



Supervisor of the Year Awards 2019

Thanks to:

Lili Toh

Dione Quek

Raghdah Mohammad Ali Alshehri

Yu Cui

Zhuoyuan Xie

Anthea Fitzgerald

2019 FINALISTS

School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Wendy Davis

“Wendy's passion and enthusiasm is infatuating. She provides me with many papers but takes the time to explain all the pros and cons in relation to my topic. She not only respects my research, wellbeing and life balance, but also helps me keep up with my enthusiasm and engagement with my research. When I mentioned I was going on holidays, she automatically advised me to switch off for a week because my research is going so well. “

Richard de Dear

“Richard arranged weekly meeting for us which was really useful. He has provided me with assistance to enable me to properly modify my literature review and does great things such as send me old classic papers relevant to my research. I have learned much in logical thinking because of Richard’s guidance.”

Paul Jones

“In my whole PhD path, the second year was the most tough time for me. Paul noticed that and he conducted a serious conversation with me. He asked the issue I was facing and anything he can help with, and of course, he encouraged me to insist myself and try my best to concur the difficulties. I can definitely say that if it wasn't Paul, I suppose I might give up my PhD at that time.”

Lian Loke

“Dr Lian Loke is caring, and approachable. She makes herself available to all of her research students and supports us all, I believe, equally. She is encouraging but also clear in what she expects from her students. Dr Lian Loke set aside time on her weekend to review and test my capstone research project which has provided the foundation for my PhD research.”

Martin Tomitsch

“Martin is the most articulate person I know. He always has a way with words and has greatly improved the way I write academically. The way Martin communicates is extremely clear and I have always been able to understand what he is saying and he even checks to ensure I understand. Martin provides hour long weekly meetings despite his senior position and schedule within the University.”

Ali Aldehesh

"I am grateful to have Dr Ali as my supervisor because he shows dedication in his work. One time on the weekend, in order not to forget the idea which is very valuable for the methodology of my study, he contacted me while he was walking on that Sunday morning and proposed the idea which suddenly came up to his mind. Very thoughtful."

Fiona Allon

"Fiona made time to see me even though she was on long service leave, travelling to the campus for the sole purpose of meeting me. She spent ample time with me to discuss my work, offered excellent feedback, gave me encouragement and practical suggestions to help me with my tutoring that afternoon and lent me a book from her collection."

Judy Anderson

"Judy frequently forwards articles, suggestions, books to read and information regarding conferences, scholarships and sources of funding. When I had a recent difficulty accessing schools for my case studies she added weight to the request by forwarding an email to the school encouraging them to participate. "

Fran Collyer

"Fran would give me assistance and direction when it's necessary, but she would also give me space to explore. When I attended my first conference at the start of my PhD, Fran took me out to dinner and introduced me and my study to all the committee members of the conference organisation. She is a great female figure in academia!"

Paul Ginns

“Dr Ginns not only listens and considers my ideas, but also offers valuable feedback to make it work. After each meeting, I know my next move as his guidance is very clear. I feel that I have learned new things and progressed to my final goal. For many of our meetings, I bring my child with me and Dr Ginns accommodates her very well with his collections of children books.”

Huw Griffiths

“Huw always makes himself available. He is responsive to our emails and frequently responds outside working hours. Both of us have emailed him in the evening and received responses by the next morning, often before working hours have commenced. These emails are always detailed and considerate responses.”

Christopher Hartney

At time of publication SUPRA was not able to reach the students for consent.

Julia Kindt

“My supervisor has been one of my biggest champions. She was the reason I decided to continue my research at The University of Sydney rather than move to an overseas university, as our research areas and values are very closely aligned. Julia has shown me that she genuinely cares about me as her research student and respects my time, my capacity, and my wellbeing.”

Fiona Lee

“She is very patient and industrious. When I had to redraft my draft for the third time, to make me feel not that bad, my supervisor said to me please do not feel bad, it is quite normal to redraft a thesis chapter. I am grateful that my supervisor knows my strengths and weaknesses.”

