

INFORMATION SHEET

For allied health professionals and healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.



UNITED KINGDOM
**ADVANCING
HEALTHCARE
AWARDS 2026**

Welcome to the 2026 Advancing Healthcare Awards.

We are once again looking forward to receiving your entries.

Some tips to think about before you enter:

- Please consider carefully which category to enter your project. Sometimes it may be too early to go with the project that is currently engaging you. An older, more established one might have fuller evaluation and proof of sustainability.
- The general categories can sometimes attract the most entries so have a look carefully at the more specific awards to see if your work might fit.
- If you are nominating a person, consider whether they will be happy to join a judging panel, if they are shortlisted.
- Spend time on your 50 word summary – this gives a clear snapshot of your project or person, and it will help judges to understand your submission right from the start.
- You can find more tips here. If you would like to discuss your submission with one of our team please contact joy@chamberdunn.co.uk

KEY DATES

**CLOSING DATE
EXTENDED:**

Thursday 19 March 2026

JUDGING DAY:

Monday 11 May 2026

AWARDS CEREMONY:

Friday 19 June 2026

VENUE:

Royal Garden Hotel,
Kensington, London

Good luck and thank you for your interest in the Advancing Healthcare Awards.

CATEGORY SPONSORS



We are delighted to invite entries to the 2026 Advancing Healthcare Awards, promoting the work of AHPs and healthcare scientists. These professional groups are leaders of innovation and are well placed to respond to new opportunities and challenges. The Advancing Healthcare Awards is an annual event that celebrates best practice, innovation, impact and leadership.

Take a look at the categories and see where your project might fit. You can be working in any setting in the UK, the NHS, charity, private sector or self-employed. We are particularly keen to encourage people from a wide range of diverse backgrounds to enter the awards.

The Awards aim to:

- Identify and share examples of good, impactful practice throughout the four countries of the UK, which are evidence-based, sustainable and transferable
- Help AHPs and healthcare scientists communicate their key role in health and social care to their various audiences
- Develop the awards programme in reach and stature, reflecting the crucial contribution of AHPs and healthcare scientists in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation
- To meet the expectations of the sponsoring and supporting organisations.

Criteria and submission statements are listed here so that you can see what is required and to allow you to prepare your entries offline.

At least one team member in your entry should be an AHP or healthcare scientist (except for categories which specifically include support workers). You can enter as many projects as you like across the categories, but each particular project can only be entered into one category.

Entries must be submitted online via the website forms – go to www.AHAwards.co.uk/uk and follow the **ENTER NOW** links.

The closing date for the awards is
Thursday 19 March 2026



AWARDS OPEN TO BOTH AHPs AND HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

- 1 Welsh Government's award for creative and innovative practice
- 2 Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry
- 3 Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce
- 4 The Rising Star award
- 5 The award for outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or nonregistered technician in an AHP or healthcare science workforce
- 6 **NEW for 2026 Award for Excellence in Cancer Care**
Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support



- 7 **The BAPO award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics**
Sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics



This category welcomes applications from anyone who can demonstrate meaningful impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics.

AWARDS OPEN TO AHPs

- 8 **The #RightToRehab award for innovation**
Sponsored by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- 9 **The Northern Ireland Government's award for excellence in community partnership to improve population health**
- 10 **NEW for 2026 AHP Research excellence award**
Sponsored by National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)



AWARDS OPEN TO HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

- 11 **The NHS England Chief Scientific Officer's Award for the Outstanding Healthcare Science Service of the year**
- 12 **Biomedical Scientist of the Year award**
Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science
- 13 **My inspiration: The AHCS award for the most inspiring leader**
Sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science
- 14 **Echocardiographer of the Year award**
Sponsored by British Society of Echocardiography



THE AWARDS IN DETAIL

AWARDS OPEN TO BOTH AHPs AND HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS



1 Welsh Government's award for creative and innovative practice

This award aims to attract entries from AHPs and healthcare scientists who have put fresh partnerships and alliances together to tackle new or longstanding problems in creative ways to make a real, sustainable impact on service-users and patient care in any setting.

This category is open to entrants across the UK

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- benefits to service users and services, including cost effectiveness
- tackling new or longstanding challenges with evidence-based solutions
- leadership, team working and partnership-building
- evidence of service user involvement
- sustainability and transferability.

Submission questions

- 1 Summarise your initiative and its impact in 50 words.
- 2 Now provide a fuller description of your project and relevant background work (200 words)
- 3 What are the measurable outcomes (please include metrics) and benefits to service users, and how does it provide cost-effectiveness? (200 words)
- 4 How does it demonstrate leadership, team working and partnership building skills? (100 words)
- 5 How have you involved service-users and communities? (100 words)
- 6 What is the potential for transferability and scalability across organisations or services, and how is sustainable? (100 words)

2 Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry

This award aims to celebrate effective collaborative working across clinical settings, the academic world and industry to develop new services or streamline existing processes for the benefit of patient care. We are looking for outstanding projects or initiatives covering clinical and industry, or clinical and academic, or all three sectors; projects that demonstrate partnership working, bringing into play the perspectives, expertise and skills that the different sectors can offer.

It is open to healthcare scientists and AHPs working in any setting in the UK

Criteria

- Effective collaboration across service providers, universities and industry to create new ways of working
- Benefits for service users, services and organisations including cost effectiveness
- Sustainability and transferability
- Leadership and team working
- Evidence of service user involvement.

Submission questions

- 1 Summarise the project or initiative and the significance of the collaboration (50 words).
- 2 Now provide a fuller description of the innovation and how the partnership devised and implemented it. (200 words)
- 3 What are the measurable outcomes (please include metrics) and benefits in terms of patient services? (200 words)
- 4 Why was this collaboration the right one to tackle the problem or develop the innovation ? (100 words)
- 5 How have you involved service users and communities? (100 words)
- 6 How could it be sustained and what is the potential for transferability and scalability across organisations or services? (100 words)

3 Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce

This new award recognises the determination, creativity and collaborative leadership driving recent initiatives to grow and strengthen the AHP and healthcare science workforce. Successful programmes have combined strategic, system-wide thinking with innovative profession-specific approaches, using effective communication and dissemination to accelerate impact.

This broad category includes work relating to education, training, recruitment, retention, equality and diversity, apprenticeships, support-worker development, career pathways, advanced clinical practice and new ways of working. Entrants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate measurable outcomes and use robust data to evidence impact.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for clear and compelling evidence of:

- Understanding of the UK-wide workforce landscape and analysis of how national, regional and local factors shaped your strategy, including relevant benchmarks or baseline data.
- A systems approach that shows alignment across organisations and professions, with a clearly articulated theory of change or delivery plan.
- Effective partnerships, alliances and communication activity—including metrics demonstrating reach, engagement or influence.
- Demonstrable, data-driven impact and outcomes (e.g., recruitment numbers, retention improvements, training uptake, diversity indicators, progression rates), with evidence of sustainability and transferability.
- Practical insights and key messages that others can apply, supported by quantifiable learning where possible.

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your initiative and its impact (50 words). Include one headline metric that captures scale or success.
- 2 Provide a fuller description of your strategy, activities and the context. (200 words) Explain the problem you aimed to solve, your baseline position, your target outcomes and any data that informed your approach.
- 3 What partnerships and alliances did you forge? (200 words) Describe the contribution of each partnership, alliance and/or service users and include metrics such as audience reach, engagement, uptake or co-produced outputs.
- 5 What have you achieved and how is it transferable and scalable? (100 words) Present your strongest outcomes using numbers, percentages or other indicators of change, and explain how the model could be replicated elsewhere.
- 6 What are your key messages? (50 words) Highlight evidence-based lessons supported by one or more quantitative and qualitative insights.

4 The Rising Star Award

For this award we are inviting you to nominate a colleague or member of staff who has shown a level of initiative, skill and commitment that is truly exceptional. You may nominate anyone who has been working as a qualified allied health professional or healthcare scientist for less than five years, and who you and others recognise as a star in the making.

Criteria

This is an open award with no rigid criteria, so tell us their story. We are looking for people who stand out from the crowd and have already shown courage in meeting professional or personal challenges, displaying determination, creativity, intelligence and bravery; people who have continued to develop their skills and evidence-based practice since qualifying and flourished in whatever setting they have found themselves.

