

THE ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS 2026

THE SHORTLIST



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government's award for creative and innovative practice

Lymphaticovenous anastomosis collaboration: improving clinical and patient outcomes for people with lymphoedema in Wales

Dr Melanie Thomas, Clinical Director and Dr Cheryl Pike, National Macmillan Innovations Lymphoedema Specialist, Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network, Swansea Bay University Health Board

Embedding Speech and Language Therapists in Schools to Improve Early Intervention, Equity and Child Outcomes

Children's Speech and Language Therapy, NHS Forth Valley

Transforming Strabismus Services Through Advanced Orthoptist Led Care

Ciara McAtamney, Paediatric Lead for Orthoptics and Pamela Anketell, Orthoptic Service Manager, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust on behalf of the Paediatric and Adult Strabismus Team

Project WILSON

Justyna Zielska-Mikita, Stock Holding Unit Senior Supervisor, Welsh Blood Service



AHP Research excellence award

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

From Patient Narratives to National Impact:

An AHP-Led Research Programme Transforming Radiotherapy Care

Lisa Ashmore, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and Therapeutic Radiographer, Lancaster University and the teams on The GRACE & Gynae Narratives Research Projects

Vision Impairment Screening Assessment – the VISA tool

Professor Fiona Rowe, Professor of Orthoptics, University of Liverpool and the VISION Research Group

Leeds Community Healthcare Research Secondment Initiative

Dr Jill Halstead-Rastrick, Clinical Research Lead, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and the Leeds Community NHS Research Team

Music Therapy Embedded in the Life of Dementia Inpatient Care (MELODIC)

Annie Heiderscheid, Professor of Music Therapy and Director of Music Therapy Research and Naomi Thompson, Post Doctoral Research Fellow (Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education & Social Sc), Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research, Music therapy Embedded in the Life of Dementia Inpatient Care (MELODIC)

Award for Excellence in Cancer Care

Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support

Greater Manchester Prehab4Cancer and Recovery Programme

Zoe Merchant, AHP Clinical Lead, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

One Voice: Coproducing a Laryngectomy Pathway in the Community

Rhiannon Haag, Clinical Lead Speech & Language Therapist and Michelle Coleman, Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, North East London NHS Foundation Trust

Development of a nationally endorsed advanced practice framework for non-surgical oncology

Melanie Clarkson, Senior Lecturer and Therapeutic Radiographer, Sheffield Hallam University

Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce

Rethinking the Role of Speech and Language Therapy Assistants (SLTAs) in Early Language Support

Georgia Roskin & Marie England, Speech and Language Therapists, Whittington Health NHS Trust, with the collaborative Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) team across Barnet and Islington

Rad Chat

Jo McNamara and Naman Julka Anderson, Therapeutic Radiographers, Founders and Hosts of Rad Chat

RCI Assist: a digital decision-support tool advancing confidence, consistency and capability across transfusion laboratory services

Helen Thom, Pathology Business Development Manager and Alexander Hogan, Consultant Clinical Scientist Trainee, NHS Blood and Transplant

Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry

NeuroRehabilitation OnLine (NROL): A Nationally Scalable Digital Rehabilitation Model Enabled by Cross Sector Collaboration

Louise Connell, Professor of Allied Health Rehabilitation and Physiotherapist, Lancaster University and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, and Adam Partington, NROL Operational Lead, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

The collaborative design and evaluation of a virtual tour of a Radiotherapy department

Nicky Hutton, Therapeutic Radiographer, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

Greater Manchester Pre-Hospital Point of Care Troponin Pilot

Philip Jones, Innovation Consultant, Advanced Practitioner and Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service

The Julia Garnham Centre

Duncan Baker, Clinical Scientist (Genomics). Musculoskeletal and Respiratory Genomics Service Lead, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and Adam Hodgson, Senior Lecturer in Genomics, University of Sheffield



Biomedical Scientist of the Year award

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

Humaira Hussain

Biomedical Scientist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Luke Hughes

Pathology Subject Matter Expert Lead - Academy Development Manager, National Pathology Programme, NHS Wales Performance and Improvement

Angela Jean-Francois

Managing Director and Biomedical Scientist, North West London Pathology



British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics

Sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics

Queen Mary's Hospital Orthotic department, Pectus Carinatum Bracing Service

Jack Presnell, Assistant Clinical Lead – Orthotist, Andy Kelly and Tom Williams, Senior Technicians, and Diana Chau, Orthotist, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton

British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics: Career Outreach and Work Experience Initiative

The Career Outreach Team, British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics

Active Neuro Rehabilitation Hub - Gateshead Amputee Service

Gemma Stoddart, Lead Physiotherapist, Rachel Lees, Lead Occupational Therapist and Gail Archer, Senior Lead Occupational Therapist, Active Care Group and the Active Neuro Rehabilitation Hub at Gateshead



Echocardiographer of the Year award

Sponsored by British Society of Echocardiography

Adam Langley

Chief Cardiac Physiologist, Mid & South Essex Hospitals Trust

Dr. Dario Freitas

Lead Clinical Scientist for Adult Congenital Heart Disease, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Bex Parsons-Simmonds

Lead Critical Care Echo Specialist, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board



My inspiration: The AHCS Award for the most inspiring leader

Sponsored by the Academy for Healthcare Science

Professor Catherine Ross

Chief Scientific Officer for Scotland, Scottish Government

Dr Rachel Humphriss

Head of Audiology, Principal Clinical Scientist, Oxford University Hospitals

Dr Sofia Michopoulou

Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of Nuclear Medicine Physics, University Hospital Southampton



The #RightToRehab award for innovation

Sponsored by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Persistent Pain Programme in Prison Healthcare

Verity Gee, Clinical Lead HiJ MSK Service, Michelle Saunders, Secondary Care Lead CATs and Diagnostics and Paul New, Regional Team Lead HiJ MSK service, Physiotherapist, Practice Plus Group

From Fragmentation to Function - The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Functional Neurology Specialist Pathway

Louise Baker, Multi-Professional Consultant Practitioner (Physiotherapist) – Neurorehabilitation, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Dr Tom Cox, Consultant Neurologist, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

Creative and Innovative Practice in Neurorehabilitation: Embedding Dramatherapy to Support Psychological Recovery After Brain Injury

Daniel Thomas, Managing Director and Music Therapist, Sarah Morris, Dramatherapist, and Sally Watson, Healthcare Accounts Manager, Chroma and James Lea, Head of Therapies and Merrilee Briggs, Director of Care, British Home



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

Every patient matters – addressing the burden of variants of uncertain clinical significance to improve the diagnostic pathway

Sheffield Diagnostic Genetics Service, North East Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service

New Pathway of care for Adult Patients with Congenital Heart Disease: Clinical Scientist-Led Clinic

The Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD), Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Integrated Toxicology, System-Wide Impact: Providing real-time toxicology insight that strengthens frontline decision-making, improves patient outcomes, and underpins system-wide safety.

Toxicology Department, University Hospitals Birmingham

'A Breath of Fresh Care'. – Transforming access to early respiratory diagnostics

The Early Respiratory Diagnostic Service, Armagh & Dungannon GP Federation



The Northern Ireland Government Award for Excellence in Community Partnership to Improve Population Health

Connect With Me: Build my brain, build my future, build our society!

Seána Kerr, Lead Speech and Language Therapist for SureStart, Michelle Maguire and Rebecca Carey, SureStart Speech and Language Therapists (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust), and Tracey Ripley-McElvogue, Co-ordinator, East Belfast SureStart

Bringing Care Closer to Home

Meghan White, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist and Amy Gilsean, Occupational Therapist, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

'No Show, Know Why' - DNA as a signal for action

Ashling McElvanna, Principal Podiatrist and Jennifer Madden, Consultant Podiatrist, and the Podiatry Team at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

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

Catherine Woodmore

Dietetic and Speech and Language Therapy Assistant Practitioner, Vale Community Resource Service, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

Diane March

Dietetic Assistant, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Carla Yarra

Apprentice Audiologist, Great Western Hospitals Foundation Trust

The Rising Star award

Kyle Kennedy

Dietitian, NHS Lanarkshire

Freddie James Wright

*Scientist Training Programme Clinical Engineering,
United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust*

Stephanie Quinn

Clinical Scientist, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Saraaz Khalil

*Allied Health Professional, Nursing & Midwifery Practice Educator, Specialist Radiographer &
Research Academic, Yorkshire & Northern Region*

Eimear Shannon

Physiotherapist, Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Genevieve Winter

Neurologic Music Therapist (NMT), Chroma

Carl Wong

Team Lead Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Max Thomas

*Clinical Scientist and Site Lead for Respiratory and Sleep Physiology,
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust*