



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

www.cefic.org

For further information: Annie Mutamba

Tel: +32 2 676 7337 amu@cefic.be

100,000 Euros Innovative Science Award goes to young British researcher

Brussels, 11 June 2009 - The Cefic Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) Innovative Science Award was presented in Brussels this week to Hector Keun from Imperial College, London. Awarded for the sixth time, this year for innovative research on exposure, this €100,000 grant recognises outstanding contributions from early-career scientists from around Europe and supports novel approaches to assess the potential impact of chemicals on health and the environment.

Hector Keun won the Award for his research proposal on 'Using Metabonomic biomarkers to bridge the gap between environmental exposure and human disease'. He was one of three finalists selected by an independent judging panel from a total of 40 entries. His proposal will bring more insight and help reduce public concerns about the potential impact of environmental factors, including chemicals, on health.

Partners of the 2009 Innovative Science Award are the Association of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX), the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and the International Society of Exposure Sciences (ISES), with Chemical Week as media partner. The panel of judges consisted in eminent scientists from across Europe.

"Developing innovative solutions and new technologies often goes hand in hand with uncertainty about their potential impact – and this is mainly due to a lack of historical knowledge. This is why we need young scientists to come up with new approaches to rise proactively to the challenges of the 21st century." said Gernot Klotz, Executive Director for Cefic Research and Innovation. "We congratulate Hector Keun for being selected by the panel and are happy to give him a jump start to his future career path, as for past winners." The winner will be present at the Cefic LRI 11th Annual Workshop on 19 November in Brussels.

The other finalists were Cécile Chevrier from University of Rennes, France and Miranda Loh, National Institute for Health & Welfare, Finland with project proposals on 'Assessment of pesticides exposure, Merging human biomonitoring, genetic and environmental data and Linking Sources' and 'Biomarkers to Understand Patterns of Chemical Accumulation in Human Populations' respectively.

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About the Long-range Research Initiative (LRI)

Launched in 1999, the Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) aims to identify and fill knowledge gaps in our understanding of the potential impact of chemicals on environment and health, to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks and to foster the acceptance of new technologies and products. For more information visit www.cefic-lri.org.