



Winners' Guide

Advancing Healthcare Awards UK 2024

Innovation | Creativity | Leadership | Compassion

Celebrating the winning entries,
presented on 26 April 2024



Chamberlain Dunn Events
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OVERALL WINNER



Scoliosis management in spinal muscular atrophy patients

Steve Hewitt, Spinal Clinical Specialist
at Sheffield Children's Hospital and The SpineCorporation Ltd

THE JUDGES COMMENTED:

“ The judges chose this as the overall winner as it is a fantastic example of how orthotics can positively impact patient care, quality of life and reduce inequalities. It demonstrated excellent leadership skills and great tenacity to push the boundaries. With national and international reach, the project is having a massive impact on the care of children with complex needs who previously were unlikely to survive. It shows brilliant collaboration between the NHS, industry, research and the technical workforce; and multi-disciplinary working at its best to improve the quality of life of these patients.

”

[READ MORE ON P4](#)

Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to the work of the finalists of the 2024 UK Advancing Healthcare Awards for allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.

The UK Advancing Healthcare Awards ceremony was held in London at the Park Plaza Victoria on 26 April, during which we celebrated the achievements of our finalists and heard from many inspirational speakers throughout the afternoon. This guide is a testament to the incredible work of our entrants and their wider teams; as always, we are proud to share the experience and learning as widely as possible.

We achieved nearly 200 entries this year, which is the highest number ever – and made for some very difficult decisions in the judging stages. It is a real tribute to the passion, dedication, and innovation of healthcare scientists, AHPs and those who work alongside them across the UK.

A special thank you to our sponsors who not only provided financial support but helped us with the huge task of judging. These organisations are:

- The Academy for Healthcare Science
- The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- Institute of Biomedical Science
- The Welsh Government
- Department of Health, Northern Ireland
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy
- NHS England

We went virtual with the judging again to make it as time-efficient as possible for our busy judges and finalists. The judges found the experience to be inspiring and challenging, selecting winners from so many outstanding entries. This Winners' Guide summarises the work of the finalists and gives contact details should you wish to follow up any of the projects.

Entries for 2025 will open in the Autumn; meanwhile you can take a look at our 2024 stars.

Alison Dunn & Will Chamberlain-Webber



Joint managing directors Chamberlain Dunn
April 2024

Our Winners' Guide is a vital part of the Advancing Healthcare Awards programme. We are proud of it for (at least) four reasons:

- 1** It gives participants, guests, entrants and the wider healthcare world a chance to digest more fully the work of the finalists
- 2** It is a more permanent record of the achievements of AHPs and healthcare scientists across the UK in 2024 than an awards ceremony can ever achieve
- 3** It gives contact details for those wanting to find out more to build on their own work and to share experiences
- 4** It helps us to stand out from the crowd – very few award organisers take the trouble to deliver this final piece of the jigsaw.

If you would like to be involved in the Advancing Healthcare Awards as a sponsor, judge or simply share some ideas about how we can develop the programme, please contact Ellie Hayden on ellie@chamberdunn.co.uk or call 020 8334 4500



The BAPO award for inspirational innovators in prosthetics and orthotics

WINNER AND OVERALL WINNER

Scoliosis management in spinal muscular atrophy patients

Steve Hewitt, Spinal Clinical Specialist at Sheffield Children's Hospital and The SpineCorporation Ltd

Following new treatments for SMA type 1 patients their life expectancy has significantly increased. This increased time has meant that the kypho-scoliosis experienced by this patient group is now requiring management. This project has successfully delivered a new style of bracing with excellent healthcare outcomes.

Working at Sheffield Children's NHS Trust as a scoliosis clinical specialist, Steve was approached by the SMA team to help manage this challenging patient group. Working closely with the physiotherapist SMA lead and wider clinical team they identified key characteristics necessary to providing successful management of their scoliosis and kyphosis, whilst facilitating breathing mechanics, maintaining lung function and minimising effects of bracing on wider development. Armed with this brief Steve, specialist CAD designers and orthotic manufacturing specialists from Blatchfords, developed a new spinal orthosis. A new assessment protocol

was developed, utilising 3D scanning software, new SMA specific CAD design parameters were developed, alternative materials and manufacture processes were investigated and refined to produce the brace.

The positive outcomes of this new approach have been recently presented at BSS (Nov 2023), which in turn has sparked a burgeoning multicentre NHS collaboration via SMA-REACH and presentation at the SMA world congress.

“The judges chose this as the overall winner as it is a fantastic example of how orthotics can positively impact patient care, quality of life and reduce inequalities. It demonstrated excellent leadership skills and great tenacity to push the boundaries.”



FIND OUT MORE

shewitt@spinecorporation.com

FINALISTS



Research leadership: trailblazing contributions to prosthetics and orthotics

Eileen Morrow, Doctoral Clinical Academic Fellow, University of Oxford

For her leadership in research and trailblazing contributions to prosthetics and orthotics, including her most recent publication of a multi-centre study into the health-related quality of life for children with idiopathic toe walking.

