

2013 Macro Group UK Young Researchers Medal

The *Macro Group UK Young Researchers Medal* is awarded annually to a UK-based scientist, normally under the age of 36 on December 31st of the preceding year, whose contributions to polymer science show outstanding promise for the future.



The 2013 award has been made to Dr Lorna Dougan (School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leeds).

Dr Dougan is working in a very interesting area at the interface of polymers, biology and physics. She has developed novel single molecule force spectroscopy methods to mechanically manipulate polymers and proteins, including the development of temperature variability. This approach uncovers features of the molecular architecture and mechanical function of naturally occurring biological molecules and novel, synthetic components and provides insight into polymer collapse, protein folding, mechano-chemical reactions, enzyme catalysis and solvent mediation in biological systems. Lorna has also developed an independent research program of neutron diffraction activity at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories (RAL).