

Friday 4 November 2022

Scottish Health Awards – We are the champions!

We're proud to congratulate colleagues who have won top accolades in this year's Scottish Health Awards.

Dr Balasubramaniam Vijayan (Gastroenterology) has taken home the Doctor Award while Dr Fiona Mackenzie (Consultant Clinical Scientist) is the winning Leader of the Year. The team at Rosewell House were also shortlisted in the Integrated Care category.

These are the most prestigious and recognised awards for those working across NHS Scotland and its partners to deliver high quality health and social care services. Dr Vijayan is particularly touched his nomination came from one of his patients.

He explained: "It was a shock and it's slowly sinking in. The best accolade for a doctor's career is thanks from patients. This award is for the entire team in gastroenterology in NHSG and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful unit. I'd like to offer my thanks to all the staff in wards 104 and 301, the Peter Brunt Centre team, liver specialist nurses, endoscopy unit staff, alcohol liaison teams and all the medical staff, speciality colleagues and others we work with.

"Every patient is important and we go the extra mile to help them in any way we can – a few extra minutes to listen to their problems and care for them makes all the difference to how we can help and support them."

Dr Mackenzie is also very pleased to have won an award, having coordinated testing for Covid-19 across NHS Scotland laboratories. She said: "I hope this shines a spotlight on the medical microbiology and virology laboratories across NHS Scotland. These services provided support to the whole of Scotland throughout the pandemic and colleagues went above and beyond to get the service up and running and to deliver it."

Dr Mackenzie says services worked together as part of a network across Scotland before the pandemic and this partnership has been strengthened and expanded during the last few years. She added: "It was a total team effort involving 15 health boards, national procurement colleagues, the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland as well as our wonderful laboratories. The award hasn't quite sunk in yet but I'm really pleased and it was a great night."

NHS Grampian Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox added: "Huge congratulations to Dr Vijayan and Dr Mackenzie as well as their wider teams and all those who support them, and of course to the team at Rosewell House as runners up. We are very, very proud of all our dedicated, hard working colleagues who do absolutely everything they can to put patients first, support each other and provide the best

possible services for everyone across Grampian.”

That was the week that was Missed a brief? Never fear, [they are all available online](#), here’s a quick run through of what we covered this week:

Monday 31 – A number of reminders this week about drop-in vaccination clinics for staff, and the deactivation of ‘The Management of the Workforce during and after major incidents including pandemic’ policy.

Tuesday 1 – [Workforce Plan 2022 – 2025](#) and [new draft strategy for the Endowment Fund](#).

Wednesday 2 – Annual leave update and [newly revised Non-Medical Prescribing policy](#).

Thursday 3 – Staff drop-in vaccinations, Culture Collaborative, [consultation open](#) on Once for Scotland workforce policies and [HEPMA update](#).

Board visit to Dr Gray’s Hospital All the Board members were very impressed by the passion, commitment and honesty of the colleagues they met yesterday and the welcome they received. Everyone was happy to share their views on the current pressures and what they’d like to see in the future. Board members also noted the infrastructure challenges and the visit brought to life the decisions they will be making early next year about the strategic role of DGH. The Chair Alison Evison and other Board members are very grateful to DGH colleagues for their welcome and the opportunity to meet and listen to everyone.

A [staff questionnaire](#) and a [survey for people who’ve used services at DGH](#) remain open for you to share your views.

STAR Award Congratulations to Phyllis McLachlan (Community Nursing Support worker at Garthdee Health Centre) and Janice Cowie (Management Accountant, Westholme) our most recent recipients of a STAR Award. You can make [your own nomination online](#), or by emailing the details to gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot

Long Service tea party We finally managed to host our first face-to-face Long Service event this week, marking 50 years’ service for Lorraine Grant (Community Nurse) and 56 years’ service for Helen Smith (Service Manager). Prof Caroline Hiscox and John Tomlinson (non-executive board member) hosted an afternoon tea for Lorraine and Helen, and some of their colleagues, at The Chester Hotel. Congratulations to both Helen and Lorraine for such truly impressive service!



Bonfire Night We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Bonfire Night this weekend. We're supporting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Bonfire Night safety campaign and encouraging everyone to attend organised firework displays. Not only are they safer, they're also better for the environment, and considerably cheaper than arranging your own display. If you do decide to host your own fireworks event, think safety first. Remember, it is illegal to use fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm (midnight on 5 November, 1am at Hogmanay, Chinese New Year, and Diwali). Under 18s should not be given – or buy – fireworks unless they are F1 category. [Lots more helpful advice and information is available on the SFRS website.](#)

For the pet owners among your, [the PDSA has a free firework guide on their website](#), to help you minimise any distress to your animals.

Tune of the day A couple of weeks ago we highlighted the retirement of the 'Two Sue's' at DGH; well today one of them (Sue Copeland) has got in touch to request [Thank-you for Everything](#) by Jason Grey, dedicated to her colleagues who made her retirement so special.

The messages from our award winning colleagues today is a great reminder of how important it is we work together, even through the toughest of times. If you're working this weekend, hats off. If you're heading to a display we hope you enjoy the sparkles. Take care (KJ).

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot