

Organic Chemistry Division

The Mander Best PhD Thesis in Organic Chemistry Award

The Mander Best PhD Thesis in Organic Chemistry Award annually recognizes the best PhD thesis submitted in the field of organic chemistry. This award is for outstanding achievement and communication in organic chemistry. The recipient will receive a cash prize of \$1000, generously provided by Davies Collison Cave.

The recipient of the Mander Best PhD Thesis Award for 2016 is Dr Samuel Drew.



Dr Drew conducted his PhD studies under the supervision of Professor Michael Sherburn at the Australian National University. His thesis describes the optimisation of the synthesis of polyene compounds and then the exploitation of these compounds as precursors in a number of elegant total syntheses of complex natural products. The true power of these polyene structure syntheses was highlighted in the *Chemical Science* and *Angewandte Chemie* papers (*Chem. Sci.* 2015, 6, 3886, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2013, **52**, 4221) where a unified synthesis of five natural products from the *Endiandra* genus of plants including three major sub-families of polycyclic compounds was reported from a common TMS-tetrayne precursor. Dr Drew's research into the synthesis of diterpene marine natural products, the pseudopterosins, is also published in *Nature Chemistry* (*Nature Chemistry* 2015, **7**, 82). The originality, complexity and quality of the synthetic work presented in Dr Drew's thesis impressed both his examiners and the selection committee for the award. We congratulate Dr Drew on an outstanding effort and wish him well in his future career.

Dr John Tsanaktsidis

Chair – Organic Chemistry Division