

Celebrating the inspirational example of Welsh researchers



Nominations for prestigious medals from the Learned Society of Wales are now open. Dr Sarah Morse, above, senior executive officer at the LSW, explains why it is important to recognise exceptional talent

DO you know a brilliant early career researcher? This is the opportunity to help celebrate outstanding research from Wales, across academia and industry. The call for nominations from the Learned Society of Wales Medals 2017 is now open, and anyone can make a nomination.

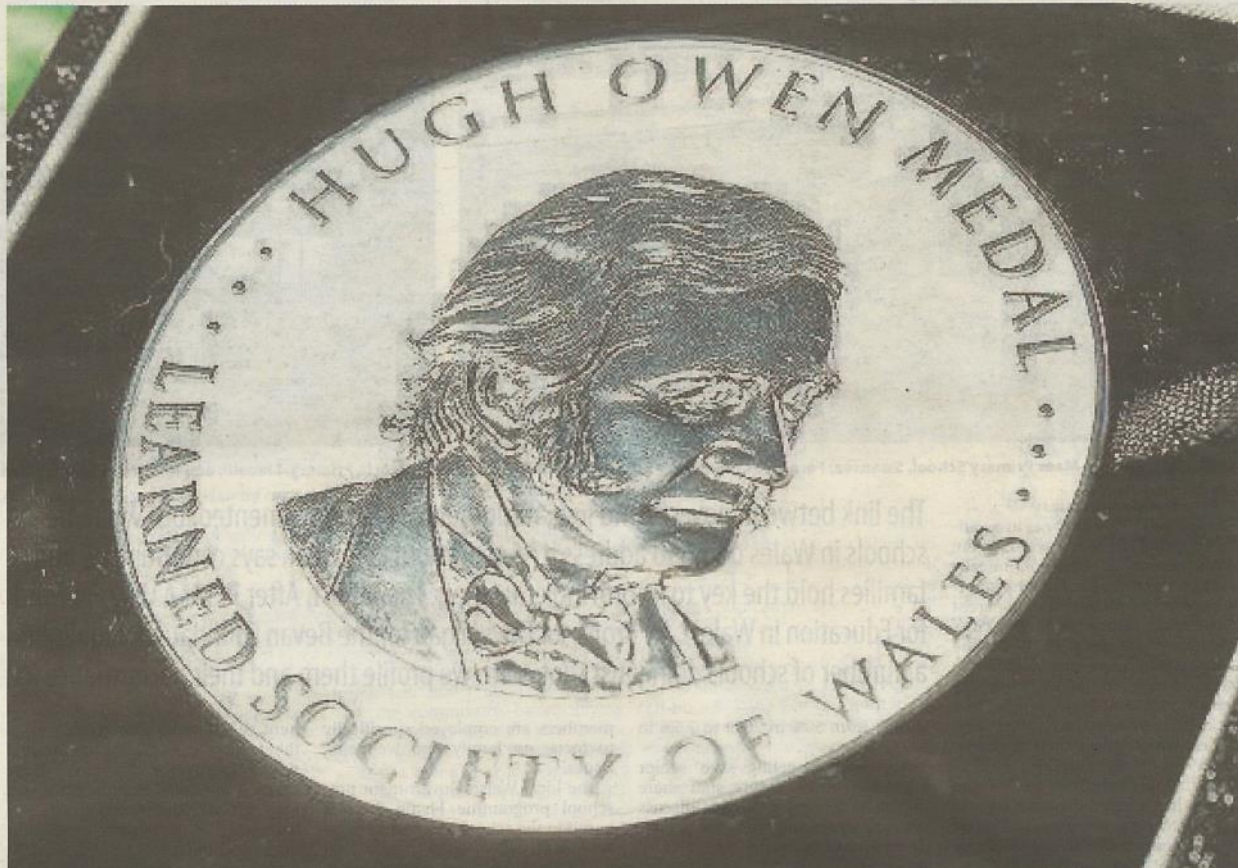
Recognising merit is a significant aspect of the work of all national academies and the national academy of Wales, the Learned Society of Wales, is no different.

Celebrating achievement is important for the individuals honoured, for the academic sector from universities to schools, and for the nation as a whole. However, the Society needs your nominations to bring the achievements of Wales' researchers to the attention of our awarding committees.

This year, the Learned Society of Wales will be awarding six medals in four categories, named in honour of significant figures from recent Welsh history. The medals are designed to inspire and recognise the long and often neglected legacy of Welsh achievement, while also celebrating the exceptional researchers of today.

In the "Year of Legends", this is the opportunity to highlight the work of today's Welsh researchers, who in turn will inspire those in the future.

Unique among similar awards



► The Hugh Owen medal for outstanding educational research, presented by the Learned Society of Wales

offered by other national academies of the UK, are the Dillwyn medals. These are awarded each year in recognition of outstanding early career researchers working in three different academic fields:

- STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine)
- Social Sciences, Education and Business
- Creative Arts and Humanities

Sponsored by Airbus Corporate Technical Office, the Dillwyn medals are named after the prodigious Swansea-based Dillwyn family, whose pioneering work in science, culture, politics and industry in 19th-century Wales continues to serve as an impressive and inspiring legacy for researchers today.

The definition of "early career researcher" for the Dillwyn medals is a researcher with a minimum of two years' work experience but no more than 10 years' work experience, who is at least six years past graduation of their first degree.

The Menelaus Medal, supported

by SWIET (South Wales Institute of Engineering Educational Trust), is named after the engineer, iron and steel manufacturer, and general manager of the Dowlais Iron Company, William Menelaus (1818-82).

This year the Society will award the fifth Menelaus Medal in recognition of excellence in any field of

supported by the Welsh Government - the Hugh Owen Medal for outstanding educational research, and the Frances Hoggan Medal, which recognises exceptional female researchers in STEMM.

The Hugh Owen Medal, named in honour of educator and philanthropist Sir Hugh Owen, is awarded in

lose sight of why we are carrying out research in the first place - its purpose and who will benefit from its findings - and I'm pleased this award will recognise the real impact of research in this crucial field."

The pioneering medical practitioner, social reformer and first British woman to gain a medical doctorate, Dr Frances Hoggan from Brecon, lends her name to the medal for outstanding female researchers in STEMM.

Perhaps you know a female scientist whose outstanding research deserves better recognition? This medal is open to active researchers in the public and private sectors, industry and higher education, and is designed to celebrate the role of women in science in Wales.

Last year's recipient of the Hoggan Medal, Dame Jean Thomas, will give a lecture for young people at Swansea University later this spring.

■ **The closing date is 6pm on March 1, 2017. For more information and to nominate, visit www.learnedsociety.wales/medals**



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY - CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEOLAETHOL - YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

engineering or technology to a researcher (in academia or industry), who has a connection to Wales.

Previous winners have included Sir Terry Matthews, Sir John Cadogan and Sir John Meurig Thomas. Last year's recipient, Professor Hagan Bayley, one of the UK's leading practising scientists, will be speaking at a medal lecture at Bangor University tomorrow.

Two of the Society's medals are

recognition of significant contributions to educational research or the application of research to produce significant innovations in education policy and/or professional educational practice in Wales.

As Education Secretary Kirsty Williams AM said at the launch of the medal in November: "We always need to ask ourselves what the benefits will be of this research to the Welsh public. It is important not to