Contact: eileen.morrow@ndorms.ox.ac.uk



Transfemoral sockets: it's time to amputate outdated designs

Catherine Finlayson, National Operations Manager and Prosthetist, and the team at Opcare and Crispin.

The team developed an innovative approach to distinctively improve functional outcomes, comfort and aesthetics for patients to make an impact on socket discomfort and function, whilst also improving efficiencies for service providers.

Contact: catherine.finlayson1@nhs.net

The IPEM Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry

Sponsored by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

WINNER

The safe use, storage and setup of medical gas cylinders used in healthcare

Paul Lee, Consultant Clinical Scientist and Chair of the National Association of Medical Device Educators and Trainers, and Jordan Lee, Undergraduate Admin Assistant and Managing Editor MDET Journal, Swansea Bay University Health Board

This multidisciplinary team effort helped address the continuing risk, errors, and incidents around medical gas training and oxygen safety, and provides much-needed free-to-access training course content and materials. Cross-UK collaboration from colleagues with clinical, technical, scientific and educational backgrounds helped develop this universal course for multi-professional use.

A significant knowledge gap, continued reports of injury and harm, and a lack of national 'free-to-access' training resources prompted the team to design and develop this course for all healthcare users of medical gases and oxygen cylinders. A UK-wide project team reviewed current training courses and created a new set of learning outcomes to match National Occupational Standards, manufacturer safety information, local policies, and UK industry guidelines. Regular meetings and ongoing reviews resulted in seven

distinct sections/chapters. Some have 'knowledge checks' and tests, short videos to watch, images to scroll through and links to valuable resources—with an end-of-course quiz (pass rate 80%). The course also contains several hyperlinks, downloadable files and resources that can be used as valuable resources for future reference. The whole course should take approximately 60 minutes. Over 300 hours were spent designing it using interactive E-learning software.

“The judges felt that the winning team worked together to devise widely available and cost-effective training. This training programme will lead to improved benefits for patients and enhance staff health and safety.”



FIND OUT MORE

paul.lee@wales.nhs.uk

jordan.lee@wales.nhs.uk



FINALISTS



AI-assisted cardiac monitoring wearable: real world evaluation of the ZioXT service

Emily Kwong, Senior Clinical Engineer, and the teams at King's Technology Evaluation Centre (KiTEC), Clinical Engineering at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Stroke unit at North Bristol NHS Trust, Stroke unit at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and iRhythm

Their project is a collaborative evaluation of wearable AI-assisted cardiac monitoring to understand the efficiency and benefits for patients and staff.

Contact: emily.kwong@gstt.nhs.uk



Collaborative partnership highlighting regional co-ordination of applied science placements

The Applied biomedical science placements Programme via the West Midlands Regional Biomedical Scientist Training Group

This is a collaborative partnership with local Trusts to offer around 35 pathology placements for trainee biomedical scientists annually, addressing the pathology workforce shortage.

Contact: k.dudley2@wlv.ac.uk

The Biomedical Scientist of the Year award

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

WINNER

Leonie Wheeldon

Consultant Biomedical Scientist
at Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust

Leonie Wheeldon is energetic and inspiring. She recently became one of the few Biomedical Scientists to achieve the Advanced Specialist Diploma in Diagnostic Cytopathology and has, for many years, relentlessly and enthusiastically trained other healthcare professionals in her own and other specialties, locally and nationally, particularly in the practice of Rapid Onsite Evaluation (ROSE). This is a technique whereby material acquired at Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) of suspicious masses in patients is assessed in clinic to confirm that the right amount of the right material has been acquired, thus reducing the need for repeat sampling.

Leonie is a member of the IBMS Specialist Advisory Panel and the Executive of the British Association for Cytopathology (BAC), being the lead for the Media Group and responsible for the BAC's "public face". She has piloted new qualifications for IBMS members in ROSE, to facilitate a wider adoption

nationally. She has co-presented webinars on the practice and benefits of ROSE to the Royal College of Radiologists and has held "Twitter takeover" days at her Trust. She gave a very well-received presentation on Diagnostic Reporting by BMSs (a controversial theme) at the 2023 European Congress of Cytology.

“The judges chose Leonie because they felt she brings real benefits to patients, with a powerful combination of service innovation and biomedical scientist training and development that has international reach – a real ambassador for her profession.”

FINALISTS

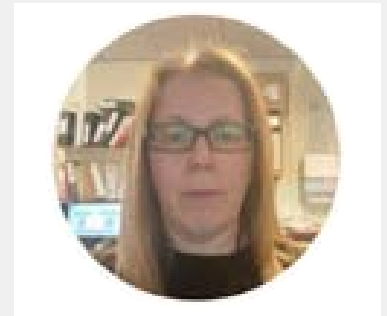


Debra Padgett

Pathology Network Operational Lead at
North East and North Cumbria Integrated
Care System

Debra was IBMS president from 2022 - 2024 and in her 20-year career, she has demonstrated great leadership and made a significant difference to patients. She is a passionate advocate for biomedical scientists and committed to ensuring that the profession has the resources to deliver high quality care.

Contact: debra.padgett1@nhs.net



Ruth Evans

Pathology Clinical Training Manager at
Swansea Bay University Health Board

Ruth is passionate about developing the knowledge and skills of the laboratory sciences assistant and associate workforce, establishing a robust training programme and leading on the practical application of the Welsh Government apprenticeship schemes into services.

Contact: ruth.evans2@wales.nhs.uk



FIND OUT MORE

leonie.wheeldon@nhs.net

The Northern Ireland Government's award for partnering, leading, shaping to improve population health

Sponsored by the Department of Health, Northern Ireland

WINNER

Help Kids Talk

Lorraine Coulter, Lead Professional for Speech and Language Therapy, and Sarah Ratcliffe, Speech and Language Therapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Help Kids Talk (HKT) brings together community, voluntary and statutory organisations along with parents/carers to improve life chances for children. No one organisation or group will affect change at a population level, and this demonstrates the strengths of a partnership approach to tackling health inequalities. Evidence highlights that children and young people who have speech, language and communication needs are at significant risk of failing to achieve their potential. Poor outcomes for children lead to a risk of higher unemployment, mental health issues and even risk of antisocial and criminal behaviour. A prevalence study carried out in Lisburn (2014) highlighted that 32% of children entering primary school had mild-severe speech and language difficulties, of which, 76% were males from socially disadvantaged areas.

The Help Kids Talk initiative was established by Early Intervention Lisburn and SEHSCT in 2017. Lisburn and

Castlereagh City Council has funded the project since 2019 and it is a lead action on their Community Planning. A steering group of 26 representatives from the community, voluntary, statutory and private sector developed a strategy to provide a coordinated, consistent community-wide approach.

“ The judges felt that this project showed how it could be flexible and adaptable to meet different needs in different places, while still making a real impact. They were particularly impressed that the partnerships developed showed how the project can adapt and survive to meet changing needs. ”



FIND OUT MORE

lorraine.coulter@setrust.hscni.net

FINALISTS



The stroke bootcamp: improving AHP stroke rehabilitation through capacity and capability building

Alison Porter-Armstrong, Occupational Therapist and Professor of Healthcare Technology Innovation and Assessment at Edinburgh Napier University

The innovative 5-day Stroke Bootcamp was a wholly novel project to improve stroke rehabilitation by building knowledge and skills of AHPs, upskilling 805 over two years, free of charge to trainees.

Contact: a.porter-armstrong@napier.ac.uk



Causeway healthy kids project

Clare Galway, Public Health Dietitian, Sandra Anderson, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Jonathan McFadden, Sports Development Manager, and Selena Ramsey, Health and Wellbeing Manager from Northern Health and Social Care Trust

A fantastic example of replicable, partnership work producing real outcomes. Children were involved in the development of a fun and informative schools programme, focusing on nutrition, physical activity and mental health.

Contact: clare.galway@belfasttrust.hscni.net

The Academy for Healthcare Science award for innovative practice to enhance patient safety

Sponsored by the Academy for Healthcare Science

WINNER

Bringing new 3D printing and visualization methods to clinical practice for difficult airway planning

Clinical Engineering R&D Team, Northern Care Alliance

New methods involving medical imaging, computer design and 3D printing have been developed and introduced into clinical practice in a collaboration between anaesthetists, ENT surgeons and clinical engineers. This initiative has improved patient safety and reduced risks of complication and adverse events for patients with difficult airways.

The Airway Innovation Group (AIG) is a collaboration dedicated to developing new techniques and devices to improve care for patients with complex and difficult airways. A difficult airway is where the patient has complications which make it difficult to provide oxygen during operations. If the anaesthetic team cannot provide oxygen, either through a mask or through a tube inserted into the airway, then the operation may need to be stopped, or cannot be attempted in the first place, as the risks to the patient may be too great.

The team developed a set of new methods and instruments specifically for patients with difficult airways and have moved this into routine clinical service within the Northern Care Alliance, a world-first for such a service. The team has developed an effective clinical workflow enabling medical images to be turned into 3D printed planning models, surgical teams to simulate the procedures, and novel 3D printed custom patient-specific guides to facilitate safe intubation.

“The judges saw this as having enormous potential to be used widely for patients with difficult airways, and was an excellent example of multidisciplinary team working, with lots of scope for it to be adopted elsewhere across the UK.”