Karl Maton

“The process of writing a joint publication with Karl was formative to my development as a researcher; it provided insight into the strategic thought, fastidiousness and analytical process that goes into academic writing. He modelled how to productively engage with reviewer comments, at the same time as reinforcing my confidence in the ideas of the paper, even when they were under challenge. “

Catriona Moore

“Catriona closely supported, encouraged and provided guidance on the development of my first peer-reviewed publication. At every stage, from her encouragement to aim high and submit to a highly-ranked and well-respected journal, to the development of ideas and the editing process prior to submission, Catriona demonstrated not only her respect for my ideas and research, but also for my personal well-being. “

Suzanne Rutland

“Suzanne has always made time for me. When I initially contacted her with thesis suggestions, she promised me that if I matriculated at the University of Sydney, that she would provide the most outstanding support. She has since delivered on that promise and I know she provides the same to her other students.”

Rebecca Scott Brae

“One aspect of her supervision that I value most is the way she models behaviour for me (such as self-care or techniques for diplomatic discussions) and isn’t afraid to show me the realities of her life as a female researcher, mother and partner.”

Liam Semler

“Late last year Liam gave feedback on a draft chapter for my thesis which he rightly identified as needing significant revision. Alongside his notes on the chapter, which identified where my engagement with the scholarship had not gone deep enough, he returned my chapter with a series of articles and references for me to follow up, including absolutely invaluable and difficult to obtain articles directly relevant to my research which I had missed.”

Jan Shaw

“During our meetings Jan not only gives feedback regarding my work but we often spend time discussing how I am progressing and feeling overall with the PhD process. Jan always makes me feel like a respected and valued member of the research community and shows great enthusiasm for my work which is extremely validating and encouraging.”

Agnieszka Tymula

“Agnieszka gives me full freedom in doing research but at the same time offers important insights when important considerations are not being taken into account. Agnieszka not only cares about my research but also my life-study balance. She helps me to take the most use of my PhD program: train

me as an independent researcher, develop my supervision skills, and teach me how to be a better human being.”

Wei Wang

“During my candidature, as long as I emailed my supervisor for a supervision meeting, he always responded quickly and with great interest. Every time I submitted my writing to him, he would respond in less than one week with clear directions and detailed comments about the merits and demerits of it.”

Thomas Wilkins

“While travelling solo in the Middle East Tom somehow managed to find Internet connection in a rural and remote area, and responded to my last minute request with constructive advice. It's great to know you can rely on your supervisor to that extent. He does not necessarily present himself as a Supervisor who is higher than students. He never feels tired in sharing his ideas and introducing sources.”

School of Education and Social Work

Nigel Bagnall

“I always feel lucky that Prof Bagnall is always there whenever I seek help. One key thing I like from working with my supervisor is that I always feel respected and empowered to conduct my research. He is always there to provide me with constructive feedback and questions in instructing me to lead my research in a proper manner.”

Nicole Brunker

“There has never been a time I felt I could not approach Nicole with an issue. When I started with Nicole in 2018 I found it hard to articulate the main issue I found with my thesis writing. Nicole made suggestions for readings to support me to resolve my coherence issue, she listened and encouraged me to be innovative.”

Susan Goodwin

“My supervisor was as emotional as I was when I submitted my thesis recently. As a child of migrants, this is incredibly exciting, and I can say with all honesty that I would not have begun, or completed, my PhD had it not been for my supervisor.”

Michael Jacobson

“He is always happy to write me recommendations and support letters. He suggests journal articles for me that are both interesting and related to the topic, which I find very valuable.”

Danny Liu

“Despite the fact that Danny was not required to attend my focus group interviews, he made time at a short notice for the first interview. I had previously asked him to help me through this first interview as I had never undertaken an interview, and Danny rescheduled meetings to be able to attend at short notice.”

Lina Markauskaite

“Lina has constantly expressed how much potential my thesis has since I started my PhD. When I had my first shoulder injury and was stressing about my health and completing the proposal at the same time, she calmed me

down, explaining that I should take some time to recover in order to be able to focus 100% on my thesis."

Alexandra McCormick

"I spent a year figuring out how to use a particular theory to fit my research epistemology. When finally, I gave up on said theory, I was very concerned that my supervisors might disagree with my sudden conceptual re-orientation. But Alex supported my decision, telling me that she is glad to see that my distinct identity as a researcher is beginning to take shape."

