

Press Release

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RUH New Year's Honours Awards for Staff

On Monday 5 March the Royal United Hospital (RUH) is hosting a special awards ceremony at the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath.

At the ceremony, staff will be receiving a 'personal achievement' award. This award recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in their area of work. Staff will also receive a loyalty award which recognises their long service at the hospital.

Staff were nominated by their colleagues, managers and patients. The eight winners of the personal achievement award are pharmacist Vicki Clarke, cleaner Roger Cooper, radiology receptionist Maxine Cowling, ward manager Sue Kennedy, sister Carmel Southall, senior radiographer Laura Richards, volunteer Bill Viles and superintendent radiographer Janet Crane.

Janet Crane came to the RUH as a student in 1965 and qualified in 1967, since then she has worked at the RUH without a career break. Janet was nominated because she has been instrumental in the development of radiotherapy services and the development of staff in the team. Over the last two years, whilst receiving treatment for cancer, Janet has continued her important work without having a day off. Throughout this time she has continued to make time to listen to staff and patients. Janet's dedication to her work and her great professionalism is recognised by all who come into contact with her.

Janet says: "I am very pleased to be nominated, though I don't really see that I have done anything special. I have always been keen to support radiotherapy services at the RUH and it's fantastic to see the patients benefiting from the high quality and safe treatment they receive here. I think the awards are a good thing as they show that the RUH values its employees."

Maxine Cowling has worked in the radiology department at the RUH for four years. She was nominated for the personal achievement award after she got involved in the training of staff using a new computer information system. She successfully helped train approximately 250 radiology staff whilst continuing her role as office clerk.

Maxine says: "I wanted to get involved in staff training because I realised the benefits the new radiology system would bring to this trust and our patients. It has been hard work at times, but very exciting to see the end results. The computer information system is also shared with other local hospitals so it has been all the more important to get the training right. I am really delighted to be given this award and know that my daughter and husband are very proud of me. There are so many staff who give a bit

extra at the RUH. It's good to know that the awards can help staff get some recognition for what they do."

Haematology pharmacist Vicki Clarke has worked at the RUH since 1999. Over the last few years Vicki has set up an oral chemotherapy clinic in which patients are counselled on how to take the oral chemotherapy agents and to manage the side effects of them. Vicki has also recently qualified as an independent pharmacist prescriber, which enables her to carry out treatment reviews for patients rather than them having to wait for an outpatient clinic with a doctor. Vicki says: "It is nice to be recognised because we are all working very hard, sometimes under difficult circumstances. For me it's all about improving patient care and it is very satisfying to see that patients are happy and benefiting from new and more efficient ways of working."

Staff will be receiving awards from the RUH chairman James Carine and chief executive Mark Davies. James Carine says: "These awards highlight what fantastic staff we have at the RUH. In our eyes, all our staff are winners."

Chief executive Mark Davies says: "It is important that the dedication, hard work and professionalism of hospital staff is rewarded. All those who have been nominated for these awards fully deserve this recognition of their achievements."

"Every day staff are doing an excellent job, often in difficult circumstances and these awards not only recognise the individual finalist but also the hard work performed by our hospital staff as a whole."

Ends

Notes to Editors - There are 8 winners of the Personal Achievement Award and 15 winners of the Loyalty Award.

Photo opportunity - The ceremony takes place from 7pm in the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath on Monday 5 March 2007. A suitable photo opportunity has been arranged for 8.15pm. Please contact the communications office to arrange.