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Editorial

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The 2018 Malcolm Ferguson-Smith Young Investigator Award

In recognition of *Prenatal Diagnosis*' Founding Editor, Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, the Young Investigator Award honors the best article published in the journal during the previous calendar year with a first author under the age of 40 years.

This year, we had a very strong field from which to choose our winner and runners-up. We received 22 worthy nominations, from which we created a shortlist of four potential winners. The editors then ranked the shortlisted papers and the scores were collated. Our usual policy applied; any editor who is a co-author on a nominated paper does not rank the paper in question due to the inherent conflict of interest.

It is with great pleasure that the Editors and Publisher of *Prenatal Diagnosis* announce that Karen Stals (Figure 1) is the winner of the 2018 Award for her paper entitled *Diagnosis of lethal or prenatal-onset autosomal recessive disorders by parental exome sequencing*, published in the January 2018 issue of the journal [1].

{picture of Karen Stals – separate doc}

Figure 1. Karen Stals, winner of the 2018 Malcolm Ferguson-Smith Young Investigator Award

The runner-up, in second place, is Nathalie Brison for *Predicting fetoplacental chromosomal mosaicism during noninvasive prenatal testing* [2], published in the March issue.

Third place is awarded to Molka Kammoun for *Genetic profile of isolated congenital diaphragmatic hernia revealed by targeted next-generation sequencing* [3], published in the August issue.

Our fourth-place runner-up is Zhiyong Zou, for *Unusual twinning: Additional findings during prenatal diagnosis of twin zygoty by single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) array* [4], from our May issue.

All prior winners of the Award are shown in Table 1.

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Table 1. The Malcolm Ferguson-Smith Award: winning authors and articles

Year	Author	Article title
2018	Karen Stals, UK	Diagnosis of lethal or prenatal-onset autosomal recessive disorders by parental exome sequencing [1]
2017	Victoria Viart, France	Germline mosaicism is a pitfall in PGD for X-linked disorders. Single sperm typing detects very low frequency paternal gonadal mosaicism in a case of recurrent chondrodysplasia punctata misattributed to a maternal origin [5]
2016	David Barrett, UK	Connexin 43 is overexpressed in human fetal membrane defects after fetoscopic surgery [6]
2015	Suzanne Drury, UK	Exome sequencing for prenatal diagnosis of fetuses with sonographic abnormalities [7]
2014	Nicole Burger and Kyra Stuurmann, The Netherlands	Involvement of neurons and retinoic acid in lymphatic development: new insights in increased nuchal translucency [8]
2013	Amy Metcalfe, Canada	Impact of observed versus hypothesized service utilization on the incremental cost of first trimester screening and prenatal diagnosis for trisomy 21 in a Canadian province [9]
2012	Marie Brinch, Denmark	Identification of circulating fetal cell markers by microarray analysis [10]
2011	Jeroen L. A. Pennings, The Netherlands	Integrative data mining to identify novel candidate serum biomarkers for pre-eclampsia screening [11]
2010	Jérôme Toutain, France	Confined placental mosaicism and pregnancy outcome: a distinction needs to be made between types 2 and 3 [12]
2009	Tianjiao Chu, USA	A microarray-based approach for the identification of epigenetic biomarkers for the noninvasive diagnosis of fetal disease [13]
2008	Olivier Picone, France	Comparison between ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging in assessment of fetal cytomegalovirus infection [14]
2007	Nicholas J. Cowans, UK	First-trimester ADAM12 and PAPP-A as markers for intrauterine fetal growth restriction through their roles in the insulin-like growth factor system [15]

Dr. Stals receives \$1,500 and the opportunity to present her research at the 2019 International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis annual meeting in Singapore (7-11 September 2019).

Details regarding the nomination of papers published in 2019 for the next Malcolm Ferguson-Smith Young Investigator Award will be provided in early 2020.

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