

# Radiography Awards 2017

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# Contents

## The Annual Radiography Awards 2017

<b>UK and Eastern Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>London Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Midlands Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Scotland Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>South East Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>South West Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Wales Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Yorkshire &amp; North Trent Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>UK Diagnostic Student Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>UK Therapeutic Student Radiographer of the Year</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>UK and London Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Midlands Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Northern Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>North West Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>South West Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Yorkshire and North Trent Radiography Team of the Year</b>	<b>19</b>





# UK and Eastern Radiographer of the Year

**Sam Penry, Senior Diagnostic Radiographer,  
Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex**

Sam qualified as a radiographer in 2011 but he didn't stop there. In the past five years he has undertaken a PgCert in medical research, a Masters module in cross sectional imaging, and developed and had adopted a new Trust IV protocol, amongst many other accomplishments.

Committed to advancing the knowledge of colleagues and students, he holds regular teaching sessions in his own time before and after work, the most recent being to train radiographers in the use of peripherally inserted central catheters and midlines. Sam also performs a great deal of work in his own time for Cancer Research UK as an 'expert reviewer', assessing the health information given to patients and relatives, which includes analysing the website sections on CT and radiology.

In 2012, Sam became a SoR union learning representative and spoke eloquently at the national Annual Delegates Conference (ADC) in 2013 and 2014. He supported motions on embracing the quality of care for people with dementia and safeguarding radiography education.

Sam's latest research has focused on feeding tubes, which he presented to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), representing 163 countries, and the British Standards Institution (BSI).

After submitting a literature review and recognising a gap in the literature, he recommended the creation of a new standard for the radiopacity of enteral feeding catheters, particularly as some catheters do not show up on radiographs.

Both organisations have taken this recommendation on board and have asked Sam to be involved in a development that will hopefully change practice on a global scale!

Colleague and SCoR president-elect Susan Webb said: "Sam is passionate about promoting the profession through research and advancing his practice through learning and the application of his knowledge. He is a dedicated and integral part of the radiography team, stepping in to cover for colleagues whenever needed and is always happy, cheerful and friendly. He is polite and caring towards patients and staff at all times. He's a great advocate for our profession."



# London Radiographer of the Year

**Harry Smyth, Senior Radiographer, King's College Hospital, London**

Calm, caring and considerate, colleagues say that Harry, who has been a radiographer at King's College Hospital for the past three years, has worked tirelessly to improve services for patients and ensure that the rest of the team in this very busy department are supported in any way possible.

During the recent London Bridge terror attack, he was the senior radiographer on site. He led the team with his usual self-assured calmness, whilst having to image very seriously injured and traumatised patients.

Colleague Vas Nevrides said in nominating Harry: "All those on duty were thankful for his leadership and knowledge during a very stressful night shift. He was an absolute credit to himself and the whole of the NHS that night."

In his own time, Harry has trained as one of only two radiographers nationally who will be sent to disaster areas across the globe. He is now part of the UK Emergency Medical Team and is on an on-call roster for rapid deployment to a sudden onset disaster overseas.

"He is constantly analysing the way we work, so that we can improve how we deliver care to our patients. When we had been stuck with almost obsolete computers that were wasting the department time and money, his terrier-like tenacity made sure we got the new computers that the IT people had said were not due for renewal. Once he gets stuck into a project he sees it through to completion," said Vas.

His colleagues also told judges that Harry has spent the past two years plugging away to get the department's rota updated to an e-roster. His efforts have meant spending many hours of his own time attending training and communicating with other large departments across the Trust, finding out how they have implemented this change.

"As a result of his efforts we now have a very well run rota system that makes everybody's lives easier. This was a single handed effort on his behalf for the greater good of everybody.

"Harry's patient care and knowledge are exemplary; he has a very caring approach and is able to explain to and reassure even the most nervous patients. As a reporting radiographer, his skills are called upon constantly, especially in light of the shortage of trainee radiologists at our Trust," said Vas.



# Midlands Radiographer of the Year

**Susan Johnson, Senior Radiographer,  
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Susan qualified ten years ago and began her career at Southampton General Hospital. She thoroughly enjoyed her job but missed her home in the Midlands, returning there in 2008 to work at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. She has worked for the Trust ever since, becoming a senior radiographer in 2010 and joining the manual handling team.

Susan also undertakes many additional roles in the department, including being an RPS, a back care trainer, an SoR rep, and a preceptor. In 2017, Susan joined the reporting radiographer team and qualified to report on chest and abdomen x-rays, on top of her clinical role.

Supporting staff through preceptorship is tremendously important to Susan, who understands the trials and pressures of beginning a new career; she has particular empathy with those retraining in later life. The department is very cosmopolitan, where variations in culture, language, techniques and general differences in practices can be huge. Susan helps preceptees find a way to overcome whatever their issues may be. She generally has one or two preceptees to support and encourage, and she also leads the radiation training sessions for new theatre nursing and ODP staff in their preceptorship sessions.

Colleague Kim Smith, Preceptor Programme Manager, told judges: "Susan consistently demonstrates an incredible amount of patience with whomever she is working. She always has time for people, and is willing to help with anything.

"In her role as a preceptor, Susan is to be commended, regularly swapping shifts so that she can work alongside her preceptees. She takes the role seriously, and as a result of this there has been an immeasurable improvement in one of her preceptees who was having extreme difficulties after moving here from abroad. This improvement would not have happened without her input, support and patience. Susan more than epitomises the good people in this profession; she absolutely goes 'the extra mile' – I would say she goes an extra ten miles. In her manager's words 'if the department was made up of 70 Susans, we would be well on our way'."



# Scotland Radiographer of the Year

**Margaret Low, Senior Radiographer, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee**

In a career that has spanned more than 40 years, Margaret has worked tirelessly as part of the Dundee team to ensure that imaging is of the highest standard.

In a time where other modalities may be seen as more attractive career paths, Margaret has championed the skills and knowledge required to produce high quality 'beautiful' radiographs. She continues to prove that plain film radiography is a standalone speciality, and not something to do until opportunities in other modalities come along.

"Margaret is a passionate radiographer who values hard work, attention to detail and always puts patient needs and wellbeing at the centre of her work.

"In addition, she has taken an active role in the development of student radiographers and newly qualified radiographers. Margaret has a 'no-nonsense' approach to teaching but it doesn't take long to realise that despite her sometimes abrupt manner, not only have you learned more than you ever thought you could about radiographic positioning and technique, but that she really does have the best interests of her students, and our profession at the very heart of everything she does," says colleague and Specialist Radiographer, Claire Donaldson.

Lead Radiographer, Jean Strachan, added: "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award. Margaret's continued passion for plain film radiography and her commitment to provide an excellent service for her patients has now been recognised and commended. She has been instrumental in improving patient pathways and can often be found x-raying patients an hour before her shift starts because the time suited her patient. It continues to be a privilege to work with Margaret."

"A naturally modest person, who believes that this is 'all in a day's work', she is an inspiration to me and many others who have had the pleasure of working with her. I genuinely believe that she embodies the essence of Radiographer of the Year," said Claire.



# South East Radiographer of the Year

**Lisa Marie Revans, Radiographer, Berkshire Cancer Centre**

Lisa began her career as a therapeutic radiographer in 2006, after successfully completing a degree in radiotherapy and oncology at The University of Hertfordshire.

She gained valuable experience in the first few years of her working life and was then placed in pre-treatment, gaining skills in planning on a Varian simulator, CT scanning, virtual simulation, treatment with high dose rate brachytherapy, and checking/inputting plans.

Passing her advanced practice module at Sheffield Hallam in 2016 was a very proud moment for Lisa, and since then she has been performing gynae HDR insertions and reviewing all gynae patients on treatment, in addition to carrying out HDR brachytherapy tutorials with radiographers, doctors and students.

Although her role has already improved the gynae pathway and continuity of care, Lisa's aim is to continue to improve and develop the service further by working towards first insertions, assisting with the implementation of new techniques and the further training of staff and students.

Colleague Paula Powell, Clinical Lead for the radiotherapy and oncology programme commented:

"Radiographers are often judged on their technical expertise or the way in which they support their patients; their compassion and levels of care for others are the highest qualities we hold. However, one area which we often fail to recognise is the ability to be a role model, to teach and to mentor.

"Lisa is continuously praised by students for all these qualities, but above all for her patience and exceptional ability to demonstrate and explain processes to students in a way which will help them to understand their clinical practice better, enabling them to improve and become better radiographers.

"Students are often placed quite low on the list of priorities for clinical staff. Lisa has maintained an exceptional quality of care and treatment for her patients, whilst also providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. This is something which should be commended."



# South West Radiographer of the Year

**Hilary Rose, Trainee Reporting Radiographer,  
Weston General Hospital**

Hilary graduated from Canterbury Christ Church University in 2011 and has gone from strength to strength since, recently achieving her PgCert in image interpretation. She is now working towards becoming a reporting radiographer.

Her career began in Bournemouth, where she gained a solid grounding in quality imaging from the reporting radiographers there, moving on to undertake more senior posts at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and Southampton General Hospital, both major trauma centres. She was 'over the moon' when she was offered the reporting training post at Weston.

Colleague Jacqueline Smith told the judges that the best way to describe Hilary is that she is simply "amazing"!

"We are small Trust and as such have a team of three reporting radiographers, of whom Hilary is one. She has been in post since April 2016 moving here to commence her trainee band 6 role. She is immensely proud to be a radiographer and proud of the profession, and this comes across in every aspect of her work," she said.

"Her aim is to ensure that our department achieves excellence in plain film imaging and she is dedicated in her pursuit of this. Plain film radiography is often undertaken by the least experienced members of the team and most people will start their diagnostic journey with a set of plain films. Every day, Hilary is out there with the plain film radiographers making herself available, giving feedback, teaching and encouraging everyone from junior to more senior staff with her boundless enthusiasm and energy.

"She undertakes monthly audits of the quality of the plain films, which she feeds back not just at meetings but in every way she can, including with a poster of outcomes placed on the back of the toilet door! These posters are funny and engaging but the message is clear – we are all here to give our best every day and ensure we have achieved quality imaging. Hilary has re-invigorated the entire plain film reporting team, including the lead radiologist, and now discrepancy audit and feedback are an embedded part of practice in all of our specialty areas across all modalities.

"She is absolutely a team player and inspires the team to be the best."





# Wales

## Radiographer of the Year

**Julie Burnage, Director of Clinical Services, Diagnostic Healthcare**

Julie wanted to be a radiographer from the age of 12, volunteering at the x-ray department of her local hospital throughout her A-level years, before attending Tameside Hospital and Salford College and qualifying in the 1980s. She worked for a brief time at Wythenshawe Hospital before moving to Wales in 1986.

Julie has overcome many personal challenges in her life, including a serious car accident, being homeless for a time and coping with the murder of her grandmother. However, she has always maintained her cheerful disposition and enthusiasm for her work. She has also recently received treatment for problems caused by years of scanning. Despite this, she is determined to carry on.

Throughout the last 20 years, she has been at the forefront of demanding safe and effective services. She was a member of the United Kingdom Association of Sonographers and the SoR Ultrasound Advisory Group.

Whilst working in Glan Clywd Hospital, she had an idea that it would be more beneficial to scan patients in the community rather than forcing them to make the often difficult commute to the hospital on public transport. The hospital was not supportive, and after being turned down for a senior post, she decided to leave and went to work at Breast Test Wales. The close patient contact and the feeling she was making a difference, made the job everything she had come into radiography for.

Unfortunately, the car accident left Julie unable to use her left thumb, so she decided to go back to ultrasound. With nothing to lose, she set up her own company hoping to make a real difference to patients. Since then the company has gone from strength to strength, with patients and staff at the centre of every aspect of the business.

Nominating Julie, colleague Margaret Ecclestone said: "Julie has a genuine love of people and is great fun to be around – she is always smiling. Her commitment to the profession, her patients and colleagues is second to none, and she is often the first in work and the last to leave, regularly covering shifts so that colleagues can attend sports day or parents evening.

"There are a great many people working in radiography and ultrasound who she has taught and mentored, and for whom her love of the job has been a shining example."



# Yorkshire & North Trent Radiographer of the Year

**Amy Richards, Lead Reporting Radiographer, Leeds General Infirmary**

For the past 17 years, Amy has worked for the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and has been a reporting radiographer for more than ten of those, reporting plain film MSK since 2003 and plain film chests since 2015. In January 2017, she was appointed lead reporting radiographer.

Since her appointment, she has made great strides in moving the reporting service forward, and significantly helped bridge the relationship with radiologists in the Trust, due to her tenacity, enthusiasm and her refusal to shy away from hard work.

Consultant Radiologist, Dr B Bhartia, commented: "When the plain film group was formed in 2014, there was a large backlog of unreported examinations which extended over a greater than two-year period. Without additional funding, tackling this issue has relied on improved organisation and efficiency. The appointment of a lead reporting radiographer practitioner (RRP) has been key to this strategy. Amy's contribution has led to significant improvements, resulting in a sustained 35% increase in the RRP's productivity over the past year, and improvements in patient safety by fostering a culture of team working."

Shishir Karthik, Consultant Radiologist, added: "I am really pleased that Amy has received this award in recognition of what I think is a vital role. It has been a rewarding experience working with her as an individual and also with the team."

Colleague Claire Bradley also sang Amy's praises in nominating her: "As a group of reporters, we have gone from having no input or knowledge of the training that goes into our trainee radiologists, to now being a part of the process, delivering presentations and working more closely with them in our reporting environments. As part of Amy's new role, she has also strived to help a group of reporting radiographers who are 'split-banded' in our team, to increase the hours we are able to report. This is something which we have tried to achieve over the last five years to no avail and which she secured after only six months in post."

"Amy needs to realise the impact she has had on a group of people who were once very disjointed and dejected, who can now see amazing opportunities to strive to be much more than they ever thought possible. She has brought us more together as a team with her positive attitude and willingness to never take no for an answer. She has personally made me feel more empowered within my position and has given me a confidence in my abilities. I can't thank her enough."



# UK Diagnostic Student Radiographer of the Year

**Laura Bonner, University of the West of England**

Laura, a popular student with patients, academic and clinical staff, who has a passion and gift for connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds, graduated from the University of the West of England in the summer with a 2.1 BSc (Hons) diagnostic imaging. She was also awarded the local SCoR student prize and is now working as a radiographer at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.

Her tutors described Laura as an inspirational role model, who has worked hard to overcome the difficulties of dyslexia, a condition which was not diagnosed until the end of her second year of university. Although it made her studies much more challenging, Laura decided to turn her dyslexia diagnosis into a positive. It took her a year longer to graduate but she never gave up, and with the help of the student disability services and academic staff, she developed an action plan to achieve her dream of graduating.

Associated Head of Department, Janice St John Matthews, told judges: "The hardest part for Laura was to see her cohort continue to year three and her friends graduate last year. However, she was determined to join them and worked extremely hard, taking on board feedback and seeking support when needed. Throughout, Laura has remained bubbly and effervescent, resolute to qualify in a career she enjoyed."

During her studies Laura has also given a lot back to the university community by working as a student ambassador. Her cheerful personality is always commented on, and in this role Laura has regularly been complimented by parents and potential candidates. She is an inspiring individual and often confirms people's decision to join the radiography community.

"I have watched with interest and admiration her ability to reassure parents and potential students, and I imagine this is exactly what Laura does in practice. She has an infectious personality with a real gift for caring. Whenever I have asked Laura to do anything, she has agreed readily and offered to do more," said Janice.

"Laura is a determined young lady, clearly passionate about being a radiographer and her practice is always truly patient focused. She is a bright and enthusiastic individual, and has worked exceptionally hard throughout her undergraduate course. Laura has a can do attitude, sets high demands for herself and at the same time, is able to fully engage with the team around her. I believe Laura is quite simply exceptional and I am so pleased that her skills, personality and commitment have been recognised in this award."



# UK Therapeutic Student Radiographer of the Year

**Amy Walkman, University of the West of England**

Amy Walkman began her journey to become a radiographer by working both in hospital administration departments and as a physics assistant, before successfully applying to study for her degree. This year, she achieved a First Class BSc (Hons) in radiotherapy and oncology.

Her university tutors commented: “Amy is an individual who has grown from the core of the NHS, starting her career as an administrator, leading on to be a physics assistant, and then qualifying as a therapeutic radiographer. She gained experience in three different radiotherapy departments, as well as review clinics and patient support centres such as the Maggie Centre. She has an incredible amount of passion and drive which, coupled with excellent clinical skills, means she will truly be an asset to the profession.”

In her clinical practice, she has excelled in all areas. Her practice educators stated many times in her final placement that she would make an “excellent radiographer”. Written feedback praised her ‘great technical ability’.

However, in addition to this, feedback also noted: “Amy has a very caring, empathic approach to patients, and patient care is one of her great strengths. Her friendly manner and professionalism are at the core of her interactions with patients,” said Programme Leader, Mandy Tuckey.

In June this year, Amy volunteered at the UKRCO conference where her role was to assist delegates and presenters, a rewarding and exciting experience that enabled her to meet high profile people within the profession. She also presented her undergraduate work titled: ‘Standardisation of Bladder and Bowel Preparation for Prostate Cancer’ at the AHP Student Conference, which she presented in front of Steve Herring, the Immediate Past President of the SCoR. She was one of two Macmillan prize winners for the best cancer related presentation on the day.

Mandy added: “Always literally the team player, Amy has pursued many of her sporting passions whilst at university, including being a member of the university’s women’s first teams in both basketball and cricket. She has also competed and volunteered at the Varsity events for rugby and football, and was a volunteer at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy and Women’s Cricket World Cup.”

Since graduating, Amy has been appointed as a therapeutic radiographer at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester.





# UK and London Radiography Team of the Year

## Radiology Team at King's College Hospital

The unique and devastating events taking place across the capital this year have meant the team at King's College Hospital have had to show an unprecedented level of courage, dedication and skill to help their patients.

The way they've gone about this task makes them worthy winners of the UK and London regional award.

During the shocking London Bridge attack, on hearing the news twelve staff came in to help their four colleagues on night duty, arriving before calls for extra staff went out.

This meant the team were able to utilise three CT scanners, the interventional angiography suite to give immediate life-saving care, as well as deliver imaging for the rest of the Trust as well.

Likewise, during the aftermath of the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, the skills of the plain-film radiographers were brought to the fore, delivering critical imaging for the many people suffering the effects of smoke inhalation.

On both occasions, the team rallied round at their time of greatest need to help their colleagues, and most importantly, deliver life-saving care for patients during the most trying circumstances.

Vas Nevrides made the nomination, and recognised that whilst King's was in a somewhat unique position, being one of the busiest Trusts in the country, this did not detract from the unwavering spirit, camaraderie and skill the team has displayed over the last year.

"From our cleaners, RDAs, assistant practitioners, radiographers, receptionists and managers, we work as a team," he said.

"We support each other and work hard for our patients. We are proud to work at this Trust. After work we also enjoy ourselves as a team. I think this is what a team should be and they deserve to be recognised for putting patients first at all times whilst working in a busy and challenging environment."



# Midlands Radiography Team of the Year

**NBI Mammography Team,  
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Providing a vital breast screening service to a population of more than 120,000 women is challenging enough, but this team has excelled in not only delivering compassionate care, but striving to improve practice through education and training.

The service is delivered across four locations via two static units and two mobile breast screening vans, and is supported by a screening assessment clinic for women who are identified as having an abnormality.

As a national training centre for mammography, the team are heavily involved in mentoring, lecturing, feedback and peer support. Although there are dedicated roles within the team, every member's opinion and assistance is required; providing a learning environment is very much a team effort.

The team have taken on board several new technologies in the last four years, including digital breast tomosynthesis and contrast mammography.

This process has involved all the team members in one way or another, with nobody being left behind and settling for anything but the best.

But innovation and best practice is only part of the reason this team has been commended. Working in a busy centre with patients who are often anxious and emotional, is always difficult. But this team overcomes these challenges because they all have a common goal; to provide the best care for that particular patient. It is not unusual for individual members to voluntarily stay later than their scheduled hours, to work through lunch, or to cover someone else's role, to ensure safe and supportive care for their patients.

Leanne Calderwood, the team's manager, summed up the team, simply saying: "They are an asset to our Trust."



# Northern Radiography Team of the Year

## Reporting Radiographers, City Hospitals Sunderland

The reporting of trauma images has been carried out by this team of radiographers for many years, providing an invaluable and life-saving service in collaboration with the emergency department.

The team report approximately 55,000 exams a year and a monthly audit demonstrates accuracy levels of over 95%, proving their quality and skill.

They have recently changed their working practices to provide an out of hours reporting service, including weekend cover, which involves home reporting as part of their shift pattern. This has been achieved without an increase in staffing.

In the face of these ever-increasing demands, however, the team have continued to maintain their high standards.

Through their work, they enable medical and nursing staff to make accurate and timely diagnoses and improve the outcome for patients. This relies on their hard work, dedication, flexibility and determination to improve patient care; qualities this team has in abundance.

The feedback from colleagues in the Trust speaks for itself. One emergency department consultant commented: "They [the team] provide an excellent service to the emergency department.

"I find hot reporting a really useful service. It reduces the number of queries on x-rays, speeding up patient care and reduces interruptions to seniors, and it reduces the risk of errors and subsequent time-consuming recalls. It also helps fulfil the National Patient Safety Agency alert about letting people know their x-ray report result.

"It's a fantastic service. I am positive it will have reduced our missed fracture and recall rate. Please keep it up!"

They have also received acclaim from the Trust's Director of Operations, who remarked: "I think you will find everyone considers it helpful and it is absolutely central and crucial to vast amounts of what we do."



# Northern Ireland Radiography Team of the Year

**Truebeam Therapeutic Radiographers, Cancer Centre,  
Belfast City Hospital**

Over the last four years, this team of therapeutic radiographers have embraced new technologies and techniques at a rapid pace, to deliver an outstanding and life-saving service for patients.

The new Truebeam radiotherapy treatment units which have been commissioned in the department have brought with them technologies such as volumetric arc therapy and cone beam CT imaging.

The radiographers working on these machines, led by a team of senior radiotherapy team leaders, have done exceptional work in gaining competence and experience to be able to train their colleagues.

In addition to training radiographers on how to use the units, the team have also pioneered the introduction of new techniques and services.

Stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR), the treatment of small lung lesions with a high dose of radiation, for example, has been introduced and was initially led by the clinical oncologists. The radiographers gleaned as much information about this treatment as they could and, following a strict programme written by radiographers and endorsed by the consultants, this is now a radiographer-led treatment.

Jean Smith, the team's manager made the nomination. She said: "This exceptional team of radiographers has accomplished a lot within a short space of time. They are providing excellent patient care, are forward thinking and willing to go the extra mile to introduce new technologies and techniques.

"I am proud to be their manager and am grateful to them all for the hard work that they put in on daily basis, and for their patience and co-operation when yet another new technique or project is discussed!"





# North West Radiography Team of the Year

## Cardiac/PCI Radiographers, North Cumbria Hospitals Trust

Cumbria is one of England's largest counties, with a population of 490,000 spread over a large area, and has an additional three million visitors annually.

Prior to the establishment of the specialist cardiac unit at North Cumbria Hospitals Trust in 2011, patients who required interventions had to travel to one of two surgical sites in the North East, more than 100 miles away.

This team of two interventional cardiologists, four radiographers and four nurses, work from within a portable cath lab physically fixed to a 'temporary ward' of twelve beds.

Here, the team have treated over 12,000 patients, cover a 24/7 emergency service and have so far carried out 1500 primary percutaneous coronary interventions.

Despite promises of increased staffing and new facilities, including a purpose built heart centre, not coming to fruition, the team has carried on unwaveringly in their task of treating patients.

The team have continually pressed management to deliver on the promised improvements, reinforcing the benefits to patients this would bring, whilst stoically keeping the busy service running smoothly.

Andrew Powell, Specialist PCI Radiographer at the Trust, nominated the team. He commented: "The comradeship experienced in this small unit, comprising cardiologists, nursing staff, cardiac physiologists, admin staff, domestics and the radiographers, is truly exceptional.

"But what is evident with this team is the fundamental principles of patient care, the value of inter-professional working and ultimately making a difference to the people of Cumbria and its many visitors."



# South West Radiography Team of the Year

## Cross Sectional Imaging Team, Weston General Hospital

Despite working for the smallest Trust in England, and working with just one CT and one MR scanner, the team have managed to keep pace with meeting national demands expected of much larger Trusts.

With just 10 members of staff, the team provide 24/7 cover for CT, work extended hours in MRI and also rotate around the rest of the imaging department to support plain film imaging, mammography and fluoroscopy.

In nominating them for the award, Jacqueline Anne Smith, the team's manager, described them as extremely professional, highly-skilled radiographers who also care deeply about their patients.

"They have worked hard to ensure that appointments are maximised to deliver on all of the key targets, while making sure that their practice is safe and effective," she commented.

"They always take time so that patients don't feel rushed or scared and will often go the extra mile, meeting patients beforehand to prepare them for examinations, particularly in MR.

"It is remarkable, not only the number of examinations performed, but also the variety they are able to perform at such a high diagnostic level on a daily basis.

"They are extremely productive and efficient but also they are professional, approachable and care deeply about the patients. In amongst all of this they still find time to laugh, chat and generally be happy.

"It is their hard work, dedication and ability to adapt to the constantly changing demands that needs celebration. Above all, the whole team hold the values of dignity and respect of their patients as a priority in everything they are accomplishing."



# Yorkshire and North Trent Radiography Team of the Year

## Ultrasound Team, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust

The developments in ultrasound technology over the years have been extraordinary and at times difficult to keep pace with, but the ultrasound team at Sherwood Forest NHS Foundation Trust have not just coped, they've excelled.

The sonography team is long established, but has made major developments over the last five years in modernising the service.

In doing so, the team has also been able to play a vital role in supporting the emergency department, helping make the department one of the top performing Trusts in the country for managing waiting times.

This has involved the use of many strategies, including extending the working day, offering more choice of appointment times, reducing DNA rates with a text service and utilising some waiting list initiative sessions at the weekend to increase the flexibility of the service, all implemented with the co-operation of the full team.

In addition, the team has managed to become self-sustaining in challenging times for recruitment and retention, by undertaking a training programme for existing radiographers with an interest in ultrasound.

This way, the team has been able to offer professional development and career progression options to ensure they have sufficient, fully qualified staff to maintain a first class service.

Whilst juggling their massive workload, the team have fostered an open learning environment, tapping into the wealth of clinical experience they possess to pass on to the next generation. This has fostered a culture of learning which, says the team's manager Jayne Burkitt, has been the bedrock of the team's outstanding success.





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