



Matthew ("Matt") Wilson studied at King's College London and obtained an MSc in "Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Research" in October 2011. He graduated with Distinction, ranked 2nd of 33 students. The picture on the right shows Matt with his sister.



Matt worked in my laboratory for six months. His research was performed with the best of diligence and the highest degree of intellectual engagement and this provided remarkable novel insights into the mode of inhibition of protein tyrosine phosphatases. Matt participated in all steps of preparing the manuscript we published as a Report in the Journal of Biological Chemistry the following year (M. Wilson, C. Hogstrand, W. Maret (2012) Picomolar concentrations of free zinc(II) ions regulate receptor protein-tyrosine phosphatase β activity. J. Biol. Chem 287, 9322-6). The publication criteria requires exceptional novelty, significance and broad interest and the quality of an article must fall within the top 5 percent of all articles published in the journal. Testament of Matt's contribution to science is the fact that his paper has, to date, been cited over 120 times by the research community.

Prof Wolfgang Maret, Matt's Project Supervisor

Matt was an incredibly modest person who did not want classmates and colleagues to know about his ongoing Cancer treatment during his MSc. Following the impressive performance in his MSc, he moved to Germany to study for his PhD in Virology but unfortunately had to return to the UK for further treatment. Despite being ill, his determination was unshaken, and he inquired whether he could continue to work with Prof Maret whilst being treated. Unfortunately, this second period of work did not come to fruition due to the untimely loss of his life. He will be remembered for his equanimity under the worst circumstances, his friendliness, and his true dedication to the course and meaning of scientific work.

Prof Stephen Sturzenbaum, Director of Matt's MSc

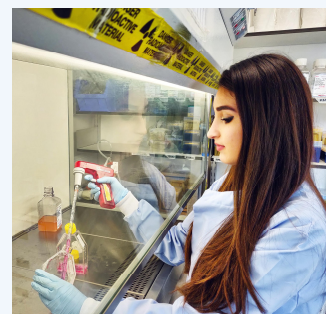
In memory of Matt's exemplary contributions, we initially set up the Matt Wilson Prize, awarded annually to the "best overall performing" Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Research MSc student. Past recipients were:

Year	Matt Wilson Prize	MSc Project
2018	Bethany Sinclair	The role of MITD1 in primary cilia formation
2017	Lauren Dawson	Therapeutic use of regulatory T cells in liver disease
2016	Julia Taylor	The impact of TP53 mutations on the cellular response to Nutlin-3a and chemotherapeutics
2015	Alexandra Willis	The influence of p53 status on chemotherapeutic drug-induced expression of CYP1A1
2014	Pascale Eede	The role of RANK, RANKL and OPG in perinatal brain injury

In addition, and thanks to a generous donation from Matt's family, we were able to establish a scholarship scheme in 2018 to enhance one Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Research project. Valued at £2500 per annum, the award provides added-value to a research project by enabling costly experiments to be performed that otherwise would not be possible. The scholarship is a wonderful way to ensure that Matt's legacy lives on! It is our pleasure to introduce Noor Siksek, the first Matt Wilson Scholar!

Noor Siksek graduated with a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Leicester. As an undergraduate, Noor specialised in biotechnology researching how molecular imprinted polymers can be used for drug delivery to cancer cells.

Noor began her MSc at King's College London in 2018, during which she had the opportunity to conduct a 6-month research project in the field of radiobiology. Her research aims to assess the safety of the imaging radiopharmaceutical $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4^-$ for non-invasive SPECT imaging. Thanks to the scholarship, she was able to expand her project to include *in-vivo* imaging and radionuclide therapy and has submitted her work for presentation at the Auger Symposium in Oxford to be held in August 2019. Noor intends to start her PhD in the same field and pursue a career in academic research.



Noor Siksek, recipient of the 2018 Matt Wilson Scholarship