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Supervisor of the Year

2020

# **Finalists**

This has been a most challenging year for everyone. We invited University of Sydney higher degree by research students to nominate outstanding supervisors for the award of SUPRA Supervisor of the Year 2020.

Our student judging panel chose 85 finalists, representing eight faculties and schools.

**School of Architecture, Design and Planning**

# Naseem Ahmadpour – nominated by Dorian Peters and Karen Cochrane

When I discovered a publication opportunity with a very tight deadline, Naseem returned valuable feedback on a paper within 2 days. Her feedback is always extremely timely and helpful - even during recent times of incredible pressure from emergency online teaching. I feel like I can approach Naseem with any problem, research or personal, that may impact on my research progress in some way. Although there are several thousands of miles between us, Naseem's accessibility, approachability, flexibility, and commitment has meant that I feel my experience has been second to none and I strongly support her for supervisor of the year.

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

# Tim Allender – nominated by Meenakshi Krishnaraj and Stella Wang

Even while my supervisor was in India for his research, he would always reply to my emails within a day or two. He takes the time and effort to provide detailed replies where possible over email, or schedules a zoom call (due to Covid) to respond to significant questions or issues with my research. My supervisor has always read my entire draft and usually provides me with both written feedback for the draft directly and a verbal discussion on how I can improve. The clarity of his feedback enabled me to complete my research proposal and pass my probationary period 9 months.

# Mark Byron – nominated by Cecily Niumeitolu and Jessica Masters

When I was set to present my departmental seminar paper around April last year I had put so much pressure on myself that I emailed my paper to him in the early hours of the morning the day of. He had been waiting up for me way past midnight to help me finesse my work. I had such high anxiety that I wanted to pull out. I went to his office an hour before the actual seminar, and he helped me gather my thoughts. This is the kind of supervisor Mark is. We went in, gave the joint lecture and the reception of the papers was positive, receiving useful feedback from the audience.

# Fran Collyer nominated by Greta Werner & Weiyi Hu & Qiuxian Cheng

My thinking and writing has improved significantly in a relatively short period of time due to her regular, fast and detailed feedback. She has encouraged me to make contacts in my field by presenting my work in various forums. My supervisor has always been helpful in preparing me for a possible career in academia. She offered me a research assistant position during the first few months of my candidature. Additionally, throughout the years, I have had quite a few opportunities to travel with my supervisor for national conferences. During these conferences, my supervisor would always introduce me to her connections.

# Mark Colyvan – nominated by Monica Marshall and Nathanial Gan

Throughout my degree, I have had to engage in paid work and this has been quite difficult at time to juggle. Mark has always been very understanding. I feel very comfortable talking to Mark. One particular instance was when I was unsure about my candidacy and he allowed me to have 6 months off from the work. I was very grateful for that space and his patience.

# David Evans – nominated by Corinna Goddard & Sumali Kuruppu Achchige & Nora Alharthi

David is so incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to inclusive education, and literacy. David is methodical when it comes to feedback - no missing comma or unitalicized word will go unnoticed in a reference list! When I was contemplating the theoretical framework for my PhD project, David suggested the most useful references that captured exactly the kind of thinking I had rambled about to him. When there was a fire in my accommodation and it was a challenging situation. I communicated with my supervisor about that horrible situation and it really helped me to relax. He understands my situation and gave me opportunity to spend time with my daughter during the school holidays and to take care of myself.

# Ruth Phillips – nominated by Tanja Dittfeld and Bernard Boema

Ruth is a feminist powerhouse of knowledge. As a queer woman, I recently went to an event for queer women and I was met with femme-erasure and unexpected levels of homonormativity in response to my gender expression. I shared this disappointing and frustrating experience with my supervisor, and in addition to listening and discussing the event with me, she later forwarded to me a very relevant article. This to me displays her ability and willingness for deep listening, her empathy and her continued engagement with my issue(s). As my PhD involves fieldwork in a high-risk country with a particularly vulnerable group, my ethics application process was rather long and tedious. Nevertheless, Ruth’s support of my research and intended fieldwork never wavered.

# Antonia Rubino – nominated by Talia Walker and Daniela Panico

When Antonia found out that I continue to work after eating dinner each night and that I don’t take days off on the weekend, she was concerned, insisting that I must take some time off or I would run the risk of exhausting myself. Since that time, every email she sends me on a Friday ends with some form of ‘relax this weekend’ or ‘make sure to take a break’ Most recently, she recommended me for a role as a research assistant on the Culture Wells Project, run through the School of Literature, Arts and Media and the Sydney Policy Lab. In this role, I was able to work with academics across various disciplines as well as non-academics, thereby allowing me to improve my abilities in multidisciplinary research and communicating research to various audiences.

# Laura Shepherd– nominated by Doris Asante and Caitlin Hamilton

My supervisor has made herself available to me regularly. While overseas for fieldwork my supervisor made the effort to maintain regular communication with me, provided feedback on work that I had sent her, and a day after returning to Sydney, she flew to another state to support me at my first conference presentation as a PhD student. She has maintained this support since completing my first year, as she continues to provide fortnightly supervision and in between supervision periods, responds to any questions and queries that I may have about my research.

# Jim Tognolini– nominated by Shafiza Mohamed & Kuliga Tanasavate & Abdulah Alzhrany

Professor Jim is always kind and considerate to me as a busy mother and a young researcher. He is quick to respond to my questions as well as to my silly arguments. His feedback to my writing is always carefully done, he never misses little details. He runs a series of seminars every fortnight since the coronavirus outbreak. He invited many experts across the world for knowledge sharing. I never imagined that I would have travelled around the world to reach these experts, virtually. Once I arrived in Australia, Prof. Jim understood how difficult it was to be in a foreign country and starting PhD journey. He gave me an opportunity to organize my social life in order to focus on educational tasks. He believes that being successful in home is an important factor for being successful in school.

# Thom van Dooren– nominated by Jamie Wang and Samuel Widen

The final year of the PhD is never meant to be easy. In the past few months, Thom has committed to ensuring that I am well supported from all aspects. He regularly checked in on me through email and zoom, listened to my various kinds of challenges patiently and responded thoughtfully. Some of my obstacles are research-related while others are difficulties in life in general as we learn to live with COVID-19. During our zoom sessions, not once had he made me feel that I was taking too much of his time or discussing issues that were not directly related to my research. The genuine care from my supervisor, who probably has a fuller grasp of my challenges in completing the thesis, provides a kind of unique and important comfort and support.

# Helen Watt– nominated by Lili Toh and Jake Little

Helen is always quick to respond to my emails and made her personal phone number available to me in case of emergencies. She usually gives feedback on my drafts in a very timely manner (in a few days or sometimes on the same day). This last year my permanent residency visa was delayed. This meant I had to pay international tuition fees and was not able to access my full scholarship payment (which was taxed on top). It was one of the biggest stressors at the start of my candidature and when I told her about this, she immediately sent out emails to the HDR admin staff on what can be done. She also wasted no time recruiting me as a casual research assistant. Helen is a well-rounded mentor that gives great advice on my research (and career pathway) and puts me as a person first.

# Thomas Wilkins– nominated by Jiye Kim and Grabriele Abbondanza

Thomas was always reachable and provides the best support not only in regard to my professional development but also my wellbeing and work-life balance. He carefully offers his help for any requests I raise and this is a great support! He is super careful, concise and very, very (!) specific when it comes to his feedback to my research, and always tries to understand the particular research portfolio I am developing and gives me the most "optimal" advice to make my research better to achieve goals set by myself. Such an amazing supervision!

**Business School**

# Michael Bell – nominated by Kam Fung Cheung and Shengda Zhu

Michael is always available as long as I need help, with research or a personal issue. He regularly organizes activities such as hiking and dinners which are useful to his students for getting together socially. He always replies me via emails or phone calls within 30 minutes and his communication is very clear. He always helps me solve my doubts in research including methodology, literature review, etc. He is respectful and interested in my wellbeing.

# Andreas Rauch– nominated by Macarena Tabilo and Afreen Choudhury

Prof. Rauch was incredibly supportive during my thesis defence process. I went through almost 3 rounds of comments, some of which were very harsh and really affected me at a personal level. His support was crucial to me to complete this milestone successfully; he made himself available to respond my questions, patiently listened to my concerns and offered invaluable guidance to continue with my research.

# Betina Szkudlarek– nominated by Eun Su Lee and Priya Roy

When Betina is too busy, she would leave me a quick message via whatsapp to give feedback on my work. One particular paper has gone through several revisions and is currently under review with a high level journal. I don't believe it would have been possible, without Betina who guided me through the development of theoretical contribution. I struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic as I had my marriage planned in Korea. Due to the travel ban, we ended up having 5 people and marrying in Sydney. Betina has been very supportive mentally through this period and I sincerely appreciate how she cares about me beyond my research.

# Barney Tan– nominated by Pryadharshini Muthukannan & Cheuk Hang & Xuetao Wang

My supervisor assisted me in getting access to a case organisation on which I was planning to conduct my research. His willingness to help facilitated seamless data collection on site. Barney is a very respectful, well-tempered supervisor who has shown a high level of care in my research, wellbeing and life balance. On top, he occasionally arranges dining-out and short tours for us, and emphasize play hard, work hard. When we are discussing a possible theoretical model to address our interested phenomenon, he can always illustrate very visionary ideas and theoretical lens and bring our thoughts to the next level. I am also extremely amazed that he can quote a relevant paper very quickly from his mind without much search. It facilitates not only my development of literature review and theoretical model, but also my research skills in long term given I can apply his teaching in the future.

# Jingyu (Gracy) Yang– nominated by Liang Wen and Wei Liu

Gracy treats us as co-workers, she is the instructor and companion of us. She always says that we are in a team. 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. Gracy gives me feedback right away during every meeting. For our current working project, I was stuck on the construction of choosing different types of the distance measurements. Gracy stared at my programming code carefully and then showed me several related articles. She suggested an alternative regression model, which has been neglected by many. Shortly after I left her office, I independently developed a satisfactory model to be used in our research project.

# Ulku Yuksel– nominated by Oliver Hannon and Hosei Hemat

Ulku understands my personal commitments to family etc. and is very supportive of my work-life balance. Ulku's understanding of the literature and our area of research is beyond impressive to me. She knows exactly the direction I want to take my research and is proactive in helping me find appropriate resources. I have never met a more supportive and open academic in my time at university, and one more helpful at both my educational endeavours, but also personal matters. Ulku has gone above and beyond what I expected from a mentor already and has helped me in a time of true crisis on a personal and academic level. I never imagined having a supervisor who would be so helpful on so many fronts.

**Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

# James Humberstone– nominated by Brad Fuller & Robert Cannon & Caitlin Sandiford

I was massively overworked and sad during the Covid lockdown period. James was in regular contact throughout that period even though I wasn't producing anything. James provided some excellent feedback on part of my literature review, and from the ensuing discussion, I was able to turn part of my analysis into a paper presentation proposal that was accepted at a significant European conference in early 2020. James has provided me with the incredible opportunity to co-author a conference paper and subsequent book chapter. This opportunity is transformative in my development as a researcher, as well as professional in my field.

**Faculty of Engineering**

# Daniel Dias -Da-Costa– nominated by Marcelo de Rezende Carvalho and Milad Bybordiani

I remember when I was struggling for quite some time with my computational code, working for long hours without being able to solve the problem, but Daniel didn’t lose faith in me. He would acknowledge all I have done so far, and that lifted me up. He also advised me to avoid peaks of workload and allow myself to take some time to relax from work and clear my mind. Such precious advice helped me to overcome stress and anxiety. As a result, I could have my eureka moment, and we celebrated together. Also, he would give crucial feedback regarding my research output and results, which kept my efforts always in the right direction without derailing from my main goals. Once I had a problem with my daughter's visa. He gave me a support letter for the department of home affairs to help me get a new visa for my daughter.

# Alan Fekete– nominated by Chenhao Huang and Harshana Randenikadupitige

I can always walk in and have a chat. We also hold more formal meetings with the supervisory team and other collaborators. During the pandemic we also use Skype, Zoom, etc to talk. In general, he is always available to me and put me / my work at very high priority. Alan always encourages me to find internships, where I can apply what I have learned to real world problems, and building up connections. He also pushes me to attend top conference, and doing some volunteer work in those conferences, which helps me to get to know the community. I was stuck at a research problem for quite a while at the beginning of the candidature. Alan encouraged me not to give up. We worked together, as well as some other collaborators, to solve the problem.

# David Fletcher– nominated by Xinying Liu and Aeryne Lee

At the start of Covid-19, I started working from home and I was not used to it. At the same time, my project got stuck and it had been delayed for three months. David arranged meetings to guide me through and we met almost every day for two weeks. With his help, I was able to get back to the right track of my project and I am extremely thankful for his time and effort during that period. David registered extra training sessions for me, helped to apply for my top up scholarship and always keeps an eye on exchange/conference opportunities for me. He found extra collaboration opportunities for me which further develop my research skills.

# Irena Koprinska– nominated by Yang Yang and Yang Gao

In July I had two surgeries and my supervisor inquired about post-operation nursing knowledge to help me properly do personal self-care at home. My supervisor always cares about my wellbeing. Because of the heavy teaching work, she often worked with me after working hours and on weekends and holidays to review my paper, teach and help me to improve research and paper quality. She is wise, her feedback on my ideas and papers always improve the quality of my research contribution and paper presentation; and she can always find a suitable place for publication so that all of our papers (4 papers) have been accepted within 1.5 years.

# Emily Moylan– nominated by Tek Kean and Tingsen (Tim) Xian

As I grew as a capable PhD candidate, Emily provided me with feedback that helps me to juggle ups and downs during the busy work and study life and inspired me to never giving up asking question. When I asked how I could speed up the process of getting something done, she smiled and said, All you should do is enjoy the process of finding the answer to every question and question yourself again. This is the beauty of research study. There was a time when my research has gone almost side-tracked which was not answering the research question, Emily has quickly picked it up and guided me to the focused direction.

# Simon Ringer– nominated by Majid Parvisi & Brian Lim & Zijian Yu & Qi Wang & Huma Bilal & William Davids

I had a family problem last year and Simon was fully supportive and gave me some advice to solve the problem. He also has the sources and people who can help to solve research problems quickly. He encourages us to go to different conferences to learn and make a connection with the people who may help us to have a better view of doing our research. Since I am trapped in China due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, my supervisor sent emails to me frequently to make sure that I and my family members are in good health. And when I applied for an annual leave as my grandfather was diagnosed with bone cancer, he kindly approved and asked me to spend more time with my grandfather.

# Jeremy (Jing) Qiu– nominated by Jiawei Zhang and Yinyan Liu

During the COVID pandemic and city lockdown Dr. Qiu set up a group meeting to check students and their family wellbeing and help students overcome the pressure from work and pressure. Last time when I answered the reviewer's question for a peer-review publication, my supervisor helped me to better understand the reviewer's comments and taught me how to answer the question with the key points. The paper gets finally published under Dr.Qiu's guidance. Dr. Qiu helped me a lot in terms of reviewing the latest research outcomes and publications from the top research groups in our research field.

# Gregor Verbic– nominated by Jaysson Guerrero and Zahra Rahimpour

I felt that I was stuck many times, especially during my first year. Gregor always was willing to have a chat and try to find the best way to continue with the research project. I suffered two injuries during my studies. At those times, my supervisor gave me all the support to continue with my research and he was asking many times about how I was and if I felt better. During our weekly meetings, we discussed many topics that help me to catch some interesting ideas. Moreover, he guided me to get the best ideas for my project.

# Dianne E Wiley– nominated by Maryam Azhar and Gustavo Weis

Early on in my PhD, while I was exploring my research gap, and I suggested a topic, she pointed out that it may drift in a direction not aligned with my research interests. Following her advice, I chose another topic, which I have found very interesting, and expect to get some publications out of it as well. She encouraged me to participate in the Chemeca 2019 conference where I presented a poster. She has also supported me in enrolling in the Carbon capture and storage summer school to be held in Indonesia next year. These are some examples of her willingness to present me with opportunities which would enhance my knowledge during my candidature.

# Dong Yuan– nominated by Zao Zhang and Zhongzheng Lai

Although I was remote enrolled due to COVID-19, my supervisor still have a meeting weekly with me. When I was confused about how to choose a research direction, my supervisor can give me many possible choices and let me decide what to do. He helped me check my literature review and any paper carefully. He helped me to find any eligible scholarship to apply.

# Chang Xu– nominated by Minjing Dong and Shuo Yang

In last July, I went to Macau to present my first-authored paper accepted by International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence. Dr Xu introduced other researchers to me and encouraged me to network with peers in the field for my career development. Dr Xu is filled with knowledge and can answer any question a student may ask. He is extremely passionate about the research and passing wisdom to his students. He is confident, not afraid of making mistakes and admits to them, and most importantly communicates appropriately. Dr Xu gets to know his students, is highly interested in each individual and always keeps a friendly relationship with his students.

**Sydney Law School**

# Judy Cashmore– nominated by Pei Kong and Betty Luu

Judy checks on me in person and asks about my sleep/exercise regime without being intrusive. We have undertaken walking meetings to ensure that we are not at our desks and getting exercise. She debriefs with me following my interviews with research participants/ meetings with stakeholders and encourages me to engage in reflective practice. My research is on child protection matters and court file reviews of some challenging cases- and she always ensures that I am not bringing home any of these burdens that I might be reading about through case files or horrific family or abuse histories. On nights that we finish research work late, she will email or text to ensure that I am home and safe.

**Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences**

# Seye Abimbola– nominated by Jodie Bailie and Elliot Brennan

I live in a rural area (Lismore, NSW) and from time to time I organise travel to Sydney to spend time meeting with Supervisors in person. Seye has been quick to respond in preparing for this travel and we have always managed to find mutually agreeable times for me to travel to Sydney. The other notable characteristic of Seye is that he is genuinely available when we meet ie focused on providing the support required rather than being rushed, checking emails etc. The other aspect I have appreciated is the time Seye takes to discuss the manuscripts with me and helping me to see the link and relevance. These conversations are interesting, informative but also I feel safe in these discussions to ask questions and clarifications. I recently had to take a break from work due to caring responsibilities and COVID and Seye was more than understanding of my need to place on-hold the manuscript we were working on until I was ready to pick it back up again. Seye inspires and motivates me.

# Natalie Allen– nominated by Allyson Flynn & Lina Goh & Vanessa Nguyen

I had a personal issue last year and I had to take several months off my candidature for carer responsibilities. It was an incredibly stressful period for me as I was in the middle of running a pilot trial, completing my systematic review, and working. Natalie reassured me that the priority is my personal wellbeing and checked in on me regularly. It was important to me for my supervisor to see beyond my role as a student and a researcher. When I started my PhD I realized that I needed to improve my writing skills as I found academic writing extremely difficult. After approximately two months trying to write a report I still had not sent it to Natalie. Natalie took the time to discuss and explain to me the importance of feedback, how she needed to see my work to provide feedback and that receiving feedback is an important aspect of being a PhD student. Having this conversation gave me the confidence to send my written work to Natalie for feedback. When I received the feedback, it was extremely helpful and a positive experience.

# Betty Chaar– nominated by Leen Fino and Sami Isaac

I recently conducted an online study which is based in Jordan. With the 7-hour time difference we had to be available online for 2 hours late at night (for 4 weeks). Betty made sure she was available with me all the time. The COVID 19 pandemic was not easy on me as an international student living here by myself. Betty regularly checked on me and delivered food and emotional support when I was not at my best. My supervisor always suggests HDR workshops that might benefit me and encourages my participation in conferences and competitions. She offered me tutoring opportunities as she is aware of my passion for teaching.

# Rachel Codd– nominated by Lukas Roth and Kate Nolan

I was recently writing my first journal article and Rachel was unfailingly accessible throughout the writing process with thoughtful insight and guidance. Rachel recently came across a course at USyd, which is tangentially related to work I used to do in global health, which I remain very interested in. She researched the course and then asked whether I would be interested in her reaching out to the course coordinator about potentially guest lecturing or supporting delivery of the course. As a consequence of this, I will be recording a podcast with the course coordinator that will become part of one of the course modules. I'm extremely excited for this opportunity.

# Rachael Cordina– nominated by Derek Tran and Charlotte Verrall

Rachael always provides detailed feedback on my work swiftly (almost always within 24 hours). Not only will I receive detailed comments and tracked changes, but we will also always discuss any feedback in person or over the phone. During the preparation for my oral presentation for the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, she organised a department practice session and provided constructive and helpful feedback. This feedback and practice session increased my confidence and allowed me to improve my presentation, and as a result, I won the young investigators award in 2019. Rachael is a kind, understanding, caring and approachable supervisor.

# Russell Dale– nominated by Shrujna Patel and Hannah Jones

During a meeting about the structure of my thesis, Russell explained the reasoning behind his suggestions, enabling me to understand his thought process. We were able to agree on a final outline fairly quickly, and I was able to start writing as the time crunch was stressing me out. He also made me feel like the process was collaborative and he respected my vision for my thesis, rather than telling me what to do. Russell often invited me to meetings with higher level academics where collaboration ideas were being work-shopped. Although I was a student and did not have as much to contribute, Russell insisted I join as it would help me develop my research ideas and collaborative options. Whenever I talk to Russell, I always feel like his passion for science and discovery is contagious.

# Carolyn Day– nominated by Sharon Reid and Daniel Winter

As my PhD became very close Carolyn provided rapid feedback - sometimes within the hour and always within 1 day. Her feedback was critical in enabling me to complete my degree. Carolyn has extensive knowledge of my PhD field and provided many opportunities for me to identify and access resources and networks that enhanced my PhD. I faced numerous personal and professional challenges throughout my PhD. Carolyn was always readily available, empathetic, and would help me navigate the problems and develop plans to help me manage the issue and work out resolutions.

# Elisabeth Dylke– nominated by Qamra Muaikel Alqahtani and Catalina Llanos

Although Liz was overseas on her annual leave during my APR, she emailed me and supported me on the night before my oral presentation, and I felt that she was with me all the time. I'm an international student and Liz helped me to commence my candidature at the beginning of the year so my daughter did not miss enrolment at her school. Liz helped me overcome homesickness and anxiety in the first months of my candidature. She is a role model, and I learnt from her how to care about my mental health and my family and keep motivated and productive in my study. I'm learning how to enjoy the journey of my PhD because of Liz's passion, generous support and continuous feedback. We are a good team.

# Kate Edwards– nominated by Gandhar Mandlik and Erika Goldbaum

In the first 2 months of my candidature I had to go through a change in supervisor process. But Dr Kate helped me, supported me and took the responsibility of primary supervisor for me. I feel the prompt action and support provided by Dr Kate helped me recover very very fast and possibly avoided the mental disturbance. I got an approval from ethics for my first study, the ethics application for the second is ready and we are writing a systematic review together which is almost ready as well. I think if the feedback from Dr Kate was not on time, I could not have done all this writing within last 5 months. When I had to make changes in the questionnaire of my survey, I sent an email to Dr Kate at 12.30 pm. Instead of replying, she asked me to meet her during her lunch time.

# Paulo Ferreira– nominated by Emma Ho and Carlos Mesa Castrillon

I have never experienced a situation where I haven't been able to contact Prof Ferreira, as he updates his students on his working location and schedule frequently. He has also facilitated a culture where he is happy for me to visit his office and have a quick chat - this is a rare trait that has made my candidature very enjoyable and made me feel very supported throughout. He frequently encourages our research group to engage in physical activities and social activities both individually and together. He plays tennis regularly with a fellow student and has initiated conversations with the group about holding a sports day (of course, we will let him win). He always ensures that we celebrate birthdays as well as milestone achievements within the group.

# Robyn Gallagher– nominated by Dion Candelaria and Angus Davis

Robyn always checks in about our overall well-being and mental health before each supervision meeting. She also runs a journal club where we get support from peers and senior members of her team. For a literature review that I needed to submit as part of my studies. she provided regular feedback until the due date and the piece of work received a high distinction grade My supervisor encouraged me to submit abstracts to conferences which I was accepted for and able to present at which assisted me in my professional development.

# Carmine Gentile– nominated by Christopher Roche and Poonam Sharma

Dr Gentile went on holiday last year and I needed him on several occasions to guide me over the phone with my lab work and he did this from the Philippines on Whatsapp. Whenever we have a presentation coming up, he drops everything to put in loads of his own time to get us up to the best standard possible. He also attends the lectures we give and attends funding presentations out of hours to support us which he does not have to do. For Poonam Sharma, he went to Newcastle from Sydney on a Saturday to be present for her first year milestone check presentation. He clearly has a great loyalty to his students and part of his team building skill has been to create a team environment where he supports his students no matter what.

# Timothy Gill– nominated by Divya Ramachandran and Alyssa Susanto

I am a full-time PhD student, but also have family responsibilities, and care for my primary school-aged daughter. I experienced difficulties with managing my time. Moving homes also caused me to give up casual work opportunities where other supervisors were not open to virtual ways of working. Professor Gill was however, extremely supportive, and permitted me to pursue both my PhD as well as do casual work while working-fully-from-home and travelling to University only if absolutely necessary. We have zoom meetings. This has been done without compromising quality of supervision or attention to my research.

# Nicola Hancock– nominated by Karen Wells and Debra Hamilton

(Student 1) Nicola always gives great feedback that enables me to learn to take initiative. She gives me guidance but in a way that encourages me to think critically about the research and even her own feedback. Both of us agree that Nicola is a fantastic teacher and particularly her capacity to foster independent thoughts while giving guidance and feedback. (Student 2) Nicola has assisted me to develop new and different research skills, for example, she recently asked me to be part of one large national evaluations of mental health services. This opportunity has exposed me to learning about different research methods, undertaking research as part of a team and the chance to see how my lived experience can be of relevant in different settings. Nicola has given me the opportunity to jointly supervise an honours student.

# Anthony Harris– nominated by Taylor Braund and Sabina Rai

When I told Anthony I was having computer issues, he bought me a new work computer immediately. When I told him I didn't have a laptop, but spent over two hours a day traveling to Westmead from the central coast by train, he bought me a laptop. When I told him I was interested in learning a difficult data analysis technique, he sent me inter-state for a week long workshop. When I told him I wanted to get in touch with other leaders in the field, he introduced me. When I told him I wanted to present at an international conference, he sent me. I could continue ad infinitum, but the point is nothing has ever been wanted that hasn't been provided throughout my candidature by Anthony.

# Alison Hayes– nominated by Joe Carello and Anagha Killedar

The research organisation who provides me my scholarship was asking for assistance on another project. Alison was present in my meetings with them and ensured I was reimbursed appropriately for the time required to complete the given project. Alison has assisted me to structure my thesis by publication through identifying gaps in the literature, constantly communicating new research she has found in my chosen field and suggesting ideas for papers. I feel comfortable to share with Alison any problems I am having and she always responds with helpful advice in a very timely manner. If Alison is unable to answer the research questions herself she puts me in contact with the appropriate person and often attends my meetings with them to show support.

# Mayuresh Korgaonkar– nominated by Sabina Rai and Elizabeth Haris

We have weekly meetings every Monday to discuss my progress and how I am coming along with the week's work. When I got neuroimaging results my supervisor helped me to interpret what they meant in relation to the clinical groups and the direction of the relationship. I have learnt so much more about how imaging works and accumulated more knowledge than will serve me after I have finished my PhD.

# Das Ashish Kumar– nominated by Aditi Aiyer and Arthika Manoharan

If we have an issue our supervisor is available via phone, text, or email and will reliably reply almost immediately. When writing and editing, I would send him a copy of my manuscript and he would get back to me with fresh edits literally in a few days (sometimes, even in a couple of hours).He has actively encouraged us to publish our research and has given us amazing advice on our future careers in academia - without which we would be completely lost. For example, what is required when applying for grants as an early career researcher and learning how to submit papers to a journal and the process involved. Honestly, if we could rate him higher than a 5 - we would, because he deserves it.

# Kylie Lee– nominated by Monika Dzidowska and Teagan Weatherall

# As a non-Aboriginal student involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research I came into my PhD with very little cultural and governance knowledge in the area. Kylie has been instrumental in teaching and mentoring me in respectful and appropriate approach to research in this area. She always provides me with feedback on my communications in that light. Kylie’s entire approach to supervision is testimony to her care about my research and wellbeing. We talk weekly about the research plan, likely publications and ideas arising from my analysis. If I have a problem with interpretation of data or synthesising a section of a publication, she very skillfully guides me through the argument via a set of questions and feedback. Kylie makes it a point to invite me to tell her about any personal issues that might be impacting on their research progress and accommodates my personal needs e.g. caring for children, unexpected life events etc. I have never felt that I am just left to fend for myself.

# Meryl Lovarini– nominated by Lauren Christie and Claire Stewart

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, one member of my supervision team was severely affected by the pandemic overseas whilst the third member commenced a period of planned extended leave. During this time, Meryl has shown tremendous leadership and support. As well as being an empathetic team member, providing remote support to my other PhD supervisor during an incredibly difficult time, she has provided myself and her other PhD students with a significant amount of emotional and practical support. This included making herself available for additional meetings and review of work, assisting us with adjusting our work plans in light of COVID 19 and supporting us to continue to progress towards completion of our candidature despite the current challenges.

# Frank Lovicu– nominated by Mary Flokis and Tayler Wishart

This year, I have been struggling with understanding the theoretical and underlying mechanisms of one aspect of my project. On several occasions, I would discuss with Frank my concerns and personal weaknesses and he would provide me with immediate feedback. Frank goes out of his way to explain concepts to me, even if it is repetitive, to make sure that I understand the underlying concept and am happy to continue on with researching complex ideas. On several occasions, by helping me analyse questionable data, Frank has saved me time and provided me with a change in project trajectory to reach a suitable experimental solution.

# Geoffrey Morgan– nominated by Jeff Standen and Darren Mayne

Geoff constantly challenges us to explain to him why we have approached a problem in a particular way, why it is the best option, and to understand the implications of that decision for our research. He is extremely insightful in helping us to identify what is the most important issue in life at the moment which may not always be the research. It may be the need to reflect and attend to personal matters in our lives, thus helping us through the difficult time and sustaining us in the better so that we can focus on all aspects of our lives including our studies. He has supervised and mentored us in life as much as he has in the PhD. Not only is he a brilliant supervisor, but he is also an extremely decent person!

# Kirsten Morley– nominated by Eva Louie and Andrew Baillie

Despite being busy and in high demand, Kirsten is able to make me feel like my work and my needs are a priority. Having had two children during my candidature, I have had to learn how to juggle competing responsibilities. Throughout this time, Kirsten has consistently supported the direction of my research by providing timely, achievable goals. Prior to a conference, Kirsten promoted my interests by suggesting that I do a presentation and guided me through the expectations. When I attended the conference with my five month old son, she sensitively supported me through this milestone - careful not to place too much pressure on me but also communicating that she believed me capable of rising to the challenge.

# Kate O’Loughlin– nominated by Samantha Thomas

As my supervisor is from a sociology background and mine is not, she was able to open my mind up to understanding the process of human behaviour and expose the underlying themes in existing policies which were integral to understanding at a deeper level my research topic. My data analysis was thorough as Kate gave insightful feedback which resulted in meaningful conclusions. My supervisor introduced me to mixed methods research and assisted me in integrating both quantitative and qualitative research to ensure I delivered robust research findings. This was followed with tremendous support and guidance in academic writing, which resulted in the publication of 5 research articles which were used in my PhD thesis. This would never have been possible without Kate and Dr Jillian Clarke's unwavering dedication.

# Susanna Park– nominated by Tiffany Li and Hannah Timmins

Susanna is the most caring and considerate supervisor I can ever imagine there being. Susanna would always sense that I may need her help and takes the initiative to approach me for any questions I may have. Susanna has several PhD students, but is consistently aware of where each one of us is up to. Her ability to give each one of us significant time and attention, despite her heavy research workload speaks very clearly of how much she cares about each one of her students. At Peripheral Nerve Society meeting last year, Susanna introduced me to many international experts in the field, helping me establish meaningful collaborative relationships.

# John Sebastian Eden– nominated by Wei-Shan Chang & Rachel Tulloch & Jessica Agius

Our supervisor always assists us about every problem we faced during our candidature and encourages us to be brave to try. His door is always open and he is happy to have on the go discussions with me regarding any aspect of my research. He challenges my views and work in a way that makes me critically evaluate my own work rather than rely heavily on him for editing. In our recent SARS-CoV2 paper where my first draft lacked cohesion, through a discussion with my supervisor and effectively being given a different perspective, I was able to restructure this paper into a piece I am extremely proud of!

# Alexandra Sharland– nominated by Moumita Paul and Eric Son

My research project involves high-parameter single cell sorting from mice, and by any measure the work is time consuming, tedious, and expensive. Before any major experimental day, Alex always sends a message by text or email to let me know her whereabouts for the day in case I need on-the-spot advice. Indeed, a single cell sorting experiment did go wrong in June, and even though I knew she was in an important committee meeting, I gave her a call. She couldn’t pick it up, but immediately was available through text message to give advice and back me up on my decision on how to proceed with the experiment. Every single time my visa was about to expire, or I faced some sort of visa application hurdle, she was there to provide support and reach out to the right people to solve problems. I can confidently say that everyone in our group is able to talk to Alex anytime about problems, and she will listen and help however she can.

# Natalie Taylor– nominated by April Morrow and Ruth Baxter

Despite leading multiple projects and managing a large research team, Natalie’s feedback is always extremely thoughtful and encouraging. She inspires me every day and I am grateful for her mentorship. As a third year PhD candidate, I recently found myself struggling to manage the demands of research whilst maintaining multiple part-time roles. Feeling overwhelmed and burnt out, Natalie took the time to sit down with me to map out my commitments and identify ways to streamline my workload. She emphasised the importance of work life balance and encouraged me to take a few days off to reset and recharge. As a result, I am more focussed than ever and on track for submission!

# Anne Tiedemann– nominated by Geraldine Wallbank and Amanda Bates

Without judgment, each school holidays Anne checks I can spend enough time with my family, and checks I am staying active and finding time for leisure. I can trust Anne’s sensitivity and down-to-earth perspectives not just through these discussions, but also through her good humour and seeing how she models self-care in her busy role. Whilst designing the intervention for our trial, Anne readily suggested and supported my attendance at workshops not only for information and training, but to provide prospects for networking with other researchers. At one of these workshops, Anne modelled and included me in the formation of a research collaboration, a useful skill that is caught not taught!

# Kate Thomson– nominated by Irene Mok and Rebecca Garnsey

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, Kate invited me to join her 'shut up and write' Zoom sessions with other academics. These sessions helped make my research writing more focused, efficient and effective. Most importantly, these sessions turned writing from a solitary to a social experience and helped me build a sense of community around my writing schedule. Kate's efforts to make herself available to me has done wonders to my writing progress. I got four chapters written up since the start of this pandemic and University campus shutdown and I’m on track to submit my thesis before candidature deadline.

# Adrian Traeger– nominated by Sweekriti Sharma and Mamata Tamrakar

Before my conference presentations Adrian helps me practice and helps me prepare for difficult questions I may get. Doing this has boosted my confidence. He makes sure that he is always there for a moral support during my talks even though he has listened to the same talk several times before. I have now presented in over 10 national and international conferences. All credit goes to Adrian for his guidance and encouragement. PhD life is stressful but having an amazing supervisor like Adrian has made my PhD life fun and interesting.

# Daniela Traini– nominated by Zara Sheikh and Jesse Xu

When my supervisor heard that my mother was not keeping too well, she asked me immediately whether I would like to visit her back home (even though I am an international student) and travelling means going to another country in South-east Asia. She has always been able to read my mind and heart and I respect her from my inner core. My supervisor always encouraged me to go for conferences to expand my ideas of research and that increases the chances of collaboration. She advised me to join IMNIS network and that was a huge platform to share my research where I met industry leaders and got a mentorship for one year from CEO of Brandwood Consultancy which was really helpful and a learning experience.

# Angela Webster– nominated by Zoe Campbell and Victor Khou

Angela is fantastic at pushing when I need to be pushed and stepping back when appropriate. This year there was a point where I thought I would not be able to complete this research. Angela counselled me through providing practical solutions to all of the perceived barriers both in relation to the actual work and the way I manage my workload. She was a particular support during COVID this year, providing advice and a listening ear about ways to survive the lock down and the anxiety created by this. She is particularly good at providing tangible solutions to issues, great or small, not just general generic advice.

# Steven Wise– nominated by Nianji Yang and Bob Lee

During this pandemic, I had my first baby and I also have to finish my thesis by the end of August. My supervisor provided huge support to me and my family and tried to be available anytime when I needed help in thesis writing. In the early stage of my Ph.D., he provided many literatures about this field and we discussed together before we picked the topics. During these 3.5 years, whenever there is an opportunity to present my work, he will fully support me to attend the conference. As an international student, I am really, really, grateful. He is not only supporting me on my Ph.D. research, but also gave me the chance and confidence to settle down in this lovely country. Thank you so much, Steve!

# Paul Young– nominated by Jesse Xu and Zara Sheikh

Paul lets us organise our own timetables and is understanding that problems such as COVID-19 means that we have to be flexible. When I was pursuing a specific material used in 3D-printing due to its mechanical properties, Paul was able to establish that the material was unsuitable for its biocompatibility, something I had not considered at the time. Instead of wasting my time going into a material that would not work, Paul was able to identify the problem early and let me find a workaround before it was too late.

# Qing Zhong– nominated by Zhaoxiang Cai and Yangxiu Wu

Qing has been extraordinarily supportive and caring about my life in addition to my research. When I needed an adjustable laptop stand for working from home to avoid back pain, Qing kindly followed this matter and made sure it was well resolved. Qing also often asked me if I felt happy overall about my research life so far. Before I gave my presentation to all ProCan team, Qing provided many valuable ideas about how to modify the figures so that they could be better understood by people who were unfamiliar with my project. This is really an area I hope to improve. Qing has been actively asking me to get involved with various projects other than my main PhD project, and this has greatly helped me to broaden my knowledge.

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# Margaret Allman-Farinelli– nominated by George Siopis & Alyce Davies & Yumeng Shi & Rebecca Luong & Virginia Chan & Natalya Lukomsky

Although I do not have an expectation of same day response, Margaret always responds within a few hours. I had a paper that got rejected 8 times from different journals. My supervisor always told me that it was a great paper, not to worry and don't take it personally. She was right - it is now published in a high impact journal and I have been approached by other experts in the field to share my findings in an upcoming virtual conference. She is the very caring, inspirational and lovely supervisor any PhD student would wish for. She is always happy to go over our presentations and manuscripts multiple rounds - providing valuable feedback to improve clarity of expression and aspects that I need to elaborate on or need to be prepared to answer questions on. I identified a course that would be very useful to prepare me for my degree. Margaret goes out of her way to

help students when they have issues.

# Celine Boehm– nominated by Natasa Lazarevic and Zachary Picker

When I was initially learning how to code in python Celine organised a daily schedule of coding challenges and then she would sit with me for hours to find unique ways to explain the sections I did not understand. The immediate and timely feedback she provides in particular for the technology side of my PhD has made me progress much faster. She also communicates her feedback clearly. The interdisciplinary approach also requires me to learn a lot and Celine constantly provides me with the resources and opportunities to do so.

# Phyllis Butow– nominated by Chloe Lim and Nicole Bartley

Any time that I have sent Phyllis a draft manuscript or an ethics application in progress, she has sent it back to me with extensive tracked changes, and if anything is unclear she will also add comments on the side to clarify things. At the same time, to ensure I am not feeling overwhelmed by this feedback, she always clearly states in the email or in the comments that I have done a good job and that these are just small changes that she thinks would strengthen the work I have already done. Phyllis also told me that I can feel free to run into her office screaming with stress if I ever feel overwhelmed with anything. Every time I struggle with my PhD, I always think of those words Phyllis has said, and I am confident that Phyllis will support me if I ever do need to take up her offer of running into her office screaming!

# Maria Byrne– nominated by Dione Deaker and Emily McLaren

During my PhD I spent a lot of time running experiments in Coffs Harbour and despite her busy schedule Maria would take the time to drive or fly up to make sure that me and my experiments were ok and to see if she could do anything to make things better. She has also taken a number of struggling students under her wing and helped them complete their PhDs. Maria is a driving force in research and the world expert on echinoderms. She constantly promotes her students and looks out for their future careers in research or other professions. She has given me countless opportunities to collaborate with other local and international scientists in Sydney, across Australia and New Zealand. This has been an enormous help to increase my skills, make connections with other scientists and colleagues in my field, a few of which are now my closest friends, and increase my publications. My papers on the early life history stages of crown-of-thorns starfish have had a large impact on our research community thanks to her keen eye for an important knowledge gap in their species biology. She has taught me the importance of understanding the biological traits of a species and understanding a species within their evolutionary context.

# Ian Curthoys– nominated by Leigh McGarvie and Kim Hawkins

As a part-time student with a job, there have been occasions in the past when it was difficult to get to the Uni to have a face-to-face meeting with Ian. If this occurred, Ian would often take the time to drop in on me at work after hours so that we could carry on discussing the research. Early in my research, where the results of two tests presented conflicting results, Ian’s knowledge of the physiological first principles underpinning the tests and his vast memory directed me to exactly the right paper to explain the apparent discrepancy. When Ian was unable to attend a conference at which he was due to present, he arranged for me to present the talks in his place, increasing both my experience and my exposure. The best thing about being supervised by Ian is his contagious enthusiasm for research in the vestibular field and his pleasure in interacting with the student and their research.

# Haryana Dhillon– nominated by Sarah Ratcliffe and Chindhu Shunmuga Sundaram

While working overseas and during the current pandemic, Hary continued to keep multiple lines of contact open with me and responded promptly to any enquiry I had regardless of topic or size. Her advice acknowledges that we have lives outside of a PhD and academia, and careers post-PhD. Hary’s willingness to provide detailed comments, insights, and time into my PhD and non-PhD work and thoughts has furthered a strong supervisor-student rapport and safe space for discussion. I have received paid research jobs outside of my PhD work, expanded my professional network, strengthened my CV, and received awards because of Hary’s encouragement to seek and embrace different opportunities. Her approach to supervision encourages and empowers me to be the best researcher and community member I can. I leave every meeting, even the zoom ones, feeling like I’ve had a warm hug filled with support and motivation ready to take on the list of research challenges and tasks ahead.

# Feike Dijkstra– nominated by Bahareh Bicharanloo& Milad Bagheri Shirvan & Mohammad Rahmat & Hana Husain & Xing Yu & Md. Rumainul Islam & Mohammad Ullah

Since I arrived to Australia, Feike always asks me if everything is alright with me and my family here in Australia and my parents who are far from me particularly during COVID-19 pandemic. He supported me financially as my country is now under sanctions and it is difficult for my parents to support me. In my second and final year, I published several peer-reviewed articles with his cooperation. During the last examination period, my supervisor was super busy with his course, but he still squeezed 2 hours for me to discuss my manuscript. When I found my part-time job influenced my research progress, my supervisor discussed with me about the job issue and suggested me to make a change. He also suggested me to buy a car and introduced the advantages and disadvantages of having a car, which then dramatically reduced my routine time from 2.5 hours to 40 minutes. When I asked any help, he instantly contacted the proper authority to resolve the issue, which is very inspiring to me as his student.

# Rosalyn Gloag– nominated by Francisco Garcia Bulle Bueno and Thomas Hagan

Rosalyn is extremely detailed and careful and always makes herself available if needed. I especially admire how she always has time for her students, her family and her own work. As a foreign student, she made me feel welcome since the moment I landed in Australia, by picking me up in the airport and giving me tips of Sydney and where to live. She has been extremely helpful, caring and warm-hearted. Also, she has always been encouraging me to enjoy my PhD and most of all the life outside of it by asking me to have some time off, go back home for holidays and travel around Australia. Her support and feedback has helped me achieve several goals during my PhD such as writing 5 chapters of my thesis, publishing a paper, winning best poster in the student showcase, assisting several international and national conferences and winning the VYT 2020 contest in the University of Sydney. She has given me advice on life after PhD and ideas on the several pathways that follow Academia. I learned a lot about science, my topic of research, how to be a good researcher and most of all how to enjoy my job.

# Samuel Muller– nominated by Yunwei Zhang and Xiangnan Xu

There was a time when I was unsure about the interpretation of my newest research finding and also, whether I was on the right track or not. I sent my plots and the methods I used in slack to my supervisor and he replied within one hour. That might sound trivial but it is not. Because my work going forward depends on his wise guidance and I did not waste any time sitting there not knowing what to do next. When I suffered from home sickness several months ago, I really didn’t know how to solve it. He advised me to talk to my friends here (who also cannot get back to home country) via zoom and take a one-week break. He emphasized that taking a break is actually really important.

# Thomas Newsome– nominated by Stephanie Bonat and Chris Fust

I am currently writing a literature review on animal mass mortalities in Australia for my PhD, which was chosen as it would allow me to familiarise myself with research that has already been done on the specific topic of my PhD. Dr Newsome was helpful in teaching me how to structure a literature review and putting me in contact with University library consultants, and people from external organisations (namely Wildlife Health Australia) who helped with honing methodologies for said research. When I’ve been overwhelmed I was able to have a good chat with him (either face to face or on zoom), which cleared my mind and gave me more security and confidence about what I was doing, by highlighting the good things I have done, and then giving me his opinion on what my priorities should be.

# John Ormerod– nominated by Andy Tran and Yingxin Lin

John always checks in to see how I am coping with the challenges of research, which I am still getting used to. John has been very supportive with helping me gain broad and useful skills and knowledge to help me for my post-masters career. As I'm still not sure what I want to do, he has helped me gain a variety of experiences like statistical consulting and provided very useful guidance. John is always willing to listen to my problems (or more like rants) which happens on a weekly basis in our supervision meetings. His support and empathy have been priceless and are the main thing getting me through these difficult times.

# Karren Plain– nominated by Anna Ly & Kathryn Wright & Rachel Mizzi

Karren provides the most in depth feedback for every single draft manuscript I have ever submitted. She not only highlights the issue but she provides reasoning, in addition to examples on how to elaborate on the topic. Karren has amazing expertise in the field of molecular biology and inquisitive thirst for answers. She has demonstrated to me that research isn't black and white, but rather shades of grey. During my first year, I have spent countless of months planning for a research project for it to not be accepted for a grant. However, Karren came to the rescue and came up with an idea that enabled me to design a research project that may potentially have a much broader impact to veterinary industries than the original research project. During the Covid lockdown she organised a weekly morning tea via zoom for her students to have a non-work related catch up and mental break. From text messages when working late in the lab to make sure I was safe, to checking in and offering personal support and help when I was having issues with my accommodation, Karren has consistently shown genuine care and compassion for her students.

# Peter Rutledge– nominated by Jamie Batten and Hung Phat Duong

Peter’s communication is clear, concise and always delivered in the right tone at the right time. When chemistry has been really tough and unforgiving, Peter has been empathetic and encouraged to help me keep going or found alternate ways for me to obtain value out of my research. Equally, when I've been lazy and not working hard enough, Peter has called me out on that and challenged me to achieve what he knows I'm capable of. At the beginning of my third PhD year (2019), I was absolutely struggling for motivation and was seriously contemplating abandoning the degree. Peter offered great counsel, shared extensively of his own similar struggles during his PhD and suggested a number of excellent options for how I could move forward and achieve a great outcome. In the end, we ended up taking my PhD in a totally different direction that gave me a clean slate and fresh motivation to push on and have a really productive third year that will comprise a stellar portion of my PhD thesis.

# Jan Slapeta– nominated by Nichola Calvani and Shona Chandra

When I was stranded in Laos during a tropical storm with severe flooding Jan was constantly in contact with me checking that I was safe and provided advice for how to handle the disaster as it unfolded. He made himself available to check in on both my physical and emotional wellbeing, where others were more interested in attributing blame or rushing through WHS paperwork. This is only one example of the many ways Jan has made himself available to myself and other students, and goes to show how highly he regards the wellbeing of his students. Recently Jan and I were contacted by a close associate of a person reviewing a paper I had submitted in clear violation of confidentiality rules. The email was highly unprofessional and used language that was both upsetting and insulting to my academic integrity. The email came through late on a Friday night and yet Jan was quick to make sure that I was ok and to reassure me that the contents of the email should not be taken personally. He then immediately contacted the editor of the journal involved to report a breach of reviewer confidentiality and highlight a clear conflict of interest before then responding to the original email in a calm and professional manner. His management of the problem was considerate and took into account both my feelings and the potential repercussions for my work, and resulted in the person responsible apologising to us both.

# Catherine Stampfl– nominated by el-abed Haidar and Keri Liang

One time, I needed to finish two courses while taking care of my family and she helped out simply by finding online courses which are self educated in order to work from home if needed. Early on I faced a difficult time with a personal issue but I had to address it to my supervisor. I was relieved after the meeting since I was able to easily open up my personal difficulties to her which was the turning point of my life moving forward. You can address your hardship if you have the right people surrounding you and my supervisor, who we call her simply Cathy, is one of them. Any time I have a journal paper to write, she is the foundation to the success of the paper. I would always be provided with constructive and positive notes and guidance which is key to getting the job done.

# Denis Verwilghen– nominated by Kate Averay and Clara Wilkins

My supervisor is available for reviewing drafts prior to submission, regardless of how late and how busy he is. He is also.always available for discussion on any problems I have and provides helpful answers. He actively seeks to help me achieve the best outcomes and prioritises my career progression over his own convenience. He checks in on how I am doing in terms of general well-being regularly and schedules progress meetings fortnightly to discuss research progress and answers questions.

# Jean Yang– nominated by Andy Tran & Yue Cao & Yingxin Lin

Jean has helped me collaborate with other researchers in the field of precision medicine which is of great interest to me (but not the focus of my current research). This will be very helpful in my future career and I am so thankful for the opportunity. Jean has been extremely helpful by using her broad knowledge and expertise to guide my multidisciplinary project. Jean has constantly been sharing opportunities to attend virtual conferences and seminars with me. This has been particularly helpful as this year many conferences became virtual (due to COVID-19) which has actually made it accessible to a lowly masters student like myself. Being able to virtually be a part of these conferences has broadened my exposure to the field of bioinformatics and will help me with my research and professional development. As I am reaching the end of my second year, Jean has started to make me think about my career after graduation and has allocated time to talk about this. The discussion of career opportunities besides research projects made me more clear about what I can do with my current research experience. In particular, every time before my oral conference presentations, she will schedule a practice talk for me in our research group such that I have opportunities to practice my talk and gain feedback from the whole group. During the practice talk, she always listened carefully and made very detailed notes for every slide. Her valuable feedbacks always help me to think about how to tell a better story of my research project to the audience.

SUPRA congratulates all our winners and finalists in the Supervisor of the Year 2020. Thank you!

# Special thanks to:

Maruge Zhao

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