

Relaunching the UK Advancing Healthcare Awards 2025

Work is well underway at Chamberlain Dunn for the launch in October of the new look 2025 Advancing Healthcare awards.

Our aim is to go **bigger, bolder, better** so that healthcare scientists and allied health professionals working in the NHS, local authorities, charities, companies and many other settings achieve greater recognition – much greater – for their contribution to health and social care.

We are devising new supporter and sponsor benefits to offer packages to suit different budgets.

We will be enhancing the lunchtime celebrations, bringing in more sponsors and supporters, introducing new themes, educational opportunities and special guests. We will be enhancing our media coverage to give this highly regarded awards programme a much higher profile.

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Welcome to the second issue of The Link, our new publication bringing together the Advancing Healthcare community, allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those that work alongside them in support roles.

Published every two months, free of charge, it keeps our community up to date with the Awards with updates on closing dates and winners, with news from our sponsors and supporters.

In this issue:

- Find out more about our plans for Advancing Healthcare Awards 2025
- How a father and daughter worked together to encourage staff safety
- To Australia and New Zealand – thanks to a Churchill Scholarship
- Flashback to UK Awards 2024
- Advancing Healthcare Awards NI – closing soon
- Introducing the Healthcare Science Leadership journal
- How to get involved in The Link

Bigger, Bolder, Better

www.ohawards.co.uk

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CYMRU



UNITED KINGDOM



NORTHERN IRELAND



You work where?
One new category will be aimed at those working in unusual settings

Continued
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We are delighted to be working on this with Professor Dame Sue Hill, chief scientific officer, NHS England, Beverley Harden, national lead for AHPs and deputy chief allied health professions officer, NHS England, Janet Monkman, CEO, Academy for Healthcare Science and Steve Jamieson, CEO, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Introducing new themes

We have been looking at the current range of awards with the aim of creating a more coherent list, with more awards open to both AHPs and healthcare scientists. Our new awards might include:

- **The hot topic:** specific, current developments which are high on agenda where there is a real need for people to share findings and experience. The topic would change annually
- **Working together:** an award for projects where healthcare scientists and AHPs have joined forces to run a project or new service
- **Meet the team:** initiatives in workforce development
- **Come and join us:** linking with the recruitment and retention agenda
- **You work where?** recognising healthcare scientists and AHPs who work in unusual settings.
- **How we did it:** sharing how your organisation organised and delivered an effective social media campaign, for example, Health Science Week, ODP Day, or the AHP Federation campaign Prescribing Now.
- **Let's not waste:** to recognise how AHPs and healthcare scientists are contributing to the sustainability agenda.

- **Above and beyond:** a healthcare scientist and/or an AHP who has made a significant and enduring contribution in their field.

How you can get involved

Would you like to be part of the new look Awards?

Sign up to receive our new publication **The Link** – its free, published every two months, bringing the Advancing Healthcare community together. Please invite your network to sign up too: we are sharing news and information relevant to AHPs and healthcare scientists. And please tell us what's happening in your world.

If you work for or are associated with an organisation that might be interested in sponsorship, find out about the **sponsorship packages** we are offering. We've created a wider range of options to suit all budgets. And if you work with suppliers who may like to talk to us about supporting or sponsoring the awards, let us know.

If you are in an official organisation, or charity or think tank or similar that might not be in the position to sponsor at the moment but would like to link with AHPs and healthcare scientists, contact us. We have created a new package for our **Partners** – six partnerships are available.

We are hoping to offer educational benefits to our winners. Are you able to offer course attendance, or shadowing, or mentoring, or travel bursaries, or research grants or conference attendance or similar to our finalists?

Are you running an awards programme in your organisation that could in some way link with the Advancing Healthcare awards so that recognition of achievement in your world could have a bigger impact beyond your specialty? We can help you develop your own awards programme. Chamberlain Dunn have 20 years experience of delivering amazing awards programmes. Have you thought about a **regional awards programme** for AHPs and/or healthcare scientists on your patch that might link with the UK programme?

So lots to think about. Please give us your feedback to ali@chamberdunn.co.uk

Alison Dunn

A winning combination

For the first time in the 20 years' history of the Advancing Healthcare Awards, a father and daughter team are award winners. With their project to create an e-learning course to train staff in the safe handling and use of medical gases and cylinders, they won the award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry, sponsored by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine.

From Swansea Bay University Health Board, Paul Lee, Head of Medical Equipment Management Services (MEMS) and his daughter Jordan, who has no formal medical training but holds an MA in English Literature, have worked together for more than a year in their spare time to create this e-learning course and 70-page workbook.

The training has been added to the National E-Learning For Health portal, an award-winning website with more than two million registered users providing online training for health and social care staff across the UK.

Paul tells The Link what winning the Award has meant.

Winning the award has really given the course and our hard work national recognition and we could not have done this without the dedication and hard work of the rest of the project team from all across the UK. This course will not only improve patient safety, help organisations access the safety information, training and materials they need, but will also save the NHS millions of pounds



Paul Lee and his daughter Jordan (far right).

too. The only other courses on offer cost each person up to £50 each, and have no real way of recording who has completed the learning or who still needs to complete the course. Having a central place to access and record this free training resource is a huge benefit to healthcare staff and the NHS.

We are sharing the course at national events, and already linking in new NHS hospitals and services to make sure they know about the course too. Articles are appearing in local press releases, and journal adverts are planned for the next few months.

Our colleagues in NHS Wales have already linked the course to electronic staff record (ESR) and we are beginning to see the numbers of people accessing the course grow exponentially. In Barts Health NHS Trust in London, almost 5,000 people have accessed the course in just 6 months. Colleagues in Scotland have also contacted us to see how we can make this free resource easily available for all staff in NHS Scotland too.

It's not my first time at the Advancing Healthcare Awards as I've applied four times over the years and I'm always keen to share our project work and achievements too. I was highly commended and runner up in 2023 for the UK leadership award, and shortlisted for other categories over the years for IV cannulation projects, supporting nurses for maths and calculation skills, and this year's winner for the IPEM award for collaboration around our medical gas training course.

The Awards are always a great showcase for the work that healthcare scientists are involved in and I'm always amazed at the projects and teamwork that shines through every category. It's great to see the recognition we get and how healthcare scientist support staff and lead the way in making the NHS the envy of the world that it is today. I would encourage everyone think about sharing their good news and applying for 2025 and beyond.

For further information contact: Paul.Lee@wales.nhs.uk



Working with the New Zealand government team on optimising scope across allied health

It is the most unbelievable privilege to learn, share and stretch your thinking. Over my career to date I have supported many, many people to pursue the magic of a Churchill Fellowship.

Once my children left home and before my caring responsibilities define the next chapter, I was awarded an opportunity to learn from global colleagues. I had thought I might be too old; the fund, however, smiled and corrected me that everyone had something different to offer.

The application process alone was a privilege and delight – imagine the wonder of an interview with the Hon Jeremy Soames, the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill and Julia Weston CEO, quite the most inspiring human I have met in a while, alongside a panel of significant people discussing the impact of allied health workforce on health inequalities across rural communities.



Discussions within New South Wales on advanced practice along with rural and coastal optimisation

Uniting AHPs across the globe

Beverley Harden shares her experience of her recent Churchill Fellowship in Australia and New Zealand. Beverley is national AHP lead for England and deputy chief AHP officer, NHS England.



Working with ACT Canberra exploring advanced practice within allied health

The result, after significant and valued due diligence, was the joy of time with global colleagues across New Zealand and Australia, debating the optimisation of allied health workforce within rural communities, as the canary down the mine of AHP global workforce. This will be followed by attending the first global conference of allied health in Singapore in the autumn. I am privileged to have been invited to open the conference where we launch our global AHP leadership community and run a retreat together with the leaders group to consider the development of the first ever global position on allied health workforce. I have also pursued significant work across the UK to triangulate the learning.

