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Media Release

Hospital staff recognised for outstanding professional achievements

Staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised for outstanding professional achievements during the challenging past year.

The hospital's annual awards ceremony celebrated individuals and teams who have shone, both as part of the response to the pandemic and in spite of it.

Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks said: "I am so proud of everyone at the RUH for their hard work and dedication over this difficult past year. I am in awe of how much we achieved by working together, always keeping patient-centred compassionate care at the heart of what we do.

"It was an absolute honour to recognise some of those most special achievements and say thank you to teams and individuals who really went above and beyond."

In addition, all staff across the hospital received a thank you card with a badge as a special token of appreciation in recognition of the huge team RUH effort during this unprecedented time.

Cara explained: "Alongside our award winners, we also wanted to acknowledge that this year more than any other, all our staff have pulled together to work in new ways to support patients, families, carers and each other, and we wanted to say thank you."

This year's ceremony was virtual, with colleagues surprised with their awards while they were at work.

The Discharge Hub was named Team of the Year for going the extra mile to provide a welcoming and comfortable environment for patients who are waiting to go home later that day. The team is passionate about ensuring every patient has a safe and supported discharge from hospital, waiting in the hub for their transport or medication to take home. The hub also helps to ensure that wards have beds available for new patients who really need care.

The Specialist Palliative Care Team won the honour of Most Innovative Team of the Year for continually striving to provide the most compassionate support for patients and families. They were recognised for their 'can do' attitude to empowering staff to make a difference.

Non-frontline services were also acknowledged, including those that played a big part in supporting staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fit Testing team, which fitted NHS colleagues from the hospital and the wider community with personal protective equipment, the Incident Coordination Centre, who worked 24/7 to centrally manage the hospital's day to day response, and Staffing Command, who coordinated staffing while teams were affected by staff sickness and self-isolation, all received special COVID-19 Team of the Year awards.

Other winners included the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Outpatient Clinic team who transformed their service to provide more support for patients in managing their illness, the Research team who played a vital role in vaccination and COVID-19 treatment trials, and former admin colleague Juliet Newton, who was so inspired by her experience volunteering as a healthcare assistant when the pandemic first began that she has now decided to take on the role permanently.

Chair Alison Ryan said: "We have seen each and every person step up magnificently to fight against the pandemic, and I was blown away to hear these fantastic achievements.

"Well done to all the winners – you truly deserve the honour."

Full list of winners:

Team of the Year - Discharge Hub team

Most Innovative Team of the Year - Specialist Palliative Care team

Team of the Year: Working Differently - Fit Testing team

Team of the Year: Working Differently - Incident Coordination Centre (ICC) and Staffing Command team

Highly Commended Team of the Year: Working Differently - Theatres

Highly Commended Team of the Year: Working Differently - The expanded Intensive Care team

Highly Commended Team of the Year: Working Differently - Oncology, Haematology, Chemotherapy and Day Unit team

Chief Executive's Customer Care Award - Adam Wright, Cleaner

Chief Executive's Customer Care Award: Highly Commended - Helen Witham, Senior Biomedical Scientist

Chief Executive's Customer Care Award: Working Differently - Sarah Hillman, Senior Advanced Critical Care Practitioner, Steve Laver, Associate Specialist in Anaesthesia, and Lorna Coton, Specialist Nurse Practitioner

Improving Patient Experience Award - Inflammatory Bowel Disease Outpatient Clinic team

Research and Development Award - Trust-wide Research team

Patient Safety Award - Heather Boyes, Lead for Claims and Inquests

Personal Achievement Award - Juliet Newton, Healthcare Assistant

Personal Achievement Award - Krisna Deano, Advanced Orthopaedic Practitioner

Student of the Year - Doug Mackenzie, Mechanical Engineering Apprentice

Volunteer of the Year - Keith Gethridge, Fundraiser and Volunteer Cleaner

Nursing and Midwifery: Nurse of the Year Award - Sara Clarke, Sister

Nursing and Midwifery: Care and Compassion Award - Shane Upham, Nurse

Nursing and Midwifery: Making a Difference Award - Zara March, Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Midwife

Nursing and Midwifery: Making a Difference Special Commendation - Renee Ordonez, Night Sister

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and

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Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk

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Everyone
Matters
Working
Together
Making a
Difference