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise why this person stands out from the crowd in 50 words.
- 2 Have there been any personal or professional challenges that they have faced? (100 words)
- 3 In what specific ways has this person matured professionally? (50 words)
- 4 What do colleagues, managers and patients say about them? (50 words)
- 5 How does this person show promise for the future? (50 words)

5 The award for outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or non-registered technician in an AHP or healthcare science service

This award is open to apprentices, support workers, assistants or non-registered technicians working with allied health professionals or in healthcare science services. We want to celebrate the positive contribution that support roles make to patient outcomes and the teams they work in.

Have you changed how you do things and has this made a difference to the quality of life of your patients? Have you implemented a sustainable change that has made an impact in your team? Or perhaps this describes someone in your team? Nominations are welcomed from the individual, their team or by a patient, service-user or carer.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- innovation and/or consistent record of high-quality service delivery
- impact on patient care
- team working and using their own initiative
- expected benefits including improved quality of life
- sustainability and transferability.

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise their work and its impact in 50 words.
- 2 Describe the project or new way of working or sustained delivery of high-quality service initiated or delivered by the nominee. (200 words)
- 3 In what ways are patients and families involved? Include a testimonial from a service-user if possible. (100 words)
- 4 What has been the improvement to patient outcomes or quality of life? (100 words)
- 5 What measures have been taken to ensure it is adapted and sustained within your team? (50 words)

6 New for 2026 Award for Excellence in Cancer Care

Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support



This award aims to highlight outstanding practice in cancer services. These can be new initiatives which are already showing beneficial outcomes or more longstanding projects that have been thoroughly evaluated, and which could be adopted elsewhere. It is open to AHPs and healthcare scientists working in any setting in the UK.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Evidence of impact must include how the views of service users (including their family, carers and so on) as well as other professionals, commissioners/ funders and /or service managers impacted your project
- Working alongside service users in the development of your project or service
- Partnership working that clearly shows effective communication and improved holistic input
- Alignment to at least one of Macmillan's core strategic objectives :
 - Reaching everyone – whilst focusing on those who need the most support
 - Reduce health inequities within cancer treatment and care
 - Support those with cancer and other long-term conditions
 - Reduce variation in cancer treatment and care
- Clear return on investment and value for money, and any other benefits to overall health, education and social care
- Potential for wider implementation and benefits for many others.

Submission questions

- 1 Describe your project and its impact (50 words)
- 2 Describe how you developed the project, through co-production with service users, professional colleagues (both specialist cancer and generalist teams), and wider stakeholders (200 words)
- 3 Outline how your project is successful in the engagement of relevant stakeholders and how service users are involved in the ongoing management and evaluation of the work (100 words)
- 4 Outline the impact of the project and proof of successful outcomes including feedback from any of the stakeholders (200 words)

7 The BAPO award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics

Sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics



This category welcomes applications from anyone who can demonstrate meaningful impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics.

For this award we are looking for projects or services that evidence impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics, making a measurable difference to patient outcomes, demonstrating service-user involvement and creative and effective use of resources.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- making a measurable difference to patient outcomes
- sustainability and transferability
- leadership and team working
- creative and effective use of resources to deliver impact
- service-user involvement.

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your project and its impact in 50 words.
- 2 Now provide a fuller description of your work with evidence of impact (please include metrics) and excellence. (200 words)
- 3 How does your service/project demonstrate creative and effective use of resources to deliver impact?
- 4 How does your project demonstrate leadership and engagement of relevant stakeholders and partners, including service-users? (100 words)
- 5 How will it be sustained and what is the potential for transferability and scalability across organisations or services? (100 words)

AWARDS OPEN TO AHPs

8 The #RightToRehab award for innovation

Sponsored by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy



The Right To Rehab campaign believes that rehabilitation should be accessible to everyone who needs it for as long as they need it. For people with long-term conditions, it enhances their quality of life. For those recovering from illness or injury, it helps them rebuild. This award supports the campaign and is looking for services that are committed to delivering patient-centred rehabilitation closer to home by a multi-disciplinary team.

