

2016 Chief Scientific Officer Healthcare Science Awards

For the 10th year running Professor Sue Hill OBE, Chief Scientific Officer for NHS England is hosting the annual Chief Scientific Officer Healthcare Science Awards. These awards seek to find the most outstanding individuals and groups working within healthcare science.

The Process

- Complete the application form with the details of the individual or group you would like to nominate for an award and return to england.cso@nhs.net.
- You may nominate yourself or a group you are part of.
- Indicate which award you would like to nominate the individual or group for (below are brief guidelines for each award).
- The shortlist will be announced a week after the close of applications.
- All shortlisted applicants will be invited to the Awards evening on 29 February 2016.
- Winners will be announced at the Awards evening on 29 February 2016.

The Timetable

20 January 2016	Submissions open
17 February 2016	Submissions close
22 February 2016	Judging meeting
24 February 2016	Shortlist announced
29 February 2016	Awards evening – winners announced

The Awards

Healthcare Scientist of the Year

The NHS is committed to working at the limits of science within the Constitution and significant new developments such as the 100,000 Genomes Project and Proton Beam Therapy centres show that science and scientists have never been more important to the future and sustainability of the NHS.

This award will celebrate an exceptional individual who has used their skills and scientific ability for maximum patient and service benefit, as recognised by their peers. Our judges are looking for Healthcare Scientists who have engaged and collaborated with the wider multi-professional groups over a significant period of time and beyond the boundaries of their service to demonstrate the broader contribution that scientists can make to the NHS.

Healthcare Science Rising Stars

The calibre of individuals at the earlier stages of their careers in healthcare science has never been greater with the Scientist Training Programme continuing to attract some of the best and brightest graduates in the country.

This award celebrates those healthcare scientists in the early stages of their career who are already demonstrating how much healthcare science can bring to care pathways and service development. Our judges are looking for individuals who are already performing highly in their given area and show signs of greater things to come. Particular credit will be given to those showing a clear vision and demonstrating the impact of their work

Innovation in Scientific Services

Healthcare science is at the centre of delivering healthcare innovation, with many healthcare scientists having established spin-out companies to broader NHS benefit. The Five Year Forward View also makes clear that accelerating innovation will be crucial to the future of the health service. That does not simply mean coming up new ideas. It increasingly means reliably identifying and spreading best practice, perhaps combining elements to solve particularly challenging problems.

This award will recognise individuals or teams who are doing just that. Our judges will be looking for innovations which are improving patient care and outcomes, leading to improved experience and outcomes. They will be keen to identify examples where innovation is truly nurtured and good ideas are quickly identified and spread within and beyond the boundaries of the organisation. We are not interested in reinventions of the wheel: we want to hear from teams who are doing something genuinely new, while building on the good practice already out there. Innovations which have been genuinely co-produced with patients will be of particular interest.

Improving Quality and Efficiency through Workforce Transformation

While it is almost a cliché that staff are 'the greatest asset of the NHS', it is clear that the active participation of staff plays a vital role in service transformation. With the pace of scientific and technological change continuing to increase, the ability to deliver change through the established workforce is crucial to ensuring the delivery of cutting edge science.

This award will celebrate those scientific teams and services that have redesigned how they deliver care, addressing the pressures currently facing the sector while improving outcomes at the same time. The judges will want to see where roles have been rethought, breaking down the traditional barriers to create an adaptable workforce that delivers quality and efficiency with the right skills mix. The judges will be particularly looking for examples where there has been strong and effective engagement and participation throughout the change and where clear patient benefit can be shown.

Healthcare Science STEM Engagement

One of the greatest challenges for science in society is taking patients and public along with the pace of change to ensure broad support for the latest developments. Good scientific engagement is also crucial to ensuring the next generation become enthused with the possibilities and potential of a career in science and in believing that the NHS is a valuable place to deliver this.

This award will celebrate the initiatives and individuals who have taken the healthcare science message out to the wider community, particularly within young people and those choosing their career routes. The judges will be particularly interested to see examples of engagement with sections of society who are currently underrepresented within STEM careers or where there is scepticism with the benefits of scientific advance.

Healthcare Science Provider Organisation

Scientific services within NHS trusts are undergoing rapid change – a statement that applies as much to teaching hospitals as it does to district general hospitals, community trusts or mental health trusts. The need for a change in service provision has been frequently emphasised, not least by the Five Year Forward View and the resulting new care models programme.

This award is about recognising those provider organisations that support and recognise the contribution of healthcare science to high quality patient services, not only within healthcare science itself but more broadly across the organisations with multi-disciplinary teams and projects. We are particularly seeking organisations with an eye to the future, a clear understanding how their healthcare science workforce can help the organisation to adapt and evolve and a focus on scientific leadership.

Healthcare Science Patient and Public Participation

In a busy healthcare system, it can be challenging to genuinely put patients at the heart of care. In the light of prominent examples of serious failures in basic patient care, every health organisation should be looking honestly and self-critically at what more it can do to deliver compassionate care consistently for every patient.

This award is all about celebrating excellence of healthcare scientists in putting people first, engaging patients and families in their care, listening to views, ensuring people are treated with compassion and making sure patient insight and input is reflected in the services that they receive.