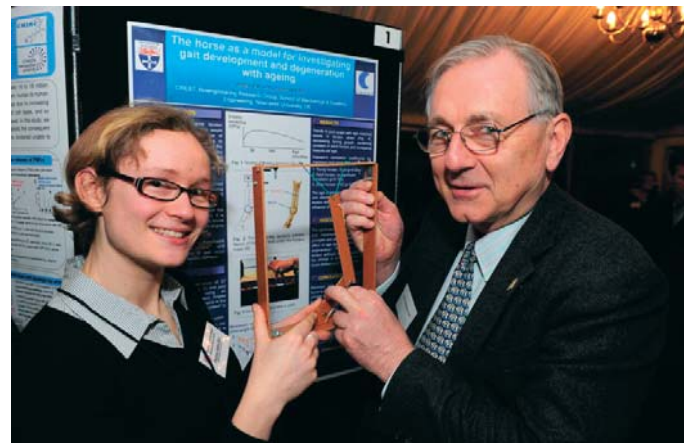


SET FOR BRITAIN 2010

On Monday 8th March 2010 Dr Douglas Naysmith MP and Dr Brian Iddon MP, Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, acted as hosts for SET for BRITAIN, a poster competition and exhibition for early-career researchers. The competition had attracted just under three hundred entries in three separate sections and the top sixty entrants in each section brought their posters to Westminster to display in the House of Commons Terrace Marquee.



The competitors came from all over the UK and during the course of the day over sixty-five Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords visited the exhibitions in the Marquee to meet the presenters and see at first hand examples of the high quality research being undertaken in British institutions.

Each section of the competition was judged separately by a different panel of experts in the relevant scientific discipline. All agreed that the standard of entries was extremely high. In each section the winner received a medal and a cash prize and there were further prizes for runners up. At the end of the evening an overall winner, selected from the

winners of all three sections, was awarded the Westminster Medal, sponsored by SCI in memory of Dr Eric Wharton, the founder of SET for BRITAIN, to whom Dr Brian Iddon pays tribute below.

The event was run by a working party which included Mrs Sue Wharton, widow of Dr Eric Wharton, Professor Alan Malcolm, Dr David Dent and

representatives of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, and the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Additional support was received from the International Agri-Technology Centre, Plant Impact plc, Monitise plc and AgChemAccess.

'SET FOR BRITAIN' HAS SURVIVED

A TRIBUTE TO DR ERIC WHARTON



Dr Brian Iddon
former Member of Parliament for
Bolton, South East

I first met Dr Eric Wharton when I was presenting 'The Magic of Chemistry', a 90-minute demonstration lecture, in Oxfordshire. At that time Eric was skilfully organising an impressive annual programme of events in the Thames Valley.

When I was elected to Parliament in 1997, Eric contacted me to propose an idea. It sounded a bit unusual, but I am not put off by unusual ideas or even unusual people with unusual ideas.

His idea was to hold a display of the work of young scientists on posters in the Palace of Westminster, the sort of thing that occurs at scientific conferences. Like me, this fellow Lancastrian was keen to raise the profile of science amongst Parliamentarians. In 1998, I hosted the first 'SET for Britain' poster display in the House of Commons Terrace Marque for chemists and physicists.

From that first attempt Eric and his 'team' learned a lot. Few Members of Parliament attended, and I mentioned to him that refreshments and offers of photographs was the way to get them there. It was the photographer, always Frank, that proved to be the key to future success.

An annual event became a series of regular poster displays, for engineers and 'medics' as well as physical scientists, and Eric's

team even 'went continental' – Heidelberg was their first stop.

Funds had to be raised, rooms had to be booked and professional scientists and engineers attracted to judge the posters, people as famous as Trevor Bayliss of clockwork radio fame. Eric was good at networking; he seemed to know everybody.

Young scientists from all over the country, indeed from all over the world if you count the foreign students who have attended these events, flocked to the Palace of Westminster. They loved the idea. One of the attractions was the prize money for the top posters – £5,000 for the first prize was not uncommon.

And, so, 'SET for Britain' has become a brand name in the scientific community.

Then, tragedy struck. In 2007, Eric was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died shortly afterwards. We thought that was the end of 'SET for Britain'. However, some time later, Sue Wharton proposed to me that she would like us to start it up again in memory of her late husband. An *ad hoc* committee was established of parliamentarians, industrialists, representatives of the learned societies and Sue Wharton, and the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee was persuaded to ensure that 'SET for Britain' continues in Eric's memory.

Eric, a former civil servant in the DTI, was associated with several professional and learned societies. He held an executive position at the SCI and was responsible for setting up new Sections for them. Rather late in his life, he became a Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC).

I was very pleased when the University of Sheffield awarded him an Honorary Degree at their Degree Congregation, on 20 December 2006. He earned it.

Physical Sciences Session

12.30 pm - 2.30 pm

Entries comprised 24 Chemistry posters and 36 Physics posters, each discipline being judged by a separate panel of experts.

Chemistry Section:

Winner of group: £3,000 and Roscoe Medal:

ThaoNguyen Nguyen, University of Southampton
Porphyrin-DNA as Scaffold for Nanoarchitecture and Nanotherapy

Runner-up prize of £1,000:

Danny Ho, Pfizer Ltd
Hydrogen-Borrowing as an Environmentally-Friendly Approach to Parallel Amines Synthesis

Physics Section:

Winner of group: £3,000 and Cavendish Medal:

David Hall, Open University
From Night-Vision to Medical Imaging

Runner-up prize of £1,000:

Dr Michelle Moram, University of Cambridge
Lighting up Lives using Highly Efficient Light-Emitting Diodes

Engineering Session

3.30 pm - 5.30pm

Winner of group: £3,000 and Engineering Medal:

Julian Rose, University of Bath
GPS, the Sun and Ionospheric Tomography: British Innovation Improving GPS Integrity

Runner-up prize of £1,000:

Dr Kosmas Tsakmakidis, University of Surrey
Trapped Rainbow Stopping of Light for Speeding up Computers and the Internet

Biological and Biomedical Sciences

6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Winner of group: £3,000 and Mendel Medal:

Dorota Bartczak, University of Southampton
Stimulation of Blood Vessels Growth with Gold Nanoparticles

Runner-up prize of £1,000:

Dr Kimberley Bruce, University of Southampton
High Fat Exposure in Early Development Primes the Development of Adult Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease



ThaoNguyen Nguyen winner of the Chemistry group



David Hall winner of the Physics group



Julian Rose winner of the Engineering group



Dorota Bartczak winner of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences group