

## WINNER OF THE BEN STURGEON AWARD 2015

The Ben Sturgeon Award for 2015 has been won by Dr Harry Milton, Vision Smart Optics Inc, Florida.. The award was presented by the Chapter Director, Dr Sally Day at the one-day meeting on Advanced Display Systems and chapter AGM, held at Merck Chemicals, Chilworth Technical Centre, Southampton on Wednesday 27<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. During the conference, Dr Milton was invited to present a paper, based on his work for the award.

Dr Harry Milton did his PhD on liquid-crystal contact lenses with Professor Helen Gleeson, OBE under the supervision of Professor Philip Morgan at the University of Manchester, from 2010 to 2013. He received a CASE Award, which provides funding from industry for PhD students. In Dr Milton's case, the funding was provided by Ultravision, who are the UK's primary innovator in the contact-lens industry.



*Dr Harry Milton receiving his award  
from Dr Sally Day, Chapter Director  
Photo: John Mansell*

Harry tested a variety of options, following suggestions provided by his supervisors as well as his own suggestions. He balanced the requirements of dealing with the medical aspects of the technology, the liquid-crystal physics and devices and the industrial components of manufacturing. He made most of his lenses himself whilst seconded to Ultravision Ltd. During the course of his PhD, he analysed the best designs for the active lenses and filed a patent to protect them that was largely written by himself.

Dr Milton's work has resulted in the winning of a Proof of Principle project funded by the University of Manchester, Intellectual Property Department. At this stage, Professor Cliff Jones joined the group at Manchester University to work closely with Dr Milton, from 2013 to 2014. This enabled the work on the contact lenses moving towards a commercial product. Dr Milton's inventive and creative work has resulted in his becoming a world leader in this new field.

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