



I M P A C T  
C R E A T I V I T Y  
L E A D E R S H I P  
C O M P A S S I O N

### **MEDIA INFORMATION: 23 May 2025: for immediate release**

The 20<sup>th</sup> UK Advancing Healthcare Awards ceremony was held in London at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington on 23 May 2025. It was hosted by Bridgitte Tetteh, BBC Radio Berkshire and BBC Radio Oxford presenter, with speeches from Professor Dame Sue Hill DBE, NHS England Chief Scientific Officer and Professor Suzanne Rastrick OBE, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for England.

The opening address was given by Richard Stubbs, Chair of the Health Innovation Network who shared with guests how the Network works to incubate innovation and welcomes innovative approaches from AHPs and healthcare scientists.

The overall winner for 2025 was the joint project **“Hello in there wee one: a collaboration supporting pre-birth communication”** by Vicky Armstrong, art therapist, Dundee Contemporary Art (DCA), Sean Nolan, Mental Health team lead, Claire Norfolk, clinical psychologist, NHS Tayside, Josephine Ross, professor of psychology, University of Dundee, Sarah Derrick, head of learning, DCA and Louise Kirby, artist, with DCA, Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and University of Dundee.

**The Welsh Government’s award for delivering multiprofessional community services** was presented by Ruth Crowder, Chief Allied Health Professions Adviser at Welsh Government.

**Winner:** Living Well Service: a needs-led model The Community Complex Conditions Service, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

#### **Highly commended:**

The allied health professionals community rapid access and admission prevention service model Paula Cornelius, head of occupational therapy services, Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board

**The award for outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or nonregistered technician in an AHP or healthcare science service** was presented by Carolyn McDonald, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for Scotland

**Winner:** Dania Granzotto, Healthcare science associate, specialising in ophthalmic imaging, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust

**Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce** was presented by Beverley Harden, deputy chief AHP officer for NHS England.

**Winner:** Rhia Kaur Saggu, highly specialist dietitian and programme manager at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust for the “Healthcare Leaders' Fellowship”.



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**Highly Commended:** Lauren Anna Hryniewiecka, practice development lead AHP-OPAC, Caroline Stackhouse, deputy chief of allied health professionals, and the AHP team at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, for "[The AHP Song: inspiring future healthcare heroes](#)".

**The Rising Star award** was presented by Steve Jamieson, Chief Executive, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

**Amit Nautiyal**, Clinical scientist at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

**Jane Blackburn**, Echocardiographer at Royal United Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Bath

**Michela Clarke**, Senior occupational therapist at Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

**Aine Doherty**, Radiographer at Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Western Health and Social Care Trust

**Angelika Kopeck**, Biomedical scientist for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

**Aina Nisar**, Clinical engineering healthcare scientist at Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**Rachel Ventom**, Art therapist with Chroma

**Sinziana Vrabie**, Neurologic music therapist with Chroma

**Gerta Bicaku**, Associate practitioner in the Immunology Department at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

**Corey Davies**, Clinical scientist in respiratory and sleep, and healthcare science programme clinical lead for service transformation at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Health Education and Improvement Wales.

**The Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry supported by the Health Innovation Network** was presented by Richard Stubbs, Chair, Health Innovation Network

**Winner: Paul Twose**, consultant therapist in critical care at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and **Grace Moore**, patient innovations manager for the Institute of Clinical Science and Technology for their project, "Revolutionising care at scale: the TRACHES Toolkit – transforming outcomes and reducing costs through NHS-industry partnership".

**The Award for creative and innovative practice** was presented by Venus Madden, Associate Director of AHPs at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

**Winner: Vicky Armstrong**, art therapist, Dundee Contemporary Art (DCA), **Sean Nolan**, Mental Health team lead, **Claire Norfolk**, clinical psychologist, NHS Tayside, **Josephine Ross**, professor of psychology, University of Dundee, **Sarah Derrick**, head of learning, DCA and **Louise Kirby**, artist, with DCA, Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and University of Dundee for their joint project, "Hello in there wee one: a collaboration supporting pre-birth communication".



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**Highly commended:** Sarah Power, dramatherapist and senior psychotherapist and Kayleigh Reardon, advanced mental health occupational therapist at the Essex Partnership University NHS Trust for their project with rough sleepers in Southend.

The **Award for campaigning with power and impact supported by PH Affairs** was presented by Paul Wright, Chief Executive Officer, PH Affairs

**Winner:** Dan Nimmo, head of communications, and the communications team at the Institute of Biomedical Science for their “Biomedical Science Day: a national campaign celebrating healthcare science and empowering public engagement”.

The **BAPO award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists** was presented by BAPO chair, Dr Nicky Eddison.

**Winner:** Laura Barr, orthotist at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde for “the Orthotics Evidence Portal: enhancing evidence-based practice in the UK orthotic profession”.

The **#RightToRehab award for innovation supported by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy** was presented by John Cowman, Chief Executive, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

**Winner:** Carol Keen, consultant physiotherapist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for her project, “Active Together: cancer prehabilitation and rehabilitation”.

The **Northern Ireland Government’s award for clinical impact to address healthcare inequalities** was presented by Professor Michelle Tennyson, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Northern Ireland

**Winner:** Sarah McElholm, specialist speech and language therapist and service lead, Charlene McLaughlin, psychologist, Clare Wilson, specialist speech and language therapist, and Siobhan Martin, specialist occupational therapist and the Children & Young People’s Autism Early Intervention Service from Western Health and Social Care Trust, for their collaborative project, “Doing Things Differently: using a neuro-affirming approach to see beyond the label”.

The **NHS England Chief Scientific Officer’s award for the Outstanding Healthcare Science Service of the year** presented by Professor Dame Sue Hill DBE, NHS England Chief Scientific Officer, NHS England

**Winner:** The **point of care testing service** at Berkshire and Surrey Pathology Services, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, Ashford & St Peter’s NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust.



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**The Biomedical Scientist of the Year award *sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science***  
presented by Joanna Andrew, President, IBMS

**Winner:** Craig Baker, Cellular pathology and mortuary service manager at Hywel Dda University Health Board

**The lightbulb moment: The award for driving forward patient safety *sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science*** was presented by John Stevens, Chair, Academy for Healthcare Science

**Winner:** Nana Odom, head of clinical engineering at the Cleveland Clinic in London, for her work on medical device safety.

**My inspiration: The AHCS award for the most inspiring leader *sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science*** was presented by Professor Chris Hopkins, president-elect, Academy for Healthcare Science

**Winner:** Dr Nolan Stain, Head of cardiorespiratory physiology at Barts Health NHS Trust.

**Highly commended:** Dr Ruth Vickerstaff, Principal audiologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

**The British and Irish Orthoptic Society award for service improvement and innovative practice** was presented by Craig Murray, Chair, BAPO

**Winner:** Aisha Raja, Louise Surridge and Alice Dawes from Bedfordshire Community Eye Service for their 'Upskilling Project'.

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