Peter Reimann

"Over a few months, Peter gently moved me through four variations on my initial study draft, patient with my evident limitations and newness to academic life, spending enough time to get me to a proposal that is both interesting and relevant. His care was not just about getting a Proposal passed, it was also about the Centre, our colleagues, the experimental cohort, and my future as a researcher."

Hui-Zhong Shen

"Every time my supervisor and I come across different opinions in meetings, he has never tried to persuade me following his ideas. We always collaborate together to work out a better solution. When I designed my theoretical framework, I encountered difficulties in bridging two of my research focus. My supervisor introduced another dimension of theory which can be helpful to build a bridge integrating the whole theoretical construct."

Ilektra Spandagou

“My supervisor, Dr Ilektra Spandagou is one of a kind. She is an excellent and extraordinary supervisor not only because she is knowledgeable, responsible, supportive and responsive but she is always caring and makes herself available anytime. She gives constructive feedback. There has never been a time that my supervisor said she is busy or she cannot assist me.”

Gordon Stanley

“My supervisor always provides constructive feedback and provides continuous support. Even though my supervisor is not available physically at the university, my supervisor never misses any discussions that we have planned and has made them possible via technology support e.g. online or phone calls. I am incredibly pleased that my supervisor is the next person I always put on trust after my family.”

Matthew Thomas

“Although extremely busy Dr Thomas always gives timely feedback on my thesis drafts. He track-changes all documents I sent him. One day, when he did not have any time to do track changes, he sent me audio feedback, containing feedback of my chapter. He recorded it when he was walking. I felt respected and encouraged.”

Jennifer Way

“Jenni is so knowledgeable but so humble about it all. She encourages me to sign up for conferences and opportunities to watch other people present and learn from them so that when it is my time to present my work, I have a better idea. Throughout my candidature I have come to realise the degree of complexity of interpersonal relationships in the academic sphere. Jenni manages it all so well, while keeping everyone’s best interests at heart. “

Anthony Welch

"Since the start of my candidature, my supervisor has always been generous in provision of literature and resources relevant to my study. He pointed me in right direction in regards to where to look, and loaned me several books related to the contexts of my two-country PhD study, which formed the basis of my knowledge of those contexts, and as such became foundational literature in my thesis."

Business School

Junbin Gao

"I have experience to work with staff during my honours year where they never taught me hand by hand even though I was a very new researcher. But Junbin is always patient in teaching me, guiding me and supervising me. Prof. Junbin uses every moment of the traveling time every day to read literature and resources that he feels is useful knowledge and share with us during our weekly meeting."

Quan Gan

"When I was writing my first paper Quan helped me by finding a lot of useful materials for me to read, and he met me twice a week to give me a better understanding of the academic writing. He has devoted a lot of efforts here. This is of great help to me in my candidature."

Henry Leung

"The second paper of my thesis is heavily industry based. My other supervisor dismissed the project as non-academic and was not interested in pursuing it. Henry noted my interest in the topic and encouraged me to pursue the topic. Henry knows quite a lot, and his feedback is timely and helpful. He wrote very detailed and constructive feedback throughout and this really helps!"

Helena Nguyen

“Since our first meeting, Helena said that the PhD is a process and a journey of learning and development. Rather than pursuing for the degree at the end of it, she wanted me to get as much learning and absorbing of new knowledge for my own personal gains. I really appreciate this perspective towards my PhD, as it made me enjoy the program so much.”

Jiri Svec

“My supervisor always sends me relevant and up-to-date literature. Last year, I needed some technical help for my work, he helped me to apply for the funding. In addition, he regularly encourages me to contact seminar presenters or visiting scholars in our discipline, and helps me arrange meetings with them, which are beneficial to my research.”

Barney Tan

“Comparing with the professors that I have met in other top-tier universities (in both Hong Kong and Australia), Barney has extensive and deep knowledge in different areas within IS, great patience and care to his students. His support to students is not only by mouth but also by actions.”

Diane van den Broek

“From the beginning, Diane provided detailed, specific and actionable feedback verbally and in writing that was an immense help for my research. I believe none of my PhD colleagues received as detailed and specific feedback as I did since the start of the candidature in a consistent manner. Her feedback enabled me to successfully upgrade to PhD from MPhil upon defending my thesis proposal.”

Gracy (YJ) Yang

“Gracy treats me as a co-worker; she always says that we are in a team. She cares about not only our research, but also our daily life. As an international student, I live and study in Sydney by myself, so she often brings us and other co-authors to have lunch or dinner together. She makes us feel less lonely, respected and loved.”

Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Jennifer Rowley

“I work full time whilst I am competing doctoral studies which makes it tough juggling two all-consuming priorities. Jennifer is constantly encouraging me and reminding me to not be too hard on myself particularly when at times I feel like I am not able to prioritise work on my doctoral thesis. Jennifer's ability to see the big-picture overview in regard to structure of my thesis is really invaluable.”

Faculty of Engineering

Archie Chapman

When I'm stuck with something, I can freely go to Archie's office and have a chat with him. All my research papers go through up to three to five iterations with my supervisor. He edits and gives suggestions for improvement of the work until it is in a good shape for submission. In the second year, I experienced a family tragedy. After coming back, I was not well emotionally for a while but Archie asked me if I need more time to be with my family and take a break, he is happy to support.

Kenneth Chung

“Kenneth is a very kind person. He usually asked me Are you ok? He appreciated my achievements and assisted me to expand my professional network. When I was stuck in social network analysis, he provided me the programming books to read and solve the problems.”

John Kavanagh

“John spent a lot of time to go through my thesis. I found his comments always insightful and constructive. John cares that his students find a good job after their study. As he has a very good relation with people and all industries, he introduces many of the students to the companies. I am proud to have studied at this University, and I am sure the university also proud to have a such an amazing staff that do care about all aspects of humanity, and has a high level of knowledge.”

Xiaozhou Liao

“Prof. Liao always treats students as colleagues. He is such a brilliant, warm-hearted and supportive supervisor. When I obtained some of my primary data, I found myself very frustrated to explain the phenomena I observed. Prof. Liao suggested I go through some of his early works and some of his prior colleagues' early works for possible explanations. It worked. He also hears the advice from me when collaborating with others on my project.”

Alejandro Montoya

“Alejandro has always showed excitement and given me motivation even when I was feeling a bit lost in my research and in life. Alejandro has

connected me with people who had a certain expertise that he didn't have, so that I could know I was going in the right direction in the specific details of my research at an early stage. That was fantastic and a game-changer in my PhD."

Eduardo Nebot

"I have a big dataset which need to be published. However, many publishers don't accept this kind of publication. My supervisor helped me to find out the best one I can send my data. Eduardo is a wonderful human being, he always takes into account our opinion with respect our research. He cares about the wellbeing of his students and make them feel like family. He even hosted a Christmas party at his home for all the research group."

Jeremy (Jing) Qin

"Jeremy tried his best to help us coordinate the allocation of working rooms with the school's administration, so that we would not be disturbed by the noise of FEIE building construction. Moreover he bought us new laptops for supporting our simulation work. He suggested me to open my mind and jump out of the circle of engineers' thought, but building connection to wider field like climate change which is quite a novel aspect."

Chang Xu

"Dr Xu always encourages me to work hard and play harder. A reward for our hard research work is the acceptance of the paper, and another one is the opportunity to attend the conference while discovering a new city and making new friends. Dr Xu always has the best interests of his students at heart. Meanwhile, my leadership in team management has been improved."

Faculty of Health Sciences

Jillian Clarke

"Jill has been a wonderful support to me throughout my candidature so far. After reading my research proposal early on in the candidature, Jill suggested that I will benefit from having another supervisor in the team, Karen Ginn who is a very experienced researcher in the field of shoulder problems. Between Karen and Jill, I have found a perfect balance of support I need for this project. I feel very, very lucky to have Jill as my supervisor."

Chin-Moi Chow

"Before and after the enrolment, support and advice that she gave me helped me to develop confidence, and to apply my strengths and knowledge meticulously on my studies. She promoted learning by bouncing ideas with me and showed mutual respects as colleagues. Her kindness and understanding on occasions helped me to overcome difficult situations that I faced in my personal life."