I am beyond grateful to the Churchill Fellowship for believing in a shared mission to ensure that health inequalities within rural communities are recognised and addressed.

If in doubt, Google it! Life changing, self-actualising and just wonderful – thank you Churchill Fellowship. The global network that you have helped us to craft will create a step change across the globe – people's access to allied health, early diagnostics and rehabilitation will never look back! Thank you so so much.

<https://www.churchillfellowship.org/become-a-fellow/how-to-apply/>



Advancing Healthcare Awards 2024

Nearly 300 people gathered at the Victoria Park Plaza Hotel in Victoria on 26 April to celebrate the finalists of the 2024 Advancing Healthcare Awards. We couldn't have had a better host than Eamonn Holmes, the renowned broadcaster and journalist, whose experience of recent health and mobility problems meant he understood the work of many of the professionals in the room.

He urged his audience to promote their professions to bring in new people. 'Young people are unlikely to wake up one morning with a calling to be a podiatrist or a speech and language therapist or a prosthetist. You must get out there, into the schools and talk about what you do,' he said.

The whole room was enthralled by a performance by Kris Halpin, an electronic musician who performs as Dyskinetic and is also artistic director at Sense,

a charity helping people with complex disabilities to access music. He has cerebral palsy and showed how his AI powered MiMu Gloves have enabled him to produce the music he loves – an invention which has both great creative and therapeutic value.

From a strong field, our overall winner was Steve Hewitt, orthotist and spinal clinical specialist at Sheffield Children's Hospital and The SpineCorporation Ltd for his life changing work in scoliosis management for children with spinal muscular atrophy.

A remarkable afternoon was concluded by Ann Keen, former health minister under Gordon Brown and nursing adviser to Sir Keir Starmer who spoke movingly about how it was AHPs who helped a relative with motor neurone disease when doctors and nurses could no longer do much to help.

You can find out more about the winners [here](#). ●



How to write a winning entry

For the first time, we have run a masterclass to help award entrants prepare their submissions and present their projects, an initiative from the Northern Ireland AHP team at the Department of Health. Siobhan Rice and Lindsay Mckee, from the Leadership Centre, tell us more.

On the 9th May 2024, the HSC Leadership Centre in partnership with the Department of Health and Chamberlain Dunn hosted a masterclass on submitting applications for the Advancing Healthcare Awards. More than 30 participants from across the allied health professions in Northern Ireland attended the session either face to face or virtually to pick up tools and techniques to prepare themselves and their teams for application to the awards. As senior consultants with the HSC Leadership Centre we ran the session with Ciara O’Keefe, graduate trainee.

We were delighted to start with opening welcome statements from Robin Swann, Health Minister and Michelle Tennyson, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer. Both recognised the vital importance of allied health professionals in the transformation and delivery of healthcare services as well as providing encouragement to the participants to use the awards as an opportunity to showcase their fantastic work. Through introductions around the room, there was a cross section of participants who had either won AH awards previously, been shortlisted or had never submitted before, providing a rich environment of experience for the group breakout activities and shared learning.

Through the enrolment survey, participants indicated they were equally interested in learning more about effective written submissions as well as impactful presentations. There was also a desire to explore evidencing impact whilst keeping their written submissions succinct. Through the session, the facilitators explored the principles of creating an opening ‘hook’ summary statement, focusing on the key objective, scope and advantage of their respective projects in no more than 50-100 words. They then spent time exploring ‘The Heroes Journey’ a well-established storytelling tool to structure written submissions and bring projects to life. Participants also had the opportunity to review



Masterclass participants learning the art of writing successful awards entries

previous successful applications across individual and team categories, discussing in groups their observations on best practice.

There was an opportunity to explore the importance of qualitative and quantitative data in award submissions. Facilitators emphasised the importance of evidencing impact, ensuring applicants consider not just outputs delivered but also outcomes achieved by their respective projects. There was also discussion around the importance of making links to wider regional and national strategies such as IMPACT, including powerful patient stories and demonstrating sustainability of projects in terms of how they were scaled for longer term benefit.

The session concluded with a review of effective presentation techniques. Participants explored the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication, being mindful of pace, pitch and tone, structuring presentations and preparing for questions. Feedback on the day was positive, with participants reflecting that it helped them to feel motivated, positive, inspired and more confident to progress their applications. The HSC Leadership Centre was delighted to facilitate the session and would like to wish all applicants best of luck for their submissions. We look forward to seeing the winners in October!

Calling all AHPs and healthcare scientists in NI: the closing date is 19 July

Allied health professionals and healthcare scientists working in any setting in Northern Ireland have until 19 July to submit their entries to this year's awards programme.

We are delighted that the awards judging this year will be in person again on 16 September. Thank you to the Clinical Education Centre, for letting us use their excellent facilities. The awards ceremony and dinner is on 10 October at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

New this year is a special recognition award for which nominations are invited for people who are not AHP professionals who have made an important contribution to the work of AHPs.

Also new this time from Ulster University is an award for Masters Clinical Research, open to Masters students; and Excellence in Cancer Care, sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Three awards will be presented on the night which are organised separately from the main entry system. One is the Ministry of Defence award for AHP Reservist of the Year; the second is Ulster University's award for Paramedic Undergraduate of the Year; and the third is the Ulster University AHP Undergraduate of the Year.

Other awards include:

- Award for service improvement, sponsored by the Clinical Education Centre
- Award for outstanding leadership, sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science
- Award for Creative and Innovative Practice
- Award for Excellence in a support role
- Award for Partnership Working in Public Health, sponsored by Public Health Agency
- Award for outstanding service delivery by an AHP or healthcare scientist working outside the NHS
- Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry, sponsored by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- Rising Star award
- The Patricia Blackburn award for significant contribution and achievement, sponsored by the HSC Leadership Centre.

For more information go to:
www.ahawards.co.uk/ni24/

Our sponsors for the Northern Ireland awards

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters which make it all possible.





AHA Cymru

We are planning a relaunch of the Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru in the context of the developments for the 2025 UK Awards. The date is to be confirmed but we are planning to update the themes and widen the range of supporters and sponsors.

Do you have ideas to share about how we can improve AHA Cymru?

Contact ali@chamberdunn.co.uk

Rob Orford joins Moondance

Wales' most senior healthcare scientist for the past 7 years has taken on a new role to help Wales become a world leader in cancer outcomes.

Dr Orford said: 'I'm hugely excited to be joining Moondance Cancer Initiative to lead the charge to make Wales a world leader in cancer survival. My focus has always been using science, evidence, innovation, and research to improve health and help make a measurable change to people's lives and this role is that mantra writ large.'

Geoff Graham, chair of Moondance, said: 'Rob's appointment is a real milestone for Moondance. Over the past four years, Moondance has truly established itself on Wales' cancer landscape as a trusted partner committed to bringing knowledge, ideas and funding to improve cancer outcomes across the country.'

For more information, visit: <https://moondance-cancer.wales/>



Dr Rob Orford, who has been chief scientific adviser for health for Wales since 2017, is now CEO at Moondance Cancer Initiative.

AHPs – inspiring future solutions

The first ever conference for AHPs is being held on 5 November by Health Education and Improvement Wales, developed in collaboration with Welsh Government colleagues to showcase the impact and value AHPs have on the population in Wales.



The First Minister has been confirmed as a key note speaker for this event.

Entitled, *Moving forward together: AHP innovation to inspire future solutions*, it is open to AHPs, all health and social care workers, students, educators, senior leaders and workforce colleagues working in Wales. The registration link will be available soon. The venue is Sofia Gardens, Cardiff.

The deadline for abstracts is 15 July to heiw.ahp@wales.nhs.uk

Have you had a look at the Healthcare Science Leadership journal?

It's free and will change your life

Have you seen it? You must. The seventh edition of the Healthcare Science Leadership Journal has just been published by the Academy for Healthcare Science. Its founding editor Keith Ison has now handed over to Usman Lulu, Clinical Scientist in Radiotherapy Physics, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Jonathan Flannery, Clinical Scientist in Neurophysiology, who are full of ideas about how to develop the journal.

Admittedly she is biased as a member of the editorial advisory board but here's the reaction of Arthi Anand, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, North West London Pathology and BAME Ambassador, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, to the latest issue. 'It's a truly a remarkable compilation of insightful and innovative articles that captivate and engage the audience.

'Each piece reflects a profound understanding of the evolving landscape of healthcare leadership, and the diversity of topics covered is both impressive and enlightening. The quality of the writing and the depth of analysis provide a thoroughly enjoyable and intellectually stimulating read.'

And here's a taster of the current issue, thanks to Keith's editorial:

Have you ever wondered how people in senior leadership positions got there? Every person's journey is different, with the way ahead often unclear and never inevitable. No-one's career journey illustrates this better than that of Bernie Croal, current President of the

Royal College of Pathologists. He talks about some of the many challenges he has faced and shows his drive and commitment to achieve clinical, scientific and professional change.

In a progressive healthcare system, every person needs leadership development so that they can flourish. Ruth Thomsen outlines how the Academy for Healthcare Science is developing a strategy that builds a coherent and integrated approach to leadership for healthcare scientists. Organisations also need to invest in new ways of working to survive and develop. Sharran Grey describes how her early career prepared her to take advantage of a scheme that fast tracks biomedical scientists into consultant clinical scientist roles which complement the work of medical consultants.

Many healthcare scientists and most clinicians rely at some point on medical technology when delivering services to patients. Sarah Jennings sets out how NHS England tries to identify and resolve medical device issues, ideally before things go wrong. Healthcare scientists are in a unique



position to advise other clinical staff on how to purchase, set up, monitor and support devices to keep patients safe.

Medical devices are also important in point of care testing. Anna Stec and Gilbert Wieringa provide an overview of existing and potential applications and identify important roles healthcare scientists can take to ensure these expanding services are done well. Widening the medical device theme, Phil Cosgriff explores how writing a book about medical device regulation helped him think about ideas to inform potential authors about book writing.

Kip Heath shows the power of individual leadership and diversity in action. From stepping up to take on leadership roles to facing into fears of standing up in front of a crowd, she is an example of someone who has faced into and overcome challenges. She encourages all healthcare scientists to work together and be seen.

Have a read [here](#) and ensure you see future issues.

Physiotherapists – big steps in promoting rehabilitation

Getting the message across to the movers and shakers in healthcare is always a challenge for specialist professional organisations.

At the recent NHS ConfedExpo in Manchester, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists hosted a



Panel members: Sara Hazzard, Duleep Allirajah, Richmond Group of Charities chief executive, Karen Poole, King's Fund chief executive, Sarah Woolnough and Jenny Keane, NHS England director

panel session on how to achieve greater access to rehabilitation services. Senior figures from NHS England, the King's Fund and the Richmond Group joined consultant physiotherapist Karen Poole and CSP assistant director Sara Hazzard.

The well-attended event, chaired by Guardian health policy editor Denis Campbell, heard about systemic issues, practical implementation examples and moving personal experiences from the panelists.

Sara Hazzard commented: 'As one of the panel noted, we wouldn't have had such a big audience event a few years ago, so it is really encouraging to see our ongoing work around rehab having an impact.'

