

# *perspectives 2008*



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# 1 Executive summary

## 1.1 Aims of the scheme

- To encourage practising scientists and engineers, at an early stage in their careers, to articulate their research in a social framework by exploring the ethical, social, economic and other societal implications of their work
- To train scientists and engineers in visual and verbal communication
- To provide an opportunity for scientists and engineers to publicise and promote their work
- To encourage scientists and engineers to engage with a public audience and with teenagers as career role models
- To encourage scientists and engineers to visit the BA Festival of Science

## 1.2 *perspectives* in 2008

50 applications were received for *perspectives* in 2008. This was a decrease on 2007 however the overall quality of the applicants was higher than in previous years. 36 finalists, each funded by the UK research councils, were chosen to take part. They attended a one-day workshop on communication and design in London at the start of the scheme. This introduced them to public engagement, provided ideas for a thought-provoking poster, and created opportunities for finalists to practice their communication skills.

34 attended the BA Festival of Science in Liverpool (two finalists dropped out immediately before the workshops – one for personal circumstances and the other citing lack of time for the scheme). At the Festival, they presented their posters to the public from Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 September. 15 of the finalists presented their posters in a shopping centre, the Met Quarter, in a pilot-run on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September. At the University of Liverpool, ten judges chose the three main prize-winners:

- **Overall winner:** Georgina Humphreys, University of Glasgow (BBSRC)
- **Runners up:** Berenice Golding, University of Huddersfield (ESRC)  
Jamie Brown, University of Cambridge (MRC)
- **People's choice:** Jennifer Hannant, University of Newcastle (EPSRC; selected by public vote)

Posters covered topics from autism to nanoscience. Finalists came from universities and research institutions across the UK. All posters can be seen at <http://www.the-ba.net/perspectives>

## 1.3 Key outcomes

Finalists and judges were asked to give feedback from the scheme, and several key points emerged.

The workshops were very popular and **all finalists felt that any expectations they had were met or exceeded.**

**All finalists who responded enjoyed taking part in the scheme.** This is an improvement on last year when only 69% of finalists who responded said they enjoyed the scheme. As in previous years, this year's finalists particularly enjoyed meeting other young researchers, communicating with a new audience and thinking about their research in a new way.

21% of finalists described the lack of people visiting the posters as their least favourite aspect of the scheme. This is an improvement from the 43% of finalists who mentioned this last year, but the lack of visitors continues to be a problem.

More than half of all finalists had previous experience in public engagement. Since taking part in *perspectives*, **82% of the finalists said that they had plans to take part in future public engagement activities**, and **79% stated that taking part in *perspectives* had increased their likelihood of taking part in public engagement activities in the future.** Finalists listed a broad range of future activities, including events at their institutions and taking part in schemes such as Researchers in Residence.

**All finalists who responded felt their communication skills improved as a result of the scheme. 79% of finalists felt that they were more confident about communicating their research.**

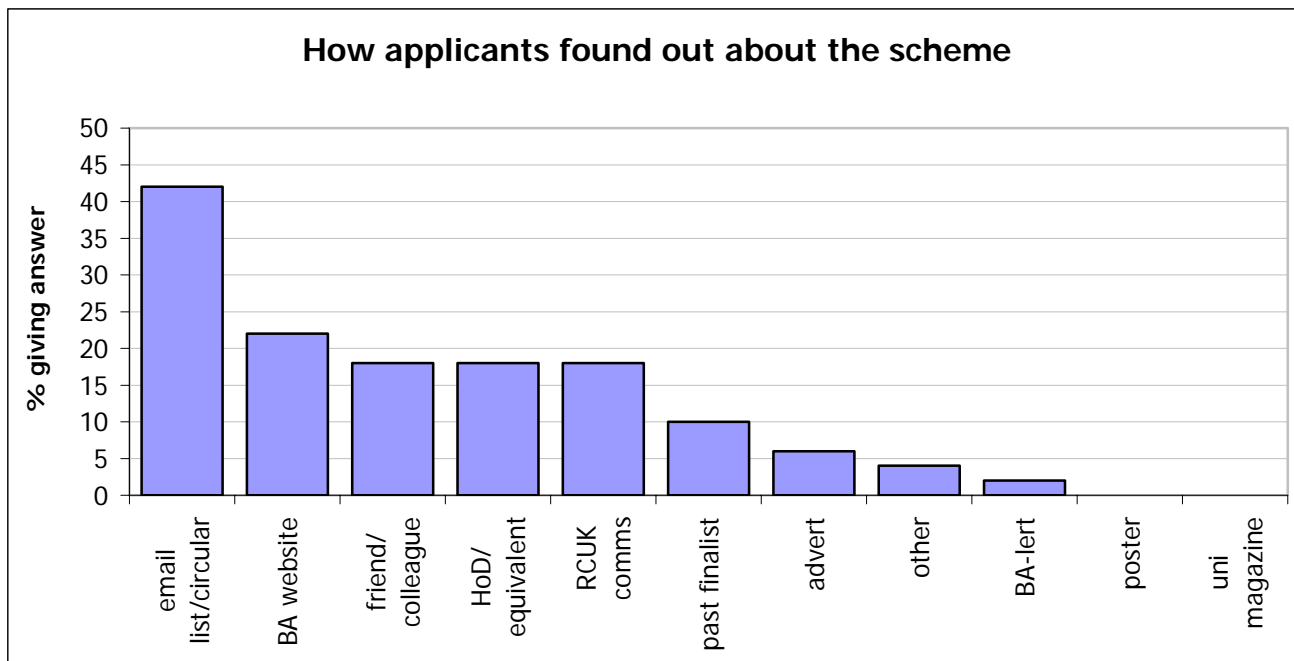
**Judges said they felt well-briefed in advance of judging and enjoyed taking part.** No comments were made about a lack of time, perhaps due to a change in the judging method in 2008.