Sarah Dennis

"My research progress was set back several months waiting for a legal agreement to be signed. Sarah continued to advocate to local and international legal departments, during progress meetings, and with collaborators all the way through the process. Overall, no struggle is too difficult to discuss with Sarah, which is a crucial ingredient to supervising part time students who inevitably have multiple demands on their time and concentration."

Vicki Flood

"Vicki has always been direct with her feedback and very transparent in her communications with me. She was vested in my research but also in my post academic career. And although my PhD study has almost come to an end,

she has inspired me to remain a productive and active thinker and to continue to publish and get my work out there."

Peter Groves

"Peter's feedback has been timely, concise and easy to understand. I had 'hit a brick wall' with my research and Peter directed me to the right area of expertise. He has expedited the provision of a desk space and a laptop and also assisted me in my current job, providing the right knowledge and advice."

Ollie Jay

"When I was preparing for my first international oral presentation I was very nervous about the content and delivery of my talk. Realising this Ollie let me practice several time in front of him every time giving me feedback and letting me make changes. When I was ready he facilitated a presentation in front of our lab where again I had the opportunity to gain confidence and receive feedback."

Annie McClusky

"One example that comes to mind is presenting a workshop with Annie and how much she encouraged me to put forward my ideas and thoughts on the structure of the presentation. Annie is aware of my wishes to maintain a work-life balance and takes this into account in our discussions. The support that Annie provides not only to her students but to the broader occupational therapy and stroke rehabilitation community is commendable."

Rhonda Orr

"I have had multiple job setbacks during my candidacy. These led to delays with my progress and the necessity to transition from full time to part time attendance in order to ensure completion on time. Rhonda has been extremely supportive at all stages and I am now on track to submit well on time. Rhonda is always readily available to help with my research. Rhonda always responds quickly to requests to meet in person/skype/phone on a weekly basis."

Peter Sinclair

"Peter recently suggested that I participate in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. I would not ordinarily have taken the time to participate in the 3MT, but it has proved to be valuable and has helped me to refine my presentation skills to a non-technical audience. This will be an important skill both during and beyond my PhD research. I ended up winning the 3MT competition for the Faculty of Health Sciences and now I'm through to the University finals!"

Alicia Fong Yan

"At the end of my first year, when Alycia was going on maternity leave, we both found out that my other supervisor (was my primary) had to retire. Alycia worked hard to ensure I had an excellent replacement and with enormous respect, ensured that she met with him prior to my meeting him, and through discussions allowed and supported me to turn my research around to what I was passionate about: taking it into the field and changing the focus to clinical."

Sydney Law School

Luke Nottage

"Having discussed my experiences with fellow students, it is evident that they are not anomalies. It appears uniformly accepted that Professor Nottage exemplifies what is expected and sought after by higher-degree research students. This develops from the fundamental respect and support Professor Nottage has for his students, which causes him to treat us as colleagues in a common academic pursuit. His genuine desire for our success, as if it were his own, is borne out through his persistent offering of suggestions, ideas, and constructive feedback."

Jacqueline Mowbray

"Associate Professor Mowbray has been an exceptional supervisor. I am so privileged to have been able to undertake my doctoral journey with her as my guide and I am positive that if I turn out to be a good academic, it will be very much due to her guidance, persistence and dedication. She supported me to visit the USA to attend a series of conferences. I ended up speaking at some of the best universities in the world - Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Berkeley and Georgetown and the opportunities and lessons that came from my speaking at these institutions were invaluable."

Faculty of Medicine and Health

Lesley Barclay

"My metaphor for Lesley's supervision is that she is like the banks that hold the water of the river - starting from a riverlet, helping to direct the water (me the student) in ways that are most effective, building up momentum and volume over time to reach the sea (the final PhD submission). Lesley holds the space for my growth and development while guiding me in how to manage and complete my project in the most effective way."

Carmine Gentile

"Carmine perfectly balances his relationship with all his students. He never expects a student to know everything before starting their research study. He

starts his teaching from zero level in order to make students understand everything whereas I have seen other supervisors who directly tell their students that if you have come to this field you should already know every aspect of research before. He never gets angry."