Criteria

Please provide evidence to show that that your service delivers on the following criteria:

- Care is built around the needs and goals of the patient
- It improves access for areas or populations that experienced barriers previously
- It is scalable
- It provides care closer to home
- It is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team that includes physiotherapy and has AHP leadership, ensuring the person sees the right professional at the right time
- It has measurable outcomes.

Submission statements

- Summarise your project/service and its significance in 50 words.
- Now provide a fuller description of your work with evidence of meeting the needs and goals of patients, including providing care closer to home. (200 words)
- Demonstrate how your project or service improves access for areas or populations that experienced barriers previously. (200 words)
- How does your project demonstrate leadership and team-working? (100 words)
- How will it be sustained and what is the potential for transferability and scalability across organisations or services? (100 words)
- Provide evidence for your measurable outcome claims. This should include as a minimum
 - a) Primary measurable outcome – numeric metric tied to patient care (e.g., PROM, reduced readmissions, length-of-stay, time-to-rehab).
 - b) Baseline and follow-up values – give numeric baseline and at least one follow-up at a defined timepoint.
 - c) Sample size and follow-up rate – number started; number with outcome data; % follow-up.

9 Northern Ireland Government's award for excellence in community partnership to improve population health

This award recognises initiatives that demonstrate outstanding community partnership working to improve population health. It celebrates programmes that expand community-based services, reduce health inequalities, and enable people to receive care closer to home. Successful entries will highlight strong collaboration, measurable impact, and innovative, evidence-based approaches to meeting community health needs.

This category is open to entrants across the UK

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Enhanced community partnership working within community settings
- Tangible benefits to service users and services
- Effective solutions addressing new or longstanding challenges, grounded in evidence
- Strong leadership and team collaboration with the community sector
- Involvement of service users in design, delivery or evaluation
- Sustainability and transferability, demonstrating potential for wider application

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your initiative and its impact (50 words).
- 2 Provide a detailed description of your project and the relevant background work (200 words).
- 3 Describe the outcomes—include metrics—and the benefits to service users (200 words).
- 4 Explain how the project demonstrates excellent leadership, teamworking and community partnership working skills (100 words).
- 5 Describe how service users and communities have been involved (100 words).
- 6 Explain the potential for transferability and scalability across communities, organisations or services, and how the initiative is sustainable (100 words).

10 NEW for 2026 AHP Research excellence award

Sponsored by National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

This exciting new research award will be given to an impressive AHP-led research project or initiative which demonstrates passion, dedication and expertise to their profession and contributes to a positive and sustainable research culture. This award is open to applications from all AHPs working in any setting in the UK.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Positive impact on service users, services, the public, organisations and/or the AHP workforce
- Strong leadership, team working and inclusive research practices
- Working with people and communities
- An understanding of the importance of promoting opportunities to support, deliver or lead research that improves health and care outcomes
- The research project or initiative has potential for wider impact

Submission questions

- 1 Provide a concise overview of your AHP-led research project or initiative in 50 words, including:
 - What it is and why it was developed
 - Who is involved
 - What motivated you to undertake this work
- 2 Describe the positive impact of your project on service users, services, the public, organisations and/or the AHP workforce. Include any evidence, data, feedback or early outcomes (200 words).
- 3 Explain how you demonstrated leadership within the project, how you worked collaboratively with others, and how you ensured your research practices were inclusive and accessible (200 words).
- 4 Describe how people, communities or service users were involved in shaping or delivering the research (e.g., engagement, co-design, lived-experience involvement) (200 words).
- 5 Outline how your project promotes opportunities for AHPs to support, deliver or lead research, including any training, mentoring, capacity-building or role-modelling (200 words).
- 6 Explain the potential for your research to be scaled, replicated or adopted more widely (200 words).

AWARDS OPEN TO HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

11 The NHS England Chief Scientific Officer's Award for the Outstanding Healthcare Science Service of the year



This award invites entries from healthcare science service providers operating in any setting. The judges will be looking for outstanding service provision that has scientific and technological advancements at its core and demonstrates a positive impact for patients, families and clinical teams; delivers innovation in models of care or delivery; supports a high achieving workforce to deliver high quality services and has continuous improvement and sustainability at the centre..

It is open to healthcare scientists working in any setting in the UK.

Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Positive impact for patients, families and clinical service users and service quality improvement
- Embraces scientific and technological advances
- Innovation in models of delivery or service transformation
- Effective business planning, financial viability and effectiveness
- High quality service provision to support clinical care
- Motivated healthcare science workforce inclusive of demonstrating opportunities for career development to support service delivery
- Sustainability and transferability
- Leadership and team working.

Submission questions

- 1 Summarise the service and its achievements (50 words).
- 2 Provide a fuller description of the service delivery or transformation innovations and service quality improvements (200 words)
- 3 How has the service demonstrated outcomes (please include metrics) and benefits for patients, families, clinical service users? (200 words)
- 4 In what ways have you transformed the service and developed your workforce? (100 words)
- 5 How does the service contribute to Healthcare Science leadership and team development ? (100 words)
- 6 How could the improvements be sustained and what is the potential for transferability and scalability across Healthcare Science organisations or services? (100 words)



12 Biomedical Scientist of the Year award

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

The IBMS Biomedical Scientist of the Year award celebrates an exceptional biomedical scientist who has advanced practice in an innovative and impactful way, making a real difference to patients' lives and inspiring those around them. Nominations can be for yourself or a colleague.

Criteria

Nominees must be a HCPC registered biomedical scientist practising within the UK and show evidence of:

- measurable achievements
- leadership and team working
- impact on patient care.

Submission statements

- 1 Why should the nominee be considered for this award and what are their achievements? (100 words)
- 2 How have they raised the profile of biomedical science and progressed the profession? (100 words)
- 3 How does the nominee demonstrate leadership and team working skills? (100 words)
- 4 Outline how the nominee is innovative and has improved best practice in the workplace. (100 words)

13 My inspiration: The AHCS Award for the most inspiring leader

Sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science



Who inspired you to be the best that you can be? We are inviting you to nominate a healthcare science leader who has been an inspiration to you at any stage of your career. To make a nomination you must be a registrant on a part of the AHCS register, or on one of our directories, or who has successfully been through equivalence, or who is an associate or fellow of the Academy for Health Care Science.

Criteria

This is an open award with no rigid criteria, so tell us your story and the part this person played in it. It could be the inspiration to seek a career in healthcare science, or as a Clinical Research Practitioner or in the Life Science Industry. They may have helped you to seek a particular qualification or apply for a specific post or become involved in an ambitious project. It could be the person who got you moving again after you felt stuck in your career, or someone who helped you through a difficult period of your life.

Submission statements

- 1 Summarise how this person inspired you. (50 words)
- 2 Tell us in more detail the encouragement and inspiration this person gave you? (100 words)
- 3 What difference did it make to your career? (100 words)
- 4 How did they inspire you to develop your own leadership skills (100 words)

14 Echocardiographer of the Year award

Sponsored by British Society of Echocardiography

The Echocardiographer of the Year award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to echocardiography. This award celebrates those who champion high-quality, standardised practice, improve patient pathways and outcomes, and support the development of colleagues at every stage of their careers. Nominations may be submitted for yourself or a colleague.

Criteria

Nominees must be a practising echocardiographer within the UK and show evidence of:

- measurable achievements and service improvement
- leadership and collaborative working
- positive impact on patient care
- commitment to BSE standards and continuous professional development

Submission statements

- 1 Why should the nominee be considered for this award and what are their achievements? (100 words)
- 2 How have they raised the profile of echocardiography and progressed the profession? (100 words)
- 3 How does the nominee demonstrate leadership and team working skills? (100 words)
- 4 How has the nominee gone above and beyond to advance the career development of others locally or nationally? (100 words)
- 5 Outline how the nominee is innovative and has improved best practice in the workplace. (100 words).



Award organisers:

Chamberlain Dunn is an award-winning events company which, for the past 30 years, has helped public, voluntary and charitable sector organisations reach their key audiences to deliver strong and effective messages.

WE FOCUS WHERE YOU FOCUS – working with you to deliver outstanding events, campaigns and publications. We plan and deliver campaigns that encompass branding, logos, marketing materials, media and social media activity, and events of all kinds – live, virtual or hybrid. Our awards programmes include the Advancing Healthcare Awards for AHPs and healthcare scientists, HPMA Excellence in People Awards, Social Prescribing Network Awards, Innovation awards for the UK Public Health Register and many others.