

## Speaking of Science 2010 Report

The annual Speaking of Science conference for postgraduate research students in the sciences took place on Thursday 6th May 2010 in the Graduate Centre at Cardiff University. Once again, the event was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Run in conjunction with the University Graduate College, this popular conference provided a valuable opportunity for postgraduates to give talks and present posters across a wide range of subjects and disciplines, and to find out about research being pursued in other science schools.

The conference opened with guest speaker Dr Kevin Fong (University College London), a leading expert in space medicine in the UK, whose talk was entitled 'Now that's what I call Science'. The talk was very well received and enjoyed by all.

There were 28 talks throughout the day given by students from various Schools including DENTL, PHRM, MEDIC, COMSC, MATHS, PHYSX, CHEMY, HISAR, OPTOM, BIOSI and PSYCH. 16 posters were also presented and were of very high quality.

The day ended with a cheese and wine social, during which prizes were presented as follows:

### **Oral Presentations**

#### Vaughan Room

1st Prize: Hashmat Popat (DENTL)

2nd Prize: Cheryl Voake (MATHS)

#### Student Development Unit

1st Prize: David Maidment (PSYCH)

2nd Prize: Ilona Johnson (DENTL)

People's Choice Award (voted for by the audience): Rachel Howard-Jones (DENTL)

### **Poster Presentations**

1st Prize: Frances Jones (OPTOM)

2nd Prize: Heather Price (EARTH)

***Charles Cox, PhD student, Welsh School of Pharmacy and member of the organising committee for Speaking of Science 2010***

*In my opinion the Speaking of Science (SoS) conference is one of the more important and exciting events in the University Calendar, providing the opportunity for postgraduate students to present their work in a friendly and welcoming environment.*

*Being involved in its organisation is a valuable and enjoyable experience. The time commitment allows for almost any first or second year postgraduates to be involved with the organising committee, who have full reign over all conference details. The process allows*

*you to see firsthand what needs to be considered when organising a conference but in the safe knowledge that there is a strong level of support provided by the experienced staff in the University Graduate College Office.*

*Not only will being involved develop your organisational skills but it also gives you the opportunity to look more critically at your peer's work judging both posters and talk presentations. For the majority of postgraduates, including myself, this is the first opportunity for this and it's an extremely useful learning exercise.*

*Furthermore, there is also the opportunity to meet people from other Graduate Schools whom, usually, you would have very little contact with. This is demonstrated in the fact that all but one Academic School was represented in this year's SoS event and in my opinion this is one of the unique features of SoS.*

*Finally, I really can't speak highly enough of this event and I warmly recommend being involved in whatever capacity you can!*

**Speaking of Science 2011 will take place on Thursday 5th May 2011. If you would like to join the student organising committee, please contact us by emailing [SpeakingofScience@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:SpeakingofScience@Cardiff.ac.uk)**