Ben Marais

"When I was having financial problem with my hospital, where I am working for Ben emailed to the hospital personnel and tried to communicate with them. He is doing his best to resolve the problem in a reasonable way for me. Ben has closely supervised me during the course of my studies and provided ongoing inspiration and intellectual guidance. Apart from academic supervision, I have been learning from him an optimistic spirit, serious working attitude and friendly relationship with colleagues. I always see PhD as an efficient and incredible journey in my life since I am having a great supervisor, who I believe will continue support me beyond this PhD."

Rachael Morton

"In addition to all the support, encouragement and intellect that she provides, Rachael has built a comprehensive research network which she willingly shares with her students. Rachael always prioritises her PhD students, has a listening ear and provides sound advice. Her skills in questioning and encouraging her students to think outside the box and problem solve is exemplary. She values work-life balance and encourages personal well-being, in turn, leading to improved productivity and a strong mutually beneficial student supervisor relationship."

Julie Redfern

"Throughout my candidature, Julie has not only provided mentorship, but a collaborative and friendly team environment for students to flourish. Julie motivates her team to work together to solve problems and achieve goals."

However, she also makes us feel comfortable to work independently. She challenges us to leave our comfort zone, as it is the best way to learn and grow and pushes us to strive for greatness. Moreover, she makes a point to congratulate us on successes, big or small, with her classic 'Well done!'."

Cathie Sherrington

"I recently was experiencing an issue at work and went to Cathie for advice. Cathie listened to my concerns without judgment and gave me the encouragement and confidence to raise and discuss the issue with my colleagues. I have always felt comfortable and in discussing them knowing that Cathie will listen, support and assist me in finding solutions to manage and overcome them. Cathie's positivity and caring nature are what motivate me to keep persisting even when I'm feeling overwhelmed. She is an amazing role model to have as a supervisor and for other women in research. "

Rachel Skinner

"Rachel always respects my ideas in the research and supports any new opinion that I tell her. She has given a lot of her time in developing my interview technique with volunteer parents. She recorded the interviews and taught me ways to continue to do deep interview with open questions, and then sent some of my transcriptions to an experienced translator to check my translation. I appreciate her thorough approach. My supervisor gave me some books which help me to understand my topic and research, and patiently explained the method that I will follow in my research. She is supportive, polite, intelligent and respectful. She has supported me and other students all her students love her."

School of Dentistry

Michelle Irving

"I hadn't originally thought of pursuing a PhD, but was encouraged by Michelle to think about it. She never made any judgements, but was very supportive in any decision that I made. I appreciate her support from the beginning and up to my current phase in my studies. Michelle has actively arranged for her PhD students to be able to attend the Chronic Kidney Disease research meetings, which have been very helpful. She has been proactive in connecting her current students with other teams that she is affiliated with. Michelle is very helpful for thinking outside of the box."

School of Pharmacy

Rebekah Moles

"Whenever I achieve a major milestone, such as getting a paper accepted for publication or completing a first draft, Rebekah either tells me in person or via email to celebrate and make sure that I give myself some downtime. At the beginning of this year I was feeling really overwhelmed and having a lot of trouble recruiting participants for one of my studies. Rebekah was on leave when I called her but she straight away set aside a whole day and made a plan of attack for us to go and complete recruitment together. We spent a full working day in 40 degree heat in January walking about the CBD to recruit participants for this study and it worked."

Sydney School of Nursing and Midwifery

Jacqueline Bloomfield

"Despite the fact that her position requires a lot of travel throughout the year, she always joins my supervisory meetings either via Zoom or in person. In every meeting, Jacqueline asks about my study progress, baby, carer arrangement, psychological well-being and my work. Jacqueline always responds to my emails within 24 hours. There was a time when I felt a bit stressed due to work issues. She came to visit my workplace and chatted

with my line manager to gain more understanding about the nature of my work. Although my workplace is far from the university campus she made time to come and visit me. I felt she really cares about me and tries to make things better for me always.”