'We were delighted to convene the session and the message coming from all the panel was clear – rehab is the enabler for the system and must be given the resources it needs.'

Rethinking the speech and language therapy awards

Judging is underway for the 2024 awards from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists which the College says are 'an opportunity to recognise the achievements of our members and celebrate those who have supported and championed speech and language therapy and made a difference to the lives of service users.'

The Advancing Healthcare team at Chamberlain Dunn were delighted to work with the College to help revamp the old *Giving Voice* awards, into eight new RCSLT awards categories.

This has made it easier to identify and nominate projects, people or teams that deserve to be considered for an award.



As number of the awards have similar themes to the UK Advancing Healthcare awards, it will also make it easier for members to submit entries

to the UK awards. The RCSLT themes are:

- Championing to value and impact of SLTs
- Co-production with service-user partners and families
- Developing and supporting the profession
- Excellence in research and development
- Fostering equality, diversity and inclusion
- Innovation solutions and new ways of working
- Inspiring leadership in SLTs
- Rising Stars.

Releasing the potential of support workers

The untapped potential of the support workforce has long been an interest of Professor Richard Griffin, professor of healthcare management, at King's Business School.



Rachel Kane, clinical assistant at the Leonard Cheshire ARBA unit in Northern Ireland, winner of the Outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or technician award in the 2024 Awards, and also in the 2023 NI Awards.

He is urging us to have a look at a scoping review of academic studies of AHP support staff by researchers at Sheffield and Bradford universities. It sets out the common issues this workforce faces internationally, such as poor access to training, the consequence of their underutilisation and the benefits of their effective deployment, including improved patient care.

They quote one study that found only 10% of support workers are fully deployed with a wide range of factors impacting on delegation – some objective, like training, some subjective such as perceptions of scope creep.

Richard urges us to read the article (open access) and ‘think what the impact on healthcare capacity and capability would be if this important group of staff were fully utilised.’

[The Deployment and Utilization of the Allied Health Professions Support Workforce: A Scoping Review - Sheffield Hallam University Research Archive \(shu.ac.uk\)](https://shu.ac.uk)

ODPs – hidden no longer

National ODP Day was organised by the College of Operating Department Practitioners and UNISON on 14 May to encourage ODPs to come out from behind closed theatre doors and show healthcare colleagues and the public more about their profession and how important ODPs are to excellent patient care.

It resulted in a vast range of activities throughout the country. Birmingham City University, for example, organised a conference *In our own words: ODPs now and in the future*, for all theatre practitioners, whether student or qualified, to celebrate the day and with a series of talks, poster presentations and roundtables. Participants could achieve CPD points and explore the world of simulation and its importance in operating department practice.

Nuffield Health ran an interview with Kate Stables, ODP at Nuffield Health Plymouth, who has recently won a Florence Nightingale Foundation award for her sustainable healthcare project.

She has been an ODP for 10 years, having qualified while in the Army and working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth before moving to Plymouth.



Kate (second from right) receiving her Florence Nightingale Foundation award.

Our sponsors and supporters include:



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Join us as a sponsor or supporter

Our ambitious plans for the UK Awards in 2025 offer a far wider range of benefits to our sponsors and supporters. We will be expanding the number of awards with new themes that we are developing, but still offering the scope for sponsors to run with their own award topics. Sponsors have their own branded table at the awards lunch, involvement in the judging, the opportunity to include news in The Link, and of course, intensive social media activity during the promotional period and beyond.

Contact ali@chamberdunn.co.uk

Sign up



To sign up
to receive
The Link,
go to

www.ahawards.co.uk/the-link/



The Link is published 6 times a year by Chamberlain Dunn, the organisers of the Advancing Healthcare Awards.

Chamberlain Dunn
The Old Candlemakers
West Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2NZ

Telephone
020 8334 4500

Email
mail@chamberdunn.co.uk

www.chamberlaindunn.co.uk



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