HIGHLY COMMENDED



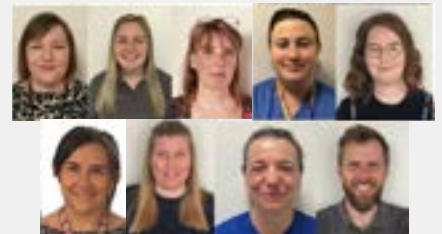
Histopathology RFID real-time specimen tracking innovation

Dil Rathore, Specialist Biomedical Scientist and Deputy IT Lead, Moninder Bhogal, Business development and Innovation Manager and the team at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The team have created the world's first real-time histopathology sample tracking system, capable of tracking critically important patient biopsies throughout the workflow. It transforms the process by providing real-time sample location information to prevent delays and irradiate the potential of losing tissue.

Contact: dildar.rathore@nhs.net

FINALISTS



Protection from pressure for children with vulnerable spines

Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Intervention Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board

A new clinical pathway provides bespoke garments for children offering localised protection to promote healing and prevention of pressure ulcers over the spine to avoid surgical intervention. A multi-disciplinary collaboration between plastics and the pressure ulcer prevention service.

Contact: mark.bowtell@wales.nhs.uk



Renal Patient Support Group (RPSG) and the Kidney Disease and Renal Support (KDARs) for kids

Shahid Nazir Muhammad, Academic and Chartered Scientist, Coventry University and the team at The Renal Patient Support Group and The Kidney Disease and Renal Support for kids

This is important work encourages all healthcare professionals and renal patients through these support groups where evidence-based laboratory practices and research are integrated.

Contact: ad9152@coventry.ac.uk



FIND OUT MORE

stuart.watson@nca.nhs.uk

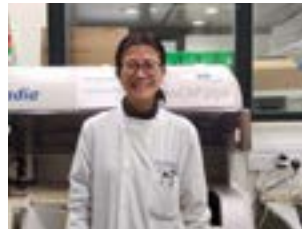
Rising Star award

Sponsored by Chamberlain Dunn



Tomos Goodwin

Specialist Physiotherapist, Swansea Bay University Health Board, a mature student with a military background who set up a staff wellbeing programme in the hospital gym.



Yushu Wu

Associate Practitioner, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust who trained in paediatric nursing in China and is now completing her apprenticeship as a biomedical scientist in a second language having not studied in many years.



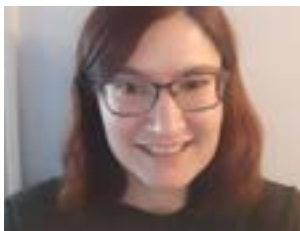
Dora Molnar

Senior Physiotherapist, Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust who, as an international recruit, has helped other international AHP recruits by building mechanisms for peer support.



Eleanor Keiller

Dramatherapist and Doctoral Researcher, Queen Mary University, London who brings passion and energy to her trail-blazing career in dramatherapy research.



Vicky Guise

Neurologic Music Therapist, Chroma who brings a diverse mix of therapeutic approaches including Neurologic Music Therapy and has a passion for setting up new work and engaging in research.



Adele Bird

Music Therapist, Chroma – a truly exceptional professional; highly motivated, with impressive assessment, therapeutic and consultation skills.



Sophie Roberts-Kozok

Senior Operating Department Practitioner for Anaesthetics – Wellbeing lead, Prince Charles Hospital, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board whose work on wellbeing has improved patient safety, theatre efficiency and reduced waiting lists.



Ellie Caton

Specialist Podiatrist, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay whose infectious positivity and professionalism creates new ways of thinking to improve the patient journey.



Clarisse de Vries

Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen, is a health data scientist working in Artificial Intelligence evaluation with the skillset and work ethic needed in this fast-developing area.



Charlotte Campbell

Speech and Language Therapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust who ignites team morale and a positive atmosphere through her engaging, helpful personality.



Joshua Kendall

Occupational Therapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust who initiated, led and evaluated a pilot project into the use of Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities for people with delirium and dementia.

Award for Creative and Innovative Practice

WINNERS

Turning the searchlight on sarcopenia and frailty at Dalriada Community Hospital

Debbie McGugan, Community Rehab Dietitian, Pamela McMullan, Dietetic Assistant Practitioner, and the team at Northern Health and Social Care Trust

After ascertaining the prevalence of malnutrition, sarcopenia and frailty in Dalriada Hospital, they achieved collaborative redesign of nutritional provision for prevention and treatment, resulting in a 78% reduction in prescribed ONS, and early detection resources for patients. They took baseline data on sarcopenia and frailty prevalence, revealing that 80% of patients had sarcopenia and were frail. Sufficient energy, protein, and adequate protein distribution, are needed to prevent muscle loss, promote synthesis, reverse frailty and reduce falls risk. After comparing the hospital menu with

patients' nutritional requirements, it was evident the menu only met 45% of patients' protein needs and 50% of calorie requirements, resulting in significant ONS prescribing. They introduced food fortifications, nutrient dense snacks, new protein sources and nourishing fluids to meet the needs of older frail patients, orderable via a co-designed electronic menu. Tailored awareness sessions were delivered to nursing, pantry and domestic services staff. As a result, the volume of ONS prescriptions radically reduced by 78% compared to the previous year, whilst patients can now receive 99% of their protein and calorie requirements from menu.



“Our AHP winning team presented a highly innovative project that was led from the bottom up and driven by data and the ethos that they “didn't want to walk past”, showing perseverance and authenticity to deliver an outcome which is being rolled out elsewhere.”

Group hearing aid fittings – increasing efficiency, peer support and use of technology

Laura Turton, Head of Audiology, and the adult team at NHS Tayside

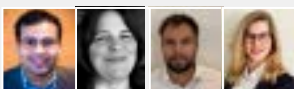
With rising waiting times and pressure for increased quality in audiology, an option was piloted to bring patients together to have their hearing aids fitted. Outcomes included increased efficiency, reduced waiting times, peer support, excellent patient satisfaction.

A pilot was agreed to trial the consequences of reimagining this patient appointment. Patients are physically fitted in a one-to-one appointment, checking for comfort and running tests to ensure prescriptions are met and personalisations are programmed into each hearing aid for patients. They then join up to 4 other patients in a group instruction session. The whole appointment still lasts 1 hour, but the efficiency from this development increases capacity by 25-60% depending on how the clinic is set up.



“The judges said that leadership and bravery with patients are at the heart of this project, which was tried and tested in the face of opposition. This was an initiative which delivered so much more: for the staff coping with change, their practice was challenged in such a positive way it totally galvanised the whole team.”

FINALISTS



HCS-led transformation in hearing health

Ruth Thomsen, Regional Chief Scientific Officer, London; Basit Abdul, Clinical Programme Lead, London; Jack Stancel-Lewis, Clinical Programme Lead- Hearing Checks; and Anna Stec, Benefits Realisation Manager at NHS England

This programme led by the HCS team involving innovative ear care pathways in community pharmacies significantly improved hearing access, reducing waiting times and enhancing patient care and system efficiency.

Contact: ruth.thomsen@nhs.net



Cardiff and Vale live well service – community cure in action

Robert Jones, Physiotherapist and Co-production Coordinator; Huw Davies, Physiotherapist and Live Well Service Lead and the team at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

An easily accessible, close to home service which empowers communities to support one another to live well, working in partnership with leisure, 3rd sector and people with lived experience.

Contact: Robert.jones1e205d@wales.nhs.uk



Welsh Government's award for value-based care: maximising the expertise of healthcare scientists and allied health professionals to improve patient outcomes

Sponsored by the Welsh Government

WINNER

Type 2 diabetes remission from fiction to fact in Wales

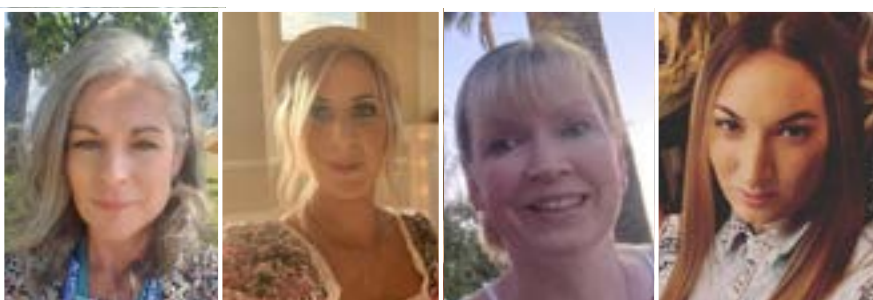
Catherine Washbrook-Davies, All Wales nutrition and dietetic lead for diabetes, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and NHS Wales Executive

Dietary factors are of paramount importance in the management of type 2 diabetes (T2D). Diet is a leading contributor to morbidity and mortality. The importance of nutrition in the management of T2D through its effect on weight and metabolic control is clear. England and Scotland both have a designated T2D remission service, currently Wales does not. Following the publication of the DiRECT study, work commenced in January 2020 with dietitians from 4 health boards implementing a Wales pilot for 100 patients to test the real-world implementation of delivering a Total Diet Replacement (TDR) low energy diet-based intervention to facilitate T2D remission through intensive weight management and improved nutrition and health behaviours.

The DiRECT study found that by following an intensive weight management programme which utilised a low-calorie approach, 46% of participants were in type 2 diabetes remission one year later, 36% at two years and 23% at 5 years. By end of 2020 there were 204,326 registered adults living with diabetes within Wales which around 90% have T2D. There is a clear case for the development of a systematic,

Wales-wide approach to T2D education to support self-management. The use of the existing diabetes dietetic workforce and all Wales dietetic lead role to project manage enabled effective use of resources and an equitable approach across the participating health board dietetic departments and a quick start to the initial pilot.

“The judges chose this winner because of the impact on patients, taking a preventative approach with great potential for multi-generational change. This team are changing long standing held beliefs and treatment practices from a range of professions to embed new interventions based on evidence and data.”



FIND OUT MORE

catherine.washbrook@wales.nhs.uk

FINALISTS



Remote diagnostic teledermoscopy service for skin cancers

Ceri Llewellyn, Head of Service, Clinical Photography and Medical Illustration, Dr Ausama Atwan, Consultant Dermatologist, and the team at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

The Board worked with the clinical photography department to launch Teledermoscopy Pathway, a remote diagnostic service to prioritise patients efficiently and safely in the diagnosis of skin cancers.

Contact: ceri.llewellyn@wales.nhs.uk



Podiatry in minor injuries unit

Kathryn Mulroy, Service Lead Podiatry and Orthotics, and the team at Hywel Dda University Health Board

A musculo-skeletal podiatry role has been developed in the minor injuries unit to help triage the acute patient presenting with lower limb and ankle disorders. This has eased waiting times and shown the benefits of the input of podiatrists.

Contact: Kathryn.mulroy@wales.nhs.uk



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

WINNER

Rachel Kane

Clinical Assistant at Leonard Cheshire ARBI Unit

Rachel delivers a fortnightly addictions management group that is co-facilitated by a past service user, with lived experience of alcohol related brain injury (ARBI). It is offered to residents in the unit who have complex mental health and cognitive difficulties, limiting their ability to engage in traditional addiction services. The ARBI Unit is primarily a cognitive rehabilitation facility for adults with a diagnosis of alcohol related brain injury. They established an in-service addictions group, co-facilitated with an external addictions service (Inspire Wellbeing).

Due to funding, Inspire Wellbeing could not continue but it was still very much needed. Rachel continued to offer the group, having learnt many skills from working with Inspire Wellbeing, but she thought it would be more valuable for residents to learn from each other. She therefore established a service user led, addictions management group, with the support of past resident volunteers. While offering the structure for the group, she strongly encourages the service user to lead. She meets with them before to agree the week's topic.

She also helps them create their own prompts, while endeavouring to let the group flow naturally with participant interactions.

“The judges felt that Rachel has the community she serves at heart; by helping people to develop the life skills they need to take up meaningful roles in society, her drive and motivation has changed lives, addressing the needs of a marginalised and underrepresented population. A real commitment to improving patient safety and quality of life.”



Nia Haines

Technical Automation Lead at All Wales Medical Genomics Service

Nia wrote an automated method for liquid handling platform to set up somatic tumour testing which improved the success rate of the test and resulted in more patients receiving test results more quickly.

Contact: Nia.Haines@wales.nhs.uk



Katherine Beddow

Occupational Therapy Apprentice at Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Katherine led a project that delivered clear improvements on day-to-day recovery and rehabilitation practices for commissioned beds in care homes.

Contact: katherine.beddow@nhs.net



FIND OUT MORE

Rachel.Kane@leonardcheshire.org

The Academy for Healthcare Science award to recognise emerging leaders in healthcare science

Sponsored by the Academy for Healthcare Science

WINNER

Adam Marzetti

Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Adam founded a non-physician ILR implanter/explanter service and implanters courses across the UK and Ireland. His leadership promotes cost-effective practices and reduces patient waiting times. Engaging with various hospital departments, he fosters team collaboration and sharing of best practice, impacting service users, organisations, and healthcare efficiency.

Currently completing the Higher Specialist Scientist Training programme, his innovative approach in initiating this service demonstrates effective leadership, addressing the needs of service users, organisations, and ensuring cost-effective practices. He has used his experience to lead an implanters course, extending training to other hospitals in the UK and Ireland. This includes teaching about the design and set-up of the service, to the pitfalls and potential problems. He supports trainees all the way from consenting to the practical implant technique, mentoring trainees through their first implants and enabling them to start

services in their own Trusts. This helps to encourage consistency of services, aids in the adoption of non-physician services and encourages the sharing of skills. He also teaches cardiology based medical techniques, such as maintaining temporary pacing and intraaortic balloon pump systems.

“The judges chose Adam as their winner as an emerging leader because he showed strong motivation and collaboration, both in developing his own career and the development of his team, along with an awareness of cost-effectiveness and the importance of sharing best practice.”

FINALISTS



Bamidele Farinre

Pathology Quality Manager and Governance Lead, Whittington Health NHS Trust

Her journey in healthcare is a testament to unwavering dedication to innovation, leadership and advocacy with biomedical science. She is a trailblazer, leaving an indelible mark on the profession and the wider healthcare landscape.

Contact: bamidle.farinre@gmail.com



Emmanuel 'Didi' Akinluyi

Head of Clinical Engineering, Chief Biomedical Engineer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Imagine a future where we can be cared for remotely by the right people at the right time in the comfort of our own homes. Didi Akinluyi is an expert in system engineering who saw an opportunity for clinical engineers as enablers to modernise healthcare and medical device management.