Kate Curtis

“Feedback from Kate is always timely and helpful. Kate is forever openly sharing new information/research that she has come across that may be relevant. Recently Kate attended a workshop in London that I had been unable to attend. She was able to highlight to me the relevant ideas and research that she knew I would be able to use for my own research. Despite attending for her own research Kate was willing to share both the knowledge from the course and her time with me. Kate is across all new contributions and journals that relate to our research. “

Faculty of Science

Lamiaie Azizi

“I was completing an internship 6 months in Tokyo and Lamiae still manages to find time to have weekly meetings with me to ensure that I am on track with my research, even if she is travelling to visit other labs and conferences in other countries. Lamiae is very critical in providing feedback to my work. Lamiae is very hands on and actively steps through every detail of my work, including, mathematics, code and documents that I have written. I have found very few supervisors are willing to find time to provide this close supports for their students.”

Ben Colagiuri

“Ben has the remarkable gift of being able to provide thorough and constructive feedback in an expedited manner. Feedback always considers the immediate work in question but in the context of the bigger picture. Recently while putting together an abstract for a paper with mixed results that I was having trouble making sense of, he encouraged me to think about what the biggest contribution of the study was, not only to the literature but to my thesis. This feedback has given me the confidence to proudly showcase my findings for the important contribution they make to the field.”

Muirean Irish

“I chose to move to Australia to work with my supervisor as, beyond her expertise as an emerging scientist, I had come across her vehement support for gender and racial equality in science. Through all the international collaborations that I have been part of, I have learnt that these values do not always come by, even in senior researchers, making me even more grateful for the experience I have had working with her. My supervisor has always treated me as a scientist, rather than a student, and provided me with enormous support and opportunities, with a keen interest in seeing me grow into a professional scientist and a well-rounded person.”

Ilona Juraskova

“With her supervisory expertise and foresight, Ilona recognised the need to invest in building my academic profile whilst still a PhD student. Her efforts were instrumental in supporting my transition to a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Ilona convinced me to submit my manuscript to a journal with a higher impact factor because she truly believed that my research deserved more recognition. Twenty minutes with her is equivalent to hours with supervisors I have had in the past. Time with her is of the highest quality and packed with helpful information, encouragement, and guidance. Ilona cares deeply about her students and not just in the academic sense. She is a cheerleader when she needs to be, a critic when helpful, a confidant when needed, a sounding board when uncertain, and a guide when lost.”

Barnaby Norris

"Barnaby has an open-door policy so we can see him any time otherwise he can always be reached by email. Barnaby has been great with accommodating me as a part time student, with all these challenges which include working odd hours and working from home. He always makes good corrections and suggestions and points us in the right direction without doing the work for us, but he also doesn't just throw us in the deep end. He makes sure we have everything (skills, equipment and resources) to do our work. The first thing Barnaby asks us is how we are going before he asks about work which makes us feel like he cares more about our wellbeing than our work."

Peter Rutledge

"I told Peter that I wanted to learn a lot of new technologies at the beginning of this year, and a few months later, he offered me a chance to go to Australian synchrotron in Melbourne to learn and use small angle X-ray scattering machine there for study protein aggregation pattern with the inhibitor we made. Peter is a very professional, patient, kind and helpful supervisor. He is very supportive in not only our academic life but also our daily life. He never pushes us a lot, and always have Wednesday morning tea and Friday beer party with us."

School of Life and Environmental Sciences

Madeleine Beekman

"Madeleine ALWAYS responds to your emails, and usually within an hour if not within a few minutes. Her show of faith and support has meant a lot to me,

and meant I never doubted that she wanted me to succeed and would be there to support me when things weren't working out. She supports all her students to the best of her ability, is always there to talk to and get advice from, often sacrificing her own (extremely valuable) time to help out her students. From talking to other PhD students, Madeleine goes above and beyond most supervisors

Peter Groves

"Peter's feedback has been timely, concise and easy to understand. I had 'hit a brick wall' with my research and Peter directed me to the right area of expertise. He has expedited the provision of a desk space and a laptop and also assisted me in my current job, providing the right knowledge and advice."

Dieter Hochuli

"If something is not clear I have many opportunities to ask Dieter for clarification, both within our regular meetings and also by follow-up email or phone calls. This was especially helpful in the early stages of my PhD, when I was still trying to define and delimit my study area and was often taken by tangential interests. His feedback was also instrumental in my winning several grants in the early stages of my PhD as the applications required a clear and succinct vision of the aims and scope of my project which he helped me refine."

