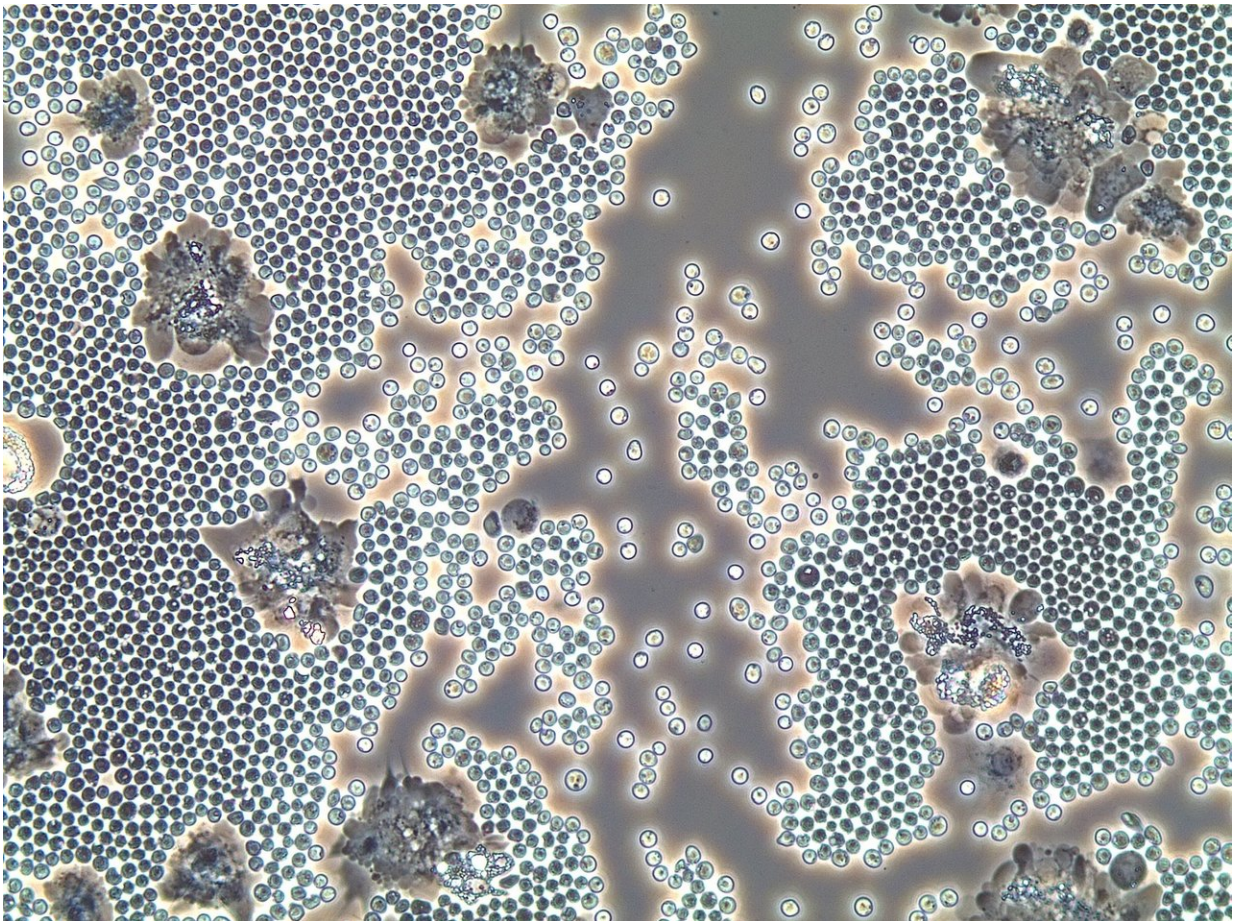


# The beauty of crab blood parasites: Winner of 2018 Research as Art awards announced

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The winning entry in the Research as Art Awards, 2018. By Frances Ratcliffe, Bluefish Project, Swansea University. Microscope image of crab blood parasites: Frances says 'I was struck by the beauty of the crystalline blood cells and jewel-like parasites, and also by Andrew Rowley's enthusiasm for explaining almost a hundred photos to me despite the fact I'm not his student and I am not required to learn about this area.' Credit: Frances Ratcliffe, Prof. Andrew Rowley, Dr

Frederico Batista and Sophie Ellis

Seventeen stunning images, and the fascinating stories behind them—such as analysing owls' daily diet, a dream about getting the blame unfairly, and how to tell which fish are the most devious—have today been revealed as the winners of the 2018 Research as Art Awards.

The overall winner is "Crab blood and collaborations", a microscope image of crab blood, which shows what the researchers describe as "the beauty of the crystalline blood cells and jewel-like parasites".

The winning entry was submitted by Frances Ratcliffe of Swansea University College of Science. She works on the BlueFish project, an EU-funded collaboration between researchers in Wales and Ireland which studies how fish and shellfish respond to climate change. One of the subjects being examined by the researchers is disease suffered by shellfish and edible crabs.

The BlueFish research team also includes Professor Andrew Rowley, Dr. Frederico Batista and Sophie Ellis.

Research as Art is the only competition of its kind, open to researchers from all subjects, and with an emphasis on telling the research story, as well as composing a striking image.

It offers an outlet for researchers' creativity, revealing the hidden stories and attempts to humanise science and research. The project also celebrates the diversity, beauty, and impact of research at Swansea University—a top 30 research university.



Amy Murray's entry was one of the runners up in the Research as Art Awards 2018. 'These hands belong to Margaret and her granddaughter Hannah. After driving for over 40 years, the time has come to give up. Hannah doesn't want to be the enemy by removing her grandmother's car keys, although what is a loved one supposed to do when placed in the predicament between compassion and reality. In the UK, there is limited information and support for older adults and their support networks throughout the driving cessation process. My research is hoping to change this, by disseminating findings as widely as possible, to influence policy and practice.' Credit: Amy Murray, Centre for Innovative Ageing, Swansea University

A record 97 entries were received from researchers across all Colleges of the University, with titles such as:

- What was for lunch, Archimedes?
- They don't care about us
- I see a green future

A distinguished judging panel of senior figures from the Royal Institution, Nature and Research Fortnight magazine selected a total of seventeen winners.

Along with the overall winner, there were four judges' awards, two awards for researchers from other institutions for best national and international entry, and ten runners-up.

Overall winner Frances Ratcliffe of the BlueFish Project described the image in the winning entry:

"Starting a Ph.D. is daunting, not least because it requires me to focus on one particular subject when I am fascinated by so many. However, the collaborative nature of BlueFish project, of which I am a part, allows me

to keep an open mind, to keep curious.

An example of this occurred when Andrew showed me this image of crab blood parasites. I was struck by the beauty of the crystalline blood cells and jewel-like parasites, and also by Andrew's enthusiasm for explaining almost a hundred photos to me despite the fact I'm not his student and I am not required to learn about this area.

When established biologists share their work informally it's inspiring. This unofficial mentoring, moments of passing on a passion for research, need to be celebrated. Perhaps a small collaboration, like this image, can highlight the role of larger collaborations in encouraging a new generation of scientists."

Competition founder and director Professor Richard Johnston, professor in materials science and engineering at Swansea University, said:

"Research as Art is an opportunity for researchers to reveal hidden aspects of their research to audiences they wouldn't normally engage with. This may uncover their personal story, their humanity, their inspiration, and emotion.

It can also be a way of presenting their [research](#) process, and what it means to be a researcher; fostering dialogue, and dissolving barriers between universities and the wider world."

Provided by Swansea University

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