



MEDIA RELEASE: 23 October 2025
ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND
WINNERS 2025

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland programme is a vital opportunity to recognise and celebrate the important and innovative work of healthcare scientists, allied health professionals and those working alongside them.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland ceremony was held on 23 October 2025 at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast. The ceremony was attended by over 300 guests and hosted by **Tara Mills**, BBC Northern Ireland presenter. The guest speaker was Mike Nesbitt, Minister of Health, Northern Ireland.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland supporters include the Public Health Agency, the HCS Leadership Centre, Macmillan Cancer Support, Ulster University, 38 (Irish) Brigade & Joint Military Command, Northern Ireland, the Institute of Biomedical Science, the Clinical Education Centre, Business Services Organisation, the AHP Federation Northern Ireland, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Northern Ireland, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Northern Ireland, Unite the Union and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust.

The **overall winner** of the Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland 2025 and winner of the Award for Creative and Innovative Practice is Orla Morrow, Clinical Practice Lead (Acute Care) and team at the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service for Narrowing the search – Maternity and Paediatric equipment within the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

The judges chose this as the overall winner because the team demonstrated excellence in all areas; their project is highly scalable and cost effective, and not only had an impressive impact on patient safety and care, but also on staff health and wellbeing as well.

The **Award for Service Improvement, sponsored by the Clinical Education Centre, Business Services Organisation** had a winner from each profession. The AHP winner was the Paediatric Complex Needs Physiotherapy Team at South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. The healthcare science winner was the CoreLIMS team at Business Services Organisation.

The AHP team presented **with the Award for Outstanding Leadership, sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science** were Ashling McElvanna, Principal Podiatrist, Jennifer Madden, Consultant Podiatrist, and the full podiatry team at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for their leadership on the project, 'No Show, Know Why' – DNA as a signal for action to target support and improve outcomes for patients with diabetes foot ulceration.

The healthcare science recipients of the **Award for Outstanding Leadership, sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science** are David Moorhead, Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist, Noel Black, Principal Cardiac Physiologist, and the team at South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust for their leadership on the project, my Heart Skips a Beat – a new initiative to reduce the waiting times for a Cardiac Monitor to be fitted.

The winner of the **Award for Creative and Innovative Practice** is Orla Morrow, Clinical Practice Lead (Acute Care) and team at the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, for Narrowing the search – Maternity and Paediatric equipment within the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

Ronan Leyden, Administrative Officer and Therapy Assistant for the Regional Functional Electrical Stimulation Service at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust was presented with the **Award for Excellence in a Support Role**.

The winner of the **Award for excellence in cancer care, sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support** was Sarah Jayne Faloon, Clinical Specialist Head & Neck Oncology Dietitian at Northern Ireland Cancer Centre, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for the outpatient management of head and neck radiotherapy patients in her project, 'Tube Fed, Home Led'.

The **Award for Masters clinical research, sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University** was presented to Alison Keys, AHP Lead for Workforce, Education and Regulation at the Department of Health Northern Ireland, Dr Orla Duffy, Speech and Language Therapy Research Lead for Ulster University, Rosalind Rogers at the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University and Dr Clare

Rainey, Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy at University College Cork for their research on, Artificial Intelligence in Videofluoroscopy and Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing analysis.

The **Award for partnership working in public health, sponsored by the Public Health Agency** went to Stuart Watson, Music Therapist at Make a Melody for his project, Beyond the session: embedding therapeutic practice in school culture.

The **Award for Outstanding service delivery by an AHP or healthcare scientist working outside the NHS** went to Melissa Traynor, Respiratory Physiologist, Southern GP Federation for her project, 'A Breath of Fresh Care' – transforming access to early respiratory diagnostics.

The judges awarded **Rising Star awards** to individuals who demonstrated a level of initiative, skill and commitment that is truly exceptional:

Jennifer Ramsbottom, Specialist Dietitian at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Meg Minihane, Specialist Dietitian at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Kathy Donaghy-Smith, Podiatry Assistant Practitioner for Primary Care and Older Peoples Service at South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Aoife Campbell, Community Occupational Therapist at Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Fiona Harris, Occupational Therapist at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Claire Tuohey, Occupational Therapist at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Emma-Jane Simpson, Clinical Scientist in Respiratory & Sleep Physiology at Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

The **Military Medical Professional of the Year award, sponsored by 38 Irish Brigade & Joint Military Command, Northern Ireland** went to Lance Corporal William Bevan, 2nd Battalion, for his outstanding work ethic and excels in all aspects of medicine both Primary Health Care and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care.

The **Award for the student paramedic of the year, sponsored by School of Nursing and Paramedic Science, Ulster University** went to Kristina McDaid, Paramedic Science Undergraduate in her third year at Ulster University, with the **Outstanding Undergraduate of the Year Award, sponsored by**

School of Health Sciences, Ulster University going to Alanna O'Donnell, Undergraduate in Diagnostic Radiography at Ulster University.

The new award Nominated by a Patient or Service User was presented to Caroline Wilson, Lead Speech and Language Therapist, Knockmore Primary School Lisburn, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust for her phenomenal support and encouragement not just of the user themselves, but of the entire family.

The Patricia Blackburn Award for Significant Contribution and Achievement sponsored by the HSC Leadership Centre was won by Pauline Douglas, Senior Lecturer in Dietetics at Ulster University whose passion and commitment shaped dietetic education and practice both nationally and internationally over four decades of visionary leadership, mentorship and service.

The awards were open to allied health professionals and healthcare scientists in Northern Ireland. The awards programme is organised by Chamberlain Dunn, the creators of the UK-wide Advancing Healthcare awards, a well-established UK-wide programme which has done so much over the years to share good practice across all four countries. The UK awards programme 2026 is launching soon,

Please contact Ellie Hayden on 020 8334 4500 or ellie@chamberdunn.co.uk for further details or photographs from the event.

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