Edward Holmes

"One thing that is great about doing a PhD with Eddie is that whenever you go to him with new data or results, he is really genuinely excited. The enthusiasm he demonstrates for each individual project that he supervises is amazing, and I think it helps provide a great environment to work in. Eddie is well respected by all of the PhD students and postdocs in our lab. He is

incredibly busy, yet manages to make time for all of us. Most importantly, a number of us have been through very difficult personal situations during our PhDs, and we have all felt very supported by Eddie."

Pauline Ross

"Pauline always added track changes to my written work and explained the reasons behind her comments and corrections. She played a pivotal role in my life by supporting my requests to maintain my PhD scholarship from my home country during my candidature and also on the process of applying and receiving a Faculty of Science International Fee Scholarship to finalize the writing of my thesis."

Peter Thomson

"Peter has been supervising students at the University of Sydney for many years. His kind and caring approach to mentoring and guiding students through their PhD makes him highly respected amongst students and staff that know him. He encourages his students to maintain a good work/life balance. Peter always makes sure that he gets comments on drafts and helps with research problems quickly. He also keeps a track of his students' progress to assist them with time management to ensure that they hand in on time."

School of Veterinary Science

Navneet Dhand

"Navneet is consistently, exclusively and tirelessly a provider of positive and constructive guidance on both technical and theoretical challenges of research and on the complex tapestry of balancing years of postgraduate research with personal and family life. Navneet always prioritized the career progression of his students - offering all opportunities to them to sing for

themselves and open doors to progress their careers - in Science this is both a rarity today and an invaluable to the culture of our field."

supervisors and students with professionalism and confidentiality when required. The guidance she has provided in 2019 extends beyond support regarding the thesis. This includes but is not limited to: career advice, logistical support and ensuring students are aware of any potential opportunities.

Notably, she always has time for any student that approaches her and has made higher degree research students a priority regardless of imminent grant applications, teaching commitments and during busy periods. She not only encourages academic excellence but emphasises the important subject matter of mental health. She also introduces every new higher degree research student to current students and makes them feel welcome in our discipline.

With the inevitable speed bumps that occur throughout a PhD process, I was always confident in the outcome with Rhonda on my side. Alleviating concerns for program transfers and moving from a full - time position to part time, any and all administrative stresses were all alleviated with her competent and timely responses and care for the student's progression. I know I am not the only student to have experienced the support and interest that Rhonda has for the postgraduate students in her field, and I feel grateful to be able to nominate her for this award as a small act of thanks for her service to us, her students.

Faculty of Medicine and Health – Centenary Institute

Mark Gorrell

Nominated by Helen Vidot

I am a part-time PhD candidate and Mark has been my research co-ordinator for 8 years.

Throughout my candidature Mark has been a very supportive

Prior to fully stepping into the role, Professor Celestine sent through a survey to HDR candidates regarding current and desired postgraduate activities within the department. This was then discussed within a meeting which sought inclusive participation in developing and planning the activities for the year ahead.

For the seminar programme each year, Professor Celestine was always conscious of timing and respect for the way people reconcile personal and professional life. The seminars were run at different times to meet diverse needs. The seminar themes and presentations always sought to be relevant, inspiring, and were always well planned and communicated in advance.

In collaboration with HDR candidates, Professor Celestine helped to implement a 'Sociology and Social Policy mentoring scheme', which sought to connect senior students to act as mentors to incoming students. Throughout her term, Professor Celestine consistently sent through information on tutoring and research assistant job opportunities; research skills training (library sessions, Nivo – including helping to set up specific Nivo training sessions); conferences, seminars, and events within and outside the University; grant and scholarship opportunities; research travel opportunities; and congratulatory emails to recognise achievements.

Thank you for all the support and kindness that you have given to the HDR cohort, and to myself personally, over the last two-and-a-half years as the postgraduate coordinator in our department. You have always provided us with much needed encouragement, and you have always been attentive to our needs as budding academics. I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work and care!

Faculty of Health Sciences – Discipline of Exercise and Sports Science

Rhonda Orr

Postgraduate Research Coordinator of the Year Awards 2019



