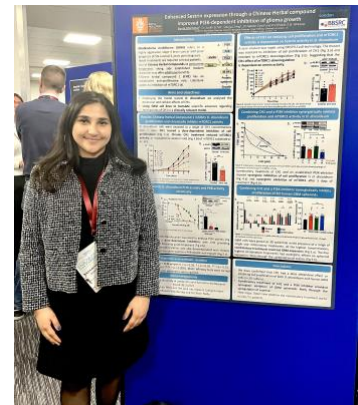


🎉🎉 I am so pleased to share that I was awarded the Royal Holloway, University of London Doctoral School Research Award 2022-2023! 🎉🎉

I spent the award on a trip to the British Neuroscience Association Festival 2023 in Brighton, UK, where I proudly presented the results to my PhD research (My first first-author paper! <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37202382/>)



The four day event commenced with a session titled 'Brain models to expedite preclinical to clinical translation in neuro-oncology' which simply blew me away. My own PhD is focussed on determining the mechanism of action of a Chinese herbal compound as an anti-cancer compound as well as the development of a novel anti-cancer compound for Glioblastoma multiforme treatment, so I was very inspired by the recent advances in organoid and 3D cell culture as well as the extensive drug screening by Dr Victoria Wykes, Dr Manav Pathania, Professor Harish Poptani and Professor Neil Carragher.



Drug Science, a drugs advisory committee, chaired by Professor David Nutt, hosted an interesting session focused on medical psychedelics and their potential uses in treating mental health conditions. This session functioned as a 'gate-way' into my understanding of these compounds in medicinal use, and presented a novel insight into the treatment of depression.

Before my journey home to London, I attended a 'Desert Island Discs' inspired interview series, engaged in sharing key publications that influenced the key event researchers. This reflective panel probed the idea of what it is that inspires researchers in literature and the campaign of publishing their own work.

It was fantastic to share this experience with my fellow RHUL peers from both the Biological Sciences and Psychology departments which wouldn't have been possible without the research award!

Sonia Shinhmar