Contact: Emmanuel.Akinluyi@gstt.nhs.uk



FIND OUT MORE

adam.marzetti@nhs.net

The AHP clinical leadership award

WINNER

Helen Nicholls

Head of Nutrition and Dietetic Services, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Helen's vision and drive has ensured that nutrition and dietetics is embedded throughout to support expert and high-quality nutritional care for the population. Helen's vision for the Cardiff & Vale UHB community dietetic department has seen the department develop in both quality and quantity. For over 20 years, Helen has expertly led a proactive team, building from 7 dietitians to 93 staff which alongside dietitians now includes nutrition nurses, psychologists, and assistant practitioners.

Helen has what clinical directors have described as a "can do" attitude in everything she does. Helen has made a significant contribution to change and service improvement by implementing children and adult weight management services, and Community Resource Teams. Helen's special passion for diabetes care has contributed to diabetes services that are nothing less than exceptional and gold standard, understanding the difference this makes to people's quality of life. Her drive and commitment have been central to

establishing both diabetes education programmes and the All-Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme which are now operational in all seven health boards in Wales.

“The judges saw Helen is a clear example of dedicated, innovative clinical leadership that champions not only their own profession but the core AHP values of a commitment to health and wellbeing. Her compassionate leadership style was apparent in her open-door policy and approachable nature with mentorship nurturing a robust team.”

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Julia Petty

Assistant Director, Therapies and Rehabilitation Services, City Health Care Partnership CIC, Hull

Julia constantly champions the voice, contribution and value of AHPs. Julia's vision and drive is a shining example of how the national AHP strategy can be brought to life.

Contact: juliapetty@nhs.net

FINALIST



Allaina Eden

Physiotherapy Service Lead, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Allaina has an unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care. Her visionary leadership extends beyond her own profession to encompass all AHPs in the organisation and beyond.

Contact: allaina.eden@nhs.net



FIND OUT MORE

helen.nicholls2@wales.nhs.uk

The NHS England Chief Scientific Officer's award for the outstanding healthcare science service of the year

WINNER

Integrated Ambulatory ECG Monitor Transformation Project Cardiorespiratory Diagnostics Department at Barts Health NHS Trust

The Team introduced patch technologies via external partnerships for electrocardiogram (ECG) ambulatory monitoring. This led to the development of a quality assurance (QA) framework to ensure adherence to standards. The program also oversees internal compliance with clinical notification and escalation.

Their ambulatory ECG monitor service faced demand and capacity challenges pre-COVID-19. The pandemic triggered changes, leading to the adoption of patch technology for care delivery amid social distancing. The service focuses on remote options with a range of providers for tailored technology solutions. Monitors are sent to patients' homes for self-application, returning to third-party partners for analysis. Reports are transmitted securely through an internet-based portal. While their focus has shifted to remote care, they still offer face-to-face services to ensure inclusive, personalised care and use appropriate technology based on patient needs. To ensure prompt diagnosis and treatment, they have negotiated key performance indicators (KPIs) with external partners including turnaround times, repeat rates, and quality. The QA program ensures

their partners work aligns with local standards and that they follow their internal clinical notifications and escalation pathways.

“The judges chose this because the team provided a complete picture: they were impressed by the way they promote the healthcare science service with strong, innovative work, clearly showing economic benefits, partnership working with industry, engaging with a diverse patient base and transforming the workforce.”

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Medical physics and engineering MR physics group

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

The group have introduced three key innovations over the past 18 months to support the reduction in waiting times, improving pacemaker patient access to MR and upskilling radiographers.

Contact: Michael.hutton4@nhs.net

FINALIST



Liverpool Clinical Laboratories

Liverpool University Hospital Foundation Trust

The Liverpool haemato-oncology diagnostic service has developed cutting-edge DNA sequencing which is revolutionising diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring of lymphomas. They have expanded their service across the region and created efficiencies.

Contact: anthony.carter@liverpoolft.nhs.uk



FIND OUT MORE
nolan.stain1@nhs.net

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

Suhailah Mohamed

Head of Practice & Workforce –
Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Katrina Kennedy

Director – Katrina Kennedy AHP Limited

Jenny Kirkwood

AHP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Co-ordinator for Children and Young People
– Public Health Agency

Sarah Pitt

Principal Lecturer, School of Applied
Sciences – University of Brighton

Ian Davies

Healthcare Science Course Leader,
Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science –
Staffordshire University

Dominic Harrington

Chief Executive – Synnovis

Claire Marshall

Experience of Care Lead, Experience &
Partnerships Team People and
Communities – NHS England

Lawrence Ambrose

Lead Policy Officer –
Royal College of Podiatry

Venus Madden

Associate Director of Allied Health
Professionals – Hampshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Basit Abdul

Clinical Programme Lead, Chief Scientific
Officer's EDI Clinical Fellow, NHS England –
Academy for Healthcare Science

Prof Chris Hopkins

Consultant Clinical Scientist, Head of the
TriTech Institute & Innovation, Assistant
Director AHP and Health Science –
Hywel Dda University Health Board, Betsi
Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Prof John Geen

Consultant Clinical Scientist – Cwm Taf
Morgannwg University Health Board

John Stevens

Chairman – Academy for Healthcare Science

Hootian Gu

Clinical Senior Lecturer, Consultant Clinical
Scientist (Higher Specialist Scientist in
Cardiac Imaging) – King's College London,
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Kellie Green

Interim Head of Fitness to Practise,
Head of Professionalism and Upstream
Regulation, Professional Liaison Project
Lead – The Health and Care Professions
Council

Helena Morgan

Head of Clinical Neurophysiology –
Morrison Hospital, Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Tracy Nicholls

Chief Executive – College of Paramedics

Jenny Keane

National Director, Intermediate Care and
Rehabilitation – NHS England

Steve Jamieson

Chief Executive Officer – Royal College of
Speech and Language Therapists

Daniel Thomas

Managing Director & Music Therapist –
Chroma

Rachael Moses

Head Clinical Leadership Development,
National Clinical Advisor Respiratory inc
Long COVID – NHS England

Sarah Bant

Associate Director of Workforce
Transformation, Healthcare Science –
Health Education and Improvement Wales

Victoria Heath

Deputy Trust Lead Healthcare Scientist,
Lead Quality Assurance and Risk Manager
for Physiological Sciences, Deputy Patient
Public Involvement / Engagement Lead for
the GOSH Biomedical Research Centre
Lead Assessor for Healthcare Science
Apprenticeships, National School of
Healthcare Science – Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children

Janet Monkman

Chief Executive –
Academy for Healthcare Science

(Didi) Emmanuel Akinluyi

Consultant Clinical Scientist –
Guys & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust

Sian Corrin

Deputy Head of Department, Consultant
Clinical Scientist – NHS Wales –
Cardiff University Health Board"

Ruth Mhlanga

Professions Lead for Allied Health
Professions – South Tees Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust

Grahame Pope

former head of physiotherapy and
rehabilitation – University of Nottingham

Suzanne Avington

Associate Director Allied Health
Professionals – Nottinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Craig Murray

Chair – British and Irish Orthoptic Society

Bamidele Farinre

Pathology Quality Manager and Governance
Lead – Whittington Health NHS Trust

Brogan Cebraal

Healthcare Science Clinical Lead for
Research & Innovation –
Health Education Improvement Wales

Alan Deacon

National Pathology Portfolio Programme
Lead – NHS Wales Executive

Rhys Morgan

Healthcare Science Clinical Lead –
Health Education Improvement Wales

Nicky Tavermer

Interim Programme Director –
Cardiff University

Victoria Chalker

Deputy Chief Scientific Officer –
NHS England

Dr Nicky Eddison

Vice Chair – BAPO

Ruth Crowder

Chief Allied Health Professions Adviser –
The Welsh Government

Delia Ripley

Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser for Health –
The Welsh Government

Joanna Andrew

Network Lead Blood Sciences and President
of IBMS – Scarborough, Hull and York
Pathology Service

Prof Dame Sue Hill

Chief Scientific Officer – NHS England

Tony Fisher

Consultant Clinical Scientist –
NHS Innovation Agency (North West Coast)
and Dept of Physics, University of Liverpool

Janet Monkman

Chief Executive –
Academy for Healthcare Science

Dr Anna Barnes

President – IPEM

Michelle Tennyson

Chief AHP Officer –
Department of Health Northern Ireland

Denise Nixon

Post Registration Education Commissioning
Coordinator for Nursing & Midwifery and
AHPs – Department of Health Northern
Ireland

Suchita Joshi

National Head of Pathology – NHS England

Mohammad Al-Amri

Senior Research Fellow
Director of Science, Research and
Innovation Council –
Cardiff University, The Institute of Physics
and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)"

Bigger, bolder, better

Relaunching the UK Advancing Healthcare Awards for 2025

It's time for healthcare scientists and allied health professionals working in the NHS, local authorities, charities, companies and many other settings to achieve more recognition- much more - for their contribution to health and social care.

The UK-wide Advancing Healthcare Awards, celebrating its 20th anniversary, can deliver this.

Dame Professor Sue Hill, chief scientific officer, NHS England; Beverley Harden, 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, are working with us to find ways to take the

Advancing Healthcare Awards to the next level. More sponsors, more supporters, more entrants, more buzz, more media, and most important more - much more - impact.

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.

So join us for 2025, the 20th anniversary of the Awards, launched long ago when we knew entries were coming in by the whirring of the fax.

