Press Release

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Mölnlycke Presents Wound Academy Scholarships And Awards

The Mölnlycke Health Care Wound Academy Scholarships and Awards were recently presented at a special awards lunch, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Invited guests saw David Foster, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, present two Innovation in Care Awards and a Novice Practitioner Scholarship Award.

Karen Morgan, Macmillan Specialist Radiographer, from the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Somerset, received an Innovation in Care Award. Karen was given her award for a case study focused on a woman who developed a radiotherapy induced skin reaction following treatment to the lumbar spine. Karen and her team showed that as a result of the severity of the skin reaction noted in this patient, the multidisciplinary team investigated different ways of working. Discussions have resulted in a change of policy, to minimise the risk of this type of reaction occurring again in patients who have to wear a brace during treatment.

Alison Johnstone and Katrina McGowan, from Glasgow Royal Infirmary, were also awarded an Innovation in Care Award. Alison and Katrina's work focused on how they, and the team in ICU, had reduced moisture lesions and patients' pain. Although these ulcers were recorded as pressure ulcer development, the TVN's believed that the skin damage was related to moisture imbalance with a combination of friction and shear forces. The Tissue Viability Service decided to carry out an audit with both intensive care units, to identify if implementing the use of a prophylactic - five layer silicone foam (Mepilex Border Sacrum®) into prevention strategies would achieve a reduction in the incidence of pressure ulcers, which were considered to be caused by friction, shear and moisture within this client group. Traditionally these units have very high risk patients.

Both Innovation in Care award winners and their teams receive £500 to further develop their projects.

The third award winner was Ralph Boutflower, Tissue Viability Specialist Practitioner at Sunderland Royal Hospital, who received a Novice Practitioner Scholarship Award. This category was open to people who have been in post for less than two years, aspire to a role in tissue viability or spend at least 50 per cent of their time working in a position related to wound care.

In his role, Ralph Boutflower has been charged with demonstrating a reduction in the incidence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers, improving the accuracy of the data collected and ensuring that pressure ulcers are recognised as significant harm to patients. In his award application, Ralph outlined the challenges he faced in trying to achieve this. He demonstrated that he understands his own limitations, and what he needs to overcome these, and showed that a multi-disciplinary approach across the whole Trust is required.

Ralph hopes winning the Novice Practitioner Scholarship Award will help raise the profile of Tissue Viability issues within his Trust. He will use his £1,500 bursary to focus on key projects, with the support of the Mölnlycke Health Care Wound Academy.

Alison Hedley, National Clinical Manager at Mölnlycke Health Care, says: “Our Wound Academy Awards recognise the great work of healthcare professionals and demonstrate Mölnlycke’s continual commitment to supporting their professional development. This year, for the first time, we opened up the awards to healthcare professionals working in a variety of different clinical areas and the entries showed the exceptionally high standard of nursing practice and patient care.”

Besides congratulating the winners in person at the awards lunch, David Foster also let his Twitter followers know who had won, by tweeting his congratulations to Karen, Alison, Katrina and Ralph.

(Left to right: Ralph Boutflower, David Foster, Karen Morgan and Alison Johnstone)

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