**The shopping centre display was very popular with the finalists who took part.** Here, finalists felt that they had met a wider cross-section of society.

## 2 Applications

### 2.1 Scheme awareness

Responses from 50 applicants showed that they had found out about the scheme through a number of different routes. Many applicants cited more than one source.



Email lists were mostly departmental or university-wide emails received by applicants, but three had heard about the scheme from Lara Crossland at Researchers in Residence. Most research councils were mentioned by applicants had heard about the scheme from research councils, but three applicants particularly mentioned the STFC New Scientist forum. Other sources of information about the scheme were the Science Media Centre and the ESRC CASE conference 2008.

11 applicants mentioned finding out about the scheme from the BA website. It would be interesting to know whether they were already visiting the BA website for other purposes or if they had been directed to the site from elsewhere.

The responses to these answers should be used in marketing the scheme in 2009. The application form in 2009 should ask for as much detail as possible in response to these questions so that the answers can be used for marketing in subsequent years.

## 3 Feedback

### 3.1 Finalists – workshop feedback

Finalists in the *perspectives* competition were invited to attend one of three workshops held at the Dana Centre in summer 2008.

Data was collected from 26 finalists using an online questionnaire (see appendix B). All three workshops elicited similar responses in the questionnaires.

#### 3.1.1 Support from colleagues

Finalists had received overwhelmingly positive responses from colleagues, with almost all of the 26 respondents stating that their participation had been well received or encouraged. Others stated either that they hadn't told anyone about it or that they'd had a neutral response. Nobody described an actively negative response from colleagues, although one person did state that they felt senior staff would prefer them to be attending an academic conference.

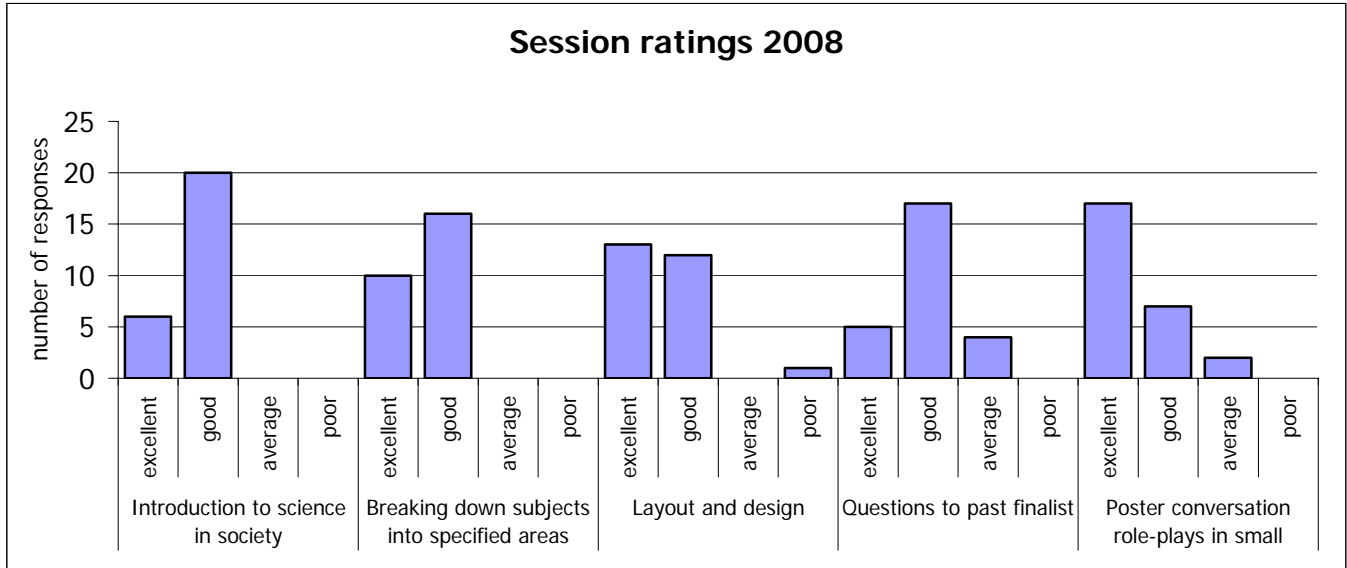
#### 3.1.2 Workshop expectations

Finalists had a range of expectations from the workshop, mostly focusing on the poster design and ideas. Many were also expecting details of how *perspectives* would work at the Festival. Others hoped to receive new ideas about how

to communicate and engage with non-specialists in their subject. Several looked forward to meeting other like-minded people – both researchers and speakers at the workshop.

**All of the finalists who had expectations felt that they were met or exceeded.** As last year, responses were, almost without exception, positive, citing the **useful group sessions** and the **advice on poster design** as particularly useful. A few mentioned that they would have liked more time with the designer to talk about their poster ideas.

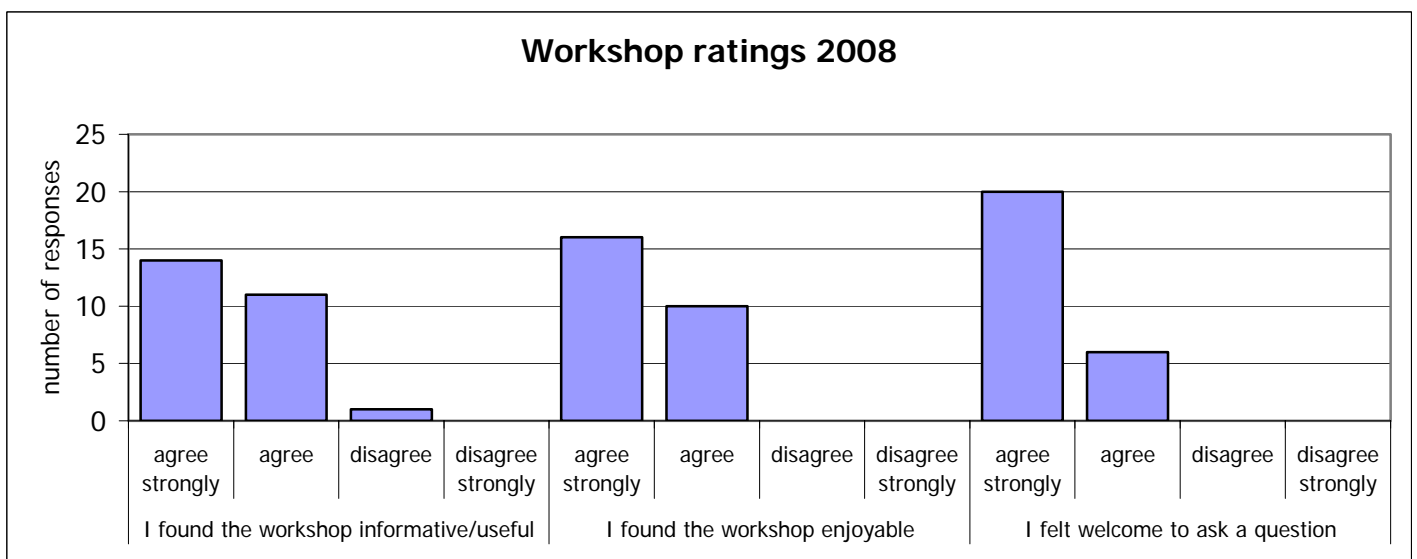
### 3.1.3 Workshop ratings



**95% of ratings described elements of the workshop as good or excellent.**

Finalists particularly enjoyed meeting other participants and getting feedback during small-group sessions and role-plays, as well as the design session. Several finalists mentioned that they enjoyed thinking about their research in a new way. They enjoyed the informal atmosphere and the way the sessions were organised.

“It was sufficiently informal to encourage interaction. There is a lot of potential with the poster design, stuff that I never thought about. I think a lot of helpful discussions were there for us and every effort was made to make the workshop useful.”



As in previous years, the main thing that finalists would change about the workshops is to have more time with the designer. Generally it was felt that each person should have had time with him and perhaps that more about practicalities of computer design could have been covered.

Eight finalists said there was nothing or very little they would change. One suggested a more structured session with the past finalist and another suggested a change of timing for the day so that people didn't have to stay overnight.

### 3.1.4 Further comments

Although one finalist also commented on the lack of time during the workshop, all finalists who commented at the end of the feedback form made positive comments.

“I really enjoyed the workshop and left feeling more confident, informed and excited about the Festival.”

“ It was really eye-opening to see my field from the perspective of someone who has no prior knowledge. The BA staff were very approachable. Overall, a really useful day.”

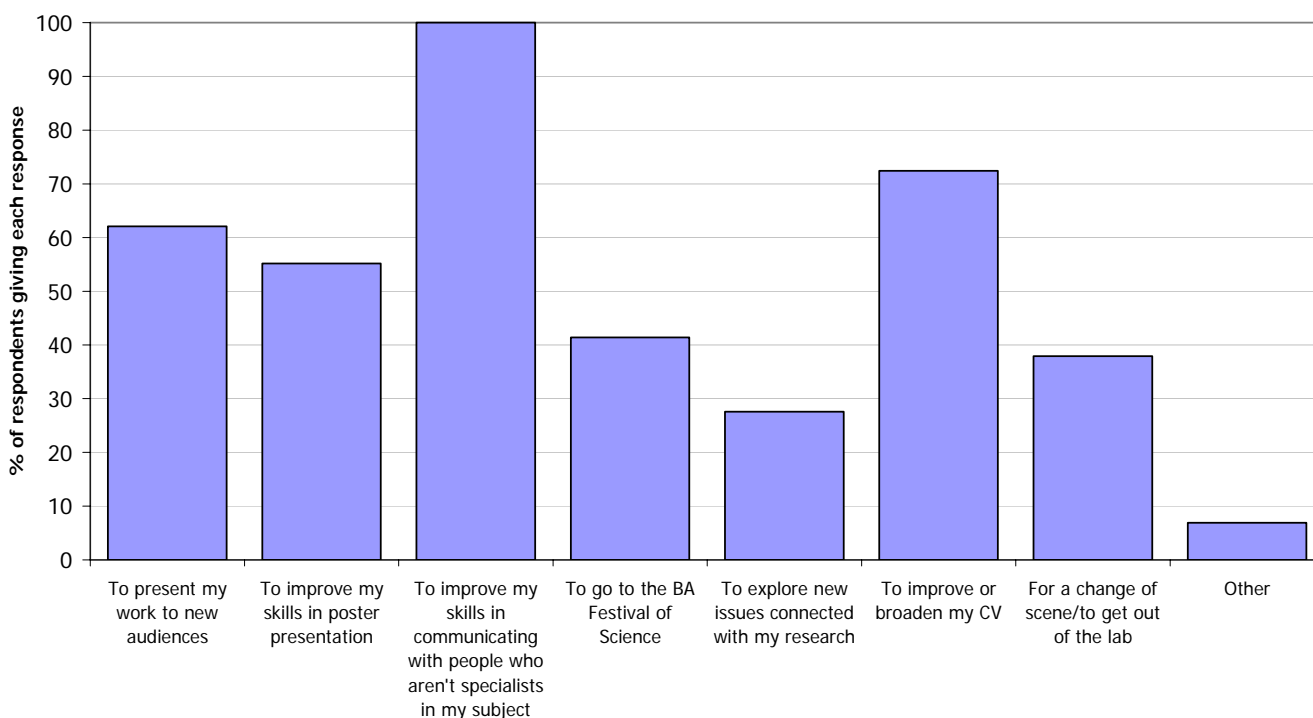
## 3.2 Finalists – scheme feedback

### 3.2.1 General feedback

After the 2008 BA Festival of Science in Liverpool, 29 finalists (85%) returned online questionnaires evaluating the *perspectives* scheme.

Finalists described why they had applied for the scheme.

Why did you apply for *perspectives*?



In addition to the options offered on the form, one finalist expressed strong opinions regarding what they saw as the dwindling interest in science as a career. Another mentioned wanting to visit Liverpool as European Capital of Culture.

**All 29 respondents enjoyed taking part in *perspectives*.** Most named several things that they enjoyed about the scheme. Many stated that they particularly enjoyed meeting other finalists (59%) and communicating with new audiences (38%). 7 finalists (24%) described how they had enjoyed thinking about their research in a new way. Others enjoyed seeing enthusiastic Festival presenters, the creativity of making a poster, the x-change and the Met Quarter events. A few comments from finalists are noted here:

“...getting to see lots of science communicators at the Festival, networking, and gaining motivation to keep going with the PhD!”

“...communicating my research to new audiences and gathering feedback. Meeting new people from other research areas and hearing about their research challenges.”

“...meeting the other finalists and learning about the different fields they work in. It's often easy to be cocooned in your own area of research and not have an idea of what's going on in the rest of the world! I also loved the creative side of actually making the poster.”

“...meeting other early career researchers from different disciplines - I felt this really encouraged everyone to think about how different areas of research relate to society.”

Finalists were also asked to describe the aspects of the scheme they had enjoyed the least. These generally reflected the lack of visitors to the posters (21% of finalists mentioned this), the timings of the poster display at the Festival, the poor accommodation and location of the accommodation.

A discussion of these issues can be found in sections 4.2.5 and 4.2.7.

### 3.2.2 Shopping centre display

13 of the finalists who took part in the display of posters in the Met Quarter shopping centre gave feedback on these sessions. All but one were positive about the experience, and finalists enjoyed the challenge of speaking to people who had set out that morning not to think about science but to go shopping.

Finalists noted that Sunday was much less busy than Saturday, and some also mentioned that the expensive shops in the centre meant that they spoke to a limited group of people. However, as this part of perspectives was a pilot, this particular shopping centre was chosen as we knew it would be quieter.

Several finalists made suggestions about how to improve the day:

“I really enjoyed these sessions. Sunday was a little quiet but I definitely felt we got to talk to more of the ‘real’ general public than at the Festival where most people seemed to come from science backgrounds.”

“This was a lot of fun, partly because it was a nice way to meet a smaller number of the other participants and partly because it was interesting to talk to people who might not ordinarily go to the Festival. Having balloons to give out to families was a very good idea to generate interest in what we were doing, though it would've been nice to have balloons advertising *perspectives* or the Festival. I think the amount of time we spent with our posters was the right length and the Met Quarter was a good shopping centre to be in.”

“Two hours is a long time. Perhaps an hour and a half, then take us all out for a good lunch (for more than £5 a head) and then have us stand there for another hour. Sunday was very slow. The mall was very exclusive in its brands. Perhaps being in street (with some rain cover) or in a more general mall?”

### 3.2.3 Hustings

9 people who took part in the hustings during the x-change commented on the experience. All of these said that they had enjoyed the experience.

10 people who didn't take part in the hustings commented about this part of the scheme. They all stated that they enjoyed the hustings, and 2 mentioned that they wished they had taken part themselves

“I was absolutely terrified but it was a good experience to speak without jargon, with no powerpoint as a prop and with people expecting entertainment. It was good to go outside my comfort zone of presenting and hopefully this will add something to my future science presentations.”

“If you can talk about science for two minutes in a bar, lab talks don't seem so scary!”

### 3.2.4 The Festival

Finalists were asked to comment on what they enjoyed about the Festival outside their experience of *perspectives*. They cited many things, but mostly focused on the breadth of subjects covered by sessions at the Festival and the opportunity to network with other people involved in public engagement. They also enjoyed the x-change, award lectures and press conferences.

26 (93%) of the finalists stated that they would attend the Festival again, if given the opportunity. Some qualified this by saying that they would attend only to present or if it was close to home. The two who said that they would not attend again said they would find it difficult to spare the time, and one felt that their subject, which is outside biology, physics and chemistry, was not well covered at the Festival in Liverpool.

### 3.2.5 Other public engagement activities

57% of finalists had prior experience of public engagement before taking part in *perspectives*. Out of all finalists who gave feedback, **79% stated that taking part in *perspectives* had increased their likelihood of taking part in public engagement activities in the future.** These finalists felt that *perspectives* had increased their confidence in these events, and they had enjoyed talking to a new audience and designing their poster.

21% said that they were no more or less likely to take part in public engagement activities, as they were already interested in these activities, and would continue to take part with or without the scheme. No finalist said that they were less likely to take part in public engagement activities as a result of the scheme.

**82% of the finalists said that they already had plans to take part in future public engagement activities**, including Researchers in Residence, schemes and events at their research institutions, local STEMPOINT and BA branch events, local museums and National Science and Engineering Week.

**79% of finalists said that their confidence had increased as a result of taking part in *perspectives***. No finalist said that their confidence had decreased. **All finalists said that they felt their communication skills had improved to some extent** as a result of the scheme.

"I came back to work with a renewed vigour. Sometimes it's nice to get away and think about the fundamental applications as opposed to the fundamental maths."

"I enjoyed talking to members of the public and found that it raised interesting questions regarding my research. I think it would be enjoyable take part in another public engagement event or run one."

The BA is particularly keen to encourage finalists to take part in other public engagement activities, and seek to make links with other organisations. Since the Festival, we have encouraged finalists to get involved in Researchers in Residence, National Science and Engineering Week and BA branches.

### 3.2.6 Relationship between research and society

**61% of finalists said that participating in the scheme changed their views on the impact of research on society**. 39% said their views had not changed. Those in the latter group often stated that they already had a good understanding of how their research affected society.

Finalists often said that they had thought about the impact of their research in a different way. Several said that they had had their ideas challenged by getting a different viewpoint from non-specialists.

"I realised that the 'impact' of my research is not quite the same as just listing the applications of my research!"

"It made me realise that although I work on a very small area members of the public think this is very important - much more so than I previously thought"

"Although meeting non-specialists changed my view of how my area of research is viewed by non-specialists, it did not change my notions of how my research impacts on society."

**44% of finalists said that participating in the scheme changed their views on the impact of society on their research**. 56% said their views had not changed.

Several finalists felt that they had already considered their work in a social context. As discussed in previous *perspectives* evaluations, this is an aspect of research that scientists are increasingly encouraged to think about.

"Society has always been a driving force for my research."

"The experience did make me believe that research in my area needs to pay more attention to what is actually going on in society and be shaped by this, rather than having a completely separate research agenda."

### 3.2.7 Comments and recommendations for the future

20 finalists made comments and suggestions at the end of the form. Some were simply positive comments and thanks. Others gave suggestions for improving the scheme.

"*perspectives* was a really enjoyable experience - I felt very well taken care of during the programme. It was brilliant being able to go to other Festival events and having accommodation and some meals provided, I don't think participation would be possible without this for many people.

"A few suggestions/comments about the running of the competition: I felt that the set-up of the poster display at the Festival limited the number of members of the public who came to look. It was like a maze! This looked quite intimidating and was very cramped... It also seemed unfair that some posters were much more visible and closer to the boards explaining the competition and the voting boxes. Obviously there are limitations to how the posters can be explained, and some people will always be in better locations. The timing of the manned slot also seemed to be a little off, with the box office area being busier from 11 to 12 and then into lunchtime. All this said, it was a fantastic experience and I definitely appreciated the huge amount of work that went into running it!"

"The *perspectives* competition is a great concept, and it is sold as a public engagement scheme but it really does not deliver on the 'public' side. There were just not enough people attending the event and those that were there were not really the 'general public'. Although I feel very positive about my personal experience and I got a lot out of attending the Festival, I didn't feel I engaged with the public at all really. In my opinion, changes have to be made to the venue of the *perspectives* event - it should be moved to a science museum or a gallery entrance hall which would mean a much greater chance of getting members of the public engaged with the posters."

"I have rarely been involved with something that was so well organised, well done to the organisers of *perspectives*. Everything was done when they said it would be and nothing was forgotten. It was inconvenient that the halls were so far from the venue and there weren't more shuttle buses. Also, there seemed to be more people around the posters after lunch than in the morning so it may have been better for us to stand next to the posters say 12 - 2 pm rather than 10 am - 12 noon, or maybe to have different people there at different times."

"I really enjoyed the whole experience, I learnt a great deal and was able to encourage family members to engage with hands-on science."

### 3.3 Judges' feedback

In 2008 there were ten judges, three more than 2007

These were:

- Karen Bultitude, science communicator, University of the West of England
- Trevor Cox, Professor of Acoustics, University of Salford
- Laura Drane, director, Manchester Science Festival
- Laura Grant, director, Laura Grant Associates
- Rehana Jawadwala, sports scientist, University of Central Lancashire
- Ben Johnson, director, Graphic Science
- Lesley Paterson, Head of Public Engagement, Royal Academy of Engineering
- Jack Stilgoe, senior researcher, Demos
- Peter Styring, Professor of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, Professor of Public Engagement, University of Sheffield
- Jon Turney, science writer

Each judge judged 10 posters, spending 7 minutes with each finalist. Each poster was seen by three judges.

All judges rated the overall experience of judging as good or excellent and felt they were well briefed and chaired. Catering at the judging meeting was poor and judges commented on this.

Several judges felt that the finalists could have had more support in thinking about their posters and it was clear that some judges didn't know that the finalists had been to a training workshop before the Festival. Suggested methods for helping researchers think about the relevant questions included giving them particular questions they had to answer on the poster. However, the judge who suggested this also pointed out that this reduces the creativity that helps make *perspectives* so interesting. They also suggested providing the finalists with copies of the judging sheets early on so that the finalists knew what to aim for.

No judge commented on the lack of time available to talk to each individual, unlike 2007 when several judges mentioned this. This is probably due to the greater number of judges. Consequently we could allow a longer time for each conversation between finalist and judge.

Some representative judges' comments are shown here.

"Being a judge was a great way to get to talk to lots of the participants in depth and I learned a lot about cutting-edge research. The high standard of the posters and the enthusiasm of the researchers was very impressive."

"I do feel that many of them tried and the best were rewarded as winners, but the science/ academic culture maybe doesn't encourage this often enough so many are just trying this out for perhaps the first time."

"The entire event was beautifully organised by the BA and RCUK staff (as always!) - the planning and preparation was very obvious and it made our jobs as judges SO much easier!"

## 4 Developments in 2008

### 4.1 Before the Festival

#### 4.1.1 Marketing

In order to gain as many applications as possible, a wide range of people were contacted via a number of routes. As last year, graduate associations in universities and university departments across the country were contacted and the scheme was advertised through the Research Councils and through various websites for graduate students and postdocs.

Applications for *perspectives* dropped from 82 in 2007 to 50 in 2008. This is a decrease to 61% of last year's applications. The reasons for this are difficult to define, but attention by both the BA and RCUK to making sure *perspectives* features as widely as possible in research councils' publications should help. In addition, the BA will ensure that marketing contacts are followed up to make sure that the scheme has been publicised. However it should be noted that the quality of the applications were better in 2008 than previous years.

In order to publicise the scheme at the Festival, a flyer about the scheme was sent to all people who booked tickets and passes for the Festival (around 2000 people). The scheme, and the re-vamped schools session, was also mentioned in letters to teachers sent by the young people's programme team as last year. The schools session did not in the end take place this year, as discussed in point 3.2.4

#### 4.1.2 *perspectives* film

Alex Tate of Slipstream Productions updated the film he made last year to make it suitable for use year after year. This was played at the BA Festival of Science in Liverpool in the box office next to the poster display.

### 4.2 During and after the Festival

#### 4.2.1 Shopping centre display

15 finalists presented posters in the Met Quarter shopping centre in Liverpool's Whitechapel. Finalists stood by their posters for two hours on Saturday 6 and two hours Sunday 7 September, inviting shoppers to talk to them about finalists' research.

While finalists were provided with balloons in order to attract shoppers, it might be advantageous to consider some additional 'freebies' to hand out or activities to attract people to the display.

The finalists who took part in the event were positive about the experience, and made suggestions as to how to run something similar in the future (as described in section 2.2.2).

#### 4.2.2 Involving finalists in other schemes

Several finalists took part in **Backchat**, a session for school students to talk to people in scientific careers. The finalists who took part in the session felt it was valuable for developing their skills in communicating with teenagers about their research. They also felt it helped them to communicate about their posters during the other poster sessions.

As described in section 2.2.5, finalists have become involved in several other schemes since the Festival, including Researchers in Residence, National Science and Engineering Week, and local STEMPOINTS and BA branches.

#### 4.2.3 Hustings

This year's hustings continued with the successful format used last year. In order to promote their posters, 10 self-selecting finalists were given a two minute slot in the x-change, an informal round-up of the day's events at the Festival. As in 2007, the finalists' two minute presentations were interspersed throughout the x-change. Crucially, the two minutes were strongly policed, preventing any over-run.

As in 2007, the hustings were very popular with finalists (as described in point 3.2.3), who enjoyed the challenge of discussing their research in more informal circumstances.

Finalists disagreed on whether the hustings had an impact on attendance at the posters. However, the BA feels that learning to communicate in this way is a sufficient benefit to finalists regardless of the effect on poster visitor numbers.

#### **4.2.4 Schools quiz & session**

Sessions for schools were scheduled throughout the day on Monday 8 October, and featured in the Festival's school programme, as suggested in last year's evaluation. Disappointingly, no schools booked into these sessions. Unlike 2007, the BA did not contact teachers directly in order to encourage booking, and this may have been part of the reason for lack of interest. Interestingly, other BA run school sessions were also not very popular and only became full after targeted marketing a few weeks before the Festival.

The posters are available online at the BA website for teachers to download and to use in class (following requests from teachers visiting the Festival).

There was no quiz for schools in 2008.

#### **4.2.5 Visitors to the posters**

As in previous years, attendance at the posters was quite low, although finalists were more prepared for this than they had been in previous years.

Finalists had several suggestions to improve the situation (as listed in section 2.2.7). These included changing the times of poster sessions, moving them so that they did not clash with the most interesting talks, moving the posters to somewhere more accessible to the public and changing the set-up so that the posters were physically more accessible.

In coming years, if practical, poster session timings should be arranged after other Festival sessions have been scheduled. This would allow the optimum time to be chosen. Additionally, posters should be more spaciouly arranged. The location of the posters is difficult to choose each year because visitor flow is unpredictable in each new venue, but as always, the BA will strive to find the best place.

#### **4.2.6 People's Choice award**

Although the manipulation experienced in 2006 did not reoccur after last year's good year for the award, there was some dissatisfaction among some finalists and BA staff about the People's Choice award. The winner had a lot of family in Liverpool and had asked them to come and vote for her. This was not possible to identify by names on the voting forms. This should be mentioned along with the other underhand practice that is discouraged at workshops.

#### **4.2.7 Finalists at the Festival**

Finalists were given accommodation and lunch at the Festival, and had their expenses paid for their travel to and from the Festival and workshop. There was evidently some confusion among finalists regarding this, even after the workshops where the arrangements were explained.

Disappointingly, no accommodation for finalists was available near to the Liverpool University campus. This meant that finalists had to use Festival shuttle buses to travel back and forth from the university. These buses were not well timed for the finalists and caused some inconvenience during the week. In future, it would be an advantage if accommodation is available nearer the campus, but this is not always possible. Under these circumstances, special arrangements may need to be made for the finalists' transport.

#### **4.2.8 Post-Festival contact with finalists**

As in 2007, we attempted to give finalists a bit more of a send-off at the Festival by handing out certificates at the Wednesday x-change when the winners were announced.

Individual feedback was gathered from the judges' deliberation and emailed to each finalist soon after the Festival.

Also after the Festival, letters were sent to all heads of departments and supervisors.

#### **4.2.9 *perspectives* finalists and BA staff**

Comments about the BA team were positive again in 2008, with many notes in the feedback and also accompanying returned expenses forms and post-Festival email. Following on from last year's chocolates, this year the team were given a bottle of wine each from the finalists!

Once again, the *perspectives* finalists formed a tight group in 2008, and many keep in touch with one another. Some are part of a group started by the BA for *perspectives* finalists on the internet social networking website facebook.

## **Appendix A – Application form**

Background information:

- 1. Please describe your research in a way that is accessible to a non-scientist.**
- 2. Please provide details of your current research position and university qualifications.**
- 3. Why do you want to take part in *perspectives*?**
- 4. What impact does your research area have on society (direct and/or indirect)?**
- 5. How has your research (or research area) been shaped by society?**

Finalists were also asked to provide contact details as well as details of their current position, funder, grant number and the year of their PhD award.

## Appendix B – Finalists' workshop feedback 2008

Thank you for completing the form. We'll use your responses to improve future workshops.

### 1. Which workshop did you attend?\*

Tuesday 24 June      Wednesday 2 July      Friday 11 July

### 2. What is your role?\*

PhD student      Postdoc      Other (if so, please specify)

### 3. How has your participation in *perspectives* been received in your research group/department?\*

### 4. What were your expectations of this workshop?\*

### 5. Were your expectations met?\*

Please explain your answer

### 6. Please rate the workshop sessions\*

(possible answers: excellent, good, average, poor)

Introduction to science in society

Breaking down subjects into specified areas

(post-its and red cards)

Layout and design

Questions to past finalist

Poster conversation role-plays in small groups

### 7. Please rate these elements of the workshop\*

(possible answers: agree strongly, agree, disagree, disagree strongly, don't know)

I found the workshop informative/useful

I found the workshop enjoyable

I felt welcome to ask a question

### 8. What did you like most about the day?\*

Please explain your answer

### 9. What would you change about the day?\*

Please explain your answer

### 10. Any other comments?

## Appendix C – Finalists – scheme feedback 2008

Thank you for completing this form. We will use your responses to improve *perspectives* in 2009.

### 1. Why did you apply for *perspectives*?\*

Select as many answers as you wish

To present my work to new audiences

To improve my skills in poster presentation

To improve my skills in communicating with people who aren't specialists in my subject

To go to the BA Festival of Science

To explore new issues connected with my research

To improve or broaden my CV

For a change of scene/to get out of the lab

Other, please specify...

### 2. Did you enjoy taking part in *perspectives*?\*

Yes No Don't know

### 3. What did you enjoy most about *perspectives*?\*

Please explain your answer

### 4. What did you enjoy least about *perspectives*?\*

Please explain your answer

### 5. Did the workshop prepare you adequately for the poster sessions at the Festival?\*

Please explain your answer

### 6. Did you take part in the poster sessions at the Met Quarter shopping centre?\*

Yes No

### 7. If you answered 'yes' to question 6, please make any comments about the poster sessions at the Met Quarter here

For example, did you enjoy taking part? How should we improve the sessions next year?

### 8. Did you take part in the hustings?\*

Yes No

### 9. Did you enjoy the hustings?\*

Please explain your answer in question 10

Yes No

### 10. Please explain the answer you gave above

### 11. Excluding *perspectives*, what did you enjoy most about the BA Festival of Science?\*

Please explain your answer

### 12. Would you attend the BA Festival of Science again?\*

Please explain your answer in question 13

Yes No

### 13. Please explain the answer you gave above

### 14. Had you taken part in public engagement events or schemes before participating in *perspectives*?\*

Yes No

**15. If you answered 'yes' to question 14, please state what schemes or events you have been involved in**

**16. Has *perspectives* affected whether you will get involved in public engagement in the future?\***

Please explain your answer in question 17

Yes, increased likelihood

No, made no difference

Yes, decreased likelihood

**17. Please explain the answer you gave above**

**18. Have you taken part, or do you plan to take part, in any other public engagement events or schemes now that *perspectives* is over?\***

Yes No

**19. If you answered 'yes' to question 18, please tell us about your current and future public engagement plans**

**20. Following *perspectives*, has your confidence in discussing your research with non-specialists changed?\***

Please explain your answer in question 21

Yes, my confidence has increased

No, there is no change to my confidence

Yes, my confidence has decreased

**21. Please explain the answer you gave above**

**22. Has the scheme improved your visual and/or verbal communication skills\***

Not at all

A little

A lot

**23. Did participating in *perspectives* change your view on the impact of your research on society?\***

Please explain your answer in question 24

Yes No

**24. Please explain the answer you gave above**

**25. Did participating in *perspectives* change your view on the impact of society on your research?\***

Please explain your answer in question 26

Yes No

**26. Please explain the answer you gave above**

**27. Any other comments?**

## Appendix D – Finalists in *perspectives* 2008

**Nicholas Bredenkamp** (MRC)

MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, University of Edinburgh

*It's not all about Dolly...*

**Jamie Brown** (MRC)

Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Cambridge

*Learning secrets from autism*

**Sarah Brown** (EPSRC)

Centre for Molecular Nanometrology, Pure & Applied Chemistry, Strathclyde University

*Small but dangerous?*

**Maria Canal** (RCUK)

Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Manchester

*Mind the clock*

**Paolo Carampin** (EPSRC)

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester

*Can nanoparticles be smart?*

**Julia Collins** (EPSRC)

School of Mathematics, University of Edinburgh

*Knot on your life*

**Ian Couchman** (EPSRC)

Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Imperial College London

*Shall we mix things up a little?*

**Laura Crack** (MRC)

Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford

*Another one bites the dust*

**Olga den Besten** (AHRC)

Centre for Children and Youth, University of Northampton

*Can children have a say?*

**Berenice Golding** (ESRC)

Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield

*Can women consent to share their eggs?*

**Alison Graham** (BBSRC)

Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Sheffield

*A new kind of science*

**Jennifer Hannant** (EPSRC)

Chemical Nanoscience Department, Newcastle University

*Making technology come alive*

**Georgina Humphreys** (BBSRC)

Infection and Immunity, FBLS University of Glasgow

*Taking the bite out of malaria*

**Alana James** (ESRC)

Unit for School and Family Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London

*Peer support in schools*

**Gaurav Khanna** (EPSRC)

Civil Engineering Division, University of Dundee

*Even when it's grey, concrete is green*

**Daphne Kounali** (ESRC)

Centre for Multilevel Modelling, University of Bristol

*The best school*

**Katharine Leney** (STFC)

Department of Physics, University of Liverpool

*Where's the Higgs particle?*

**Jad Marrouche** (STFC)

High Energy Physics, Imperial College London

*High energy physics*

**Sarah McBurney** (EPSRC)

School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Heriot-Watt University

*Pervasive computing*

**Satomi Miwa** (BBSRC)

Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University

*Live longer*

**Charlie Mydlarz** (EPSRC)

Acoustics Research Centre, University of Salford

*Soundscapes*

**Ciprian Plostinar** (STFC)

John Adams Institute & ASTeC, University of Oxford

*Proton Olympics*

**Sara Rafice** (EPSRC)

Department of Chemistry, University of Leicester

*Protecting the people we care about most*

**Ruby Raheem** (EPSRC)

Centre for Biomedical Engineering at Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh

*Making babies ART'ificially*

**Luc Rock** (RCUK)

School of Planning, Architecture & Civil Engineering, Queen's University Belfast

*Tracking pollutants: searching for fingerprints*

**Steven Rossington** (BBSRC)

Centre for Molecular Drug Design, University of Salford

*Shape n' drugs*

**Lori Snyder** (BBSRC)

Centre for Systems Biology, University of Birmingham

*MRSA*

**Mury Thian** (EPSRC)

Department of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Birmingham

*'Greener' technology for power amplifiers*

**Sarah Tomlinson** (EPSRC)

Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Sheffield

*Engineering a better grip*

**Elizabeth Tunbridge** (MRC)

Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford

*This pill will make you smarter!*

**Geert Verheyden** (RCUK)

School of Health Sciences, University of Southampton

*Be a hero*

**Alison Wallace** (MRC)

MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit, University of Edinburgh

*Invading vessels!*

**Tom Wells** (EPSRC)

Department of Chemistry Imperial College London

*Biodegradable plastics*

**Paul Williams** (NERC)

Department of Meteorology, University of Reading

*Permit holders parking only*