

The 2022 APTUK Pharmacy Technician Awards

The Katherine Miles Award for Outstanding Contribution to Pharmacy

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The APTUK Katherine Miles Outstanding Contribution to Pharmacy Award recognises an outstanding pharmacy technician who has shown a significant contribution over the past 24 months and symbolises the best of their profession; gone above and beyond their day-to-day duties and deserves wider recognition.

Winner:	<i>Steffani Beaton, Senior Pharmacy Technician Vaccine Services, NHS Forth Valley</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Kirstin Cassells, Lead Pharmacist: Community Pharmacy, Public Health & Integrated Services NHS Forth Valley</i>
Nomination summary:	Steffani has led the development of the vaccine team in Forth Valley over the past two years in response to the Covid 19 vaccination programme. She managed the move to our new vaccine holding centre, supported integration with the immunisation team. Steffani has had many challenges including becoming familiar with new systems, developed new ways of working and adapted the service to support the 7 day a week immunisation programme.
Judges' comments:	The nomination provided strong evidence listed on change process, effective multidisciplinary team and the development of a new service within the Healthcare sector, all of which has significantly impacted patients at a local, regional and national level. Leadership skills evident in growing team while delivering a service under challenging conditions

APTUK Branch of the Year Award

The Branch of the Year Award acknowledges the ongoing dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of Pharmacy Technicians members running local branches voluntarily in their community.

All branches were included in this award.

Winner:	Hampshire branch
Judges' comments:	This branch has hosted a national virtual branch meeting, has good attendance at committee meetings, and hosted the most local branch meetings of all our branches. They are also one of the most active branches on social media and are very engaged with activities outside of the branch meetings including representing APTUK at the Clinical Pharmacy Congress as well as co-ordinating the APTUK branch book club.

APTUK Primary Care Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award



The APTUK Primary Care Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award is made to a pharmacy technician who, in the opinion of the judges, has shown a significant contribution to pharmacy services and patients in a primary care setting over the past 24 months.

Winner:	<i>Gareth Hutchinson, Clinical Medicines Management Pharmacy Technician, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Lois Gwyn, Clinical Lead Pharmacist Primary Care, Besti Cadwaladr University Health Board</i>
Nomination summary:	Gareth Hutchinson is a pharmacy technician working in North Wales. He recently completed a BTEC Level 4 Diploma in Pharmacy Clinical Services and has since been pioneering the clinical role of pharmacy technicians. This includes setting up a pharmacy technician-led asthma telephone review service and leading on work to improve safe prescribing of anticoagulants. Gareth has a personal interest in respiratory and is further developing his role to include COPD reviews.
Judges' comments:	It was a privilege to read the nominations which describe some fantastic pharmacy technicians working in primary care. It is great to hear how pharmacy technicians in primary care are developing their role to contribute to patient care within the MDT and have a drive to develop their own clinical skills and role. All the nominations received are truly representative of how a relatively new workforce in primary care can support delivery of patient centred care and improve outcomes using their knowledge and skills as pharmacy technicians. These are 3 excellent examples of the impact Pharmacy Technicians can have in primary care - very strong submissions

APTUK Secondary Care Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award



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The APTUK Secondary Care Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award will be made to a pharmacy technician who, in the opinion of the judges, has shown a significant contribution to pharmacy services and patients in a secondary care setting over the past 24 months.

Winner:	<i>Samantha Murray, Pharmacy Operations Manager, University Hospitals Dorset</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Stephen Bleakley, Associate Director of Pharmacy, University Hospitals Dorset</i>
Nomination summary:	Sam is a truly inspirational pharmacy leader who for the past 25 years has driven, shaped and helped influence the hospital pharmacy services across Dorset. Sam recently embraced the merger of two large acute trusts and now has a portfolio of supporting over 220 pharmacy staff in the largest and newest NHS organisation in the Southwest. Her enthusiasm, energy and caring nature has shaped the career of 100s of pharmacists and technicians and is regularly quoted as a reason people choose pharmacy as a profession. It is both a pleasure and honour to work alongside Sam.
Judges' comments:	Due to the work carried out both over the past few difficult years but also over their 25 years service as a Pharmacy Technician I feel this is a well-deserved award. Well done and congratulations on gaining national TV coverage in setting up the first shop covid vaccine centre.

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The APTUK Excellence in Pharmacy Education and Development award recognises an outstanding Pharmacy Technician, team or project that has made a significant contribution to education, training and development of pharmacy technicians or pharmacy teams in the UK.

Judges' comments:

The variety of accomplishments in this category were a delight to read. It really feels like the role of the pharmacy technician continues to demonstrate its value and importance as a profession and within pharmacy. Such brilliant things are being achieved here, congratulations to all the nominees on their impressive efforts.

As a result, there were 2 joint winners for this category:

Winner:	<i>Danielle Brockie, Service Development Manager, Lindsay & Gilmour Pharmacy</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Philip Galt, Superintendent Pharmacist, Lindsay & Gilmour</i>
Nomination summary:	Danielle has made a significant contribution to developing the role of pharmacy technicians within Lindsay & Gilmour. A Technician herself, Danielle recognised the huge untapped potential of our existing technicians and has worked to ensure that they were given the opportunity to learn and develop new skills, highlight and showcase the valuable role that technicians play in our business all whilst delivering tangible business benefits!
Judges' comments:	Danielle demonstrates just how valuable the role of a pharmacy technician is as part of the pharmacy team. Her work ethic, collaborative nature and strive for excellence is nothing short of impressive and admirable. The success of the pharmacy's services echoes her efforts. She really stands out

Winner:	<i>University East Anglia Pharmacy Technician Education Team, Pharmacy Technician Programme, School of Pharmacy, University of East Anglia</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Julie Mathieson, Senior Pharmacy Technician. Procurement, Betsi Cadwaladr University Healthboard</i>
Nomination summary:	The UEA scoped current and future roles of pharmacy technicians. Results showed initial education and training needed enhancement. In response, the UEA education team developed the first Level 4 initial qualification for Pharmacy Technicians in England. The first UK higher education institute to offer an accredited course. The team at UEA School of Pharmacy in inspirationally developing this course sets a higher standard for the profession.
Judges' comments:	The (nomination) was extremely impressive and further demonstrates the quality and high level of training pharmacy technicians can reach. Equally, reinforcing the importance and value of the pharmacy technician profession.

APTUK Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award

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The APTUK Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award will be made to a trainee who, in the opinion of the judges, demonstrates outstanding effort and commitment.

Winner:	<i>Matthew Rostron, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Andrea Ashton, Associate Director Pharmacy (Technical Services)</i>
Nomination summary:	Throughout the 2 years Matthew trained as a Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technician he has shown enthusiasm and commitment to both his qualification and his role within the hospital setting. Completing his training during the pandemic brought new challenges, however Matthew embraced these and they did not deter from his success. Matthew's qualities lie in his patient focus, team working and professionalism. His actions and behaviours are such that he can be relied on to help to deliver the best service for our patients whilst continuing his own professional development and that of others. He is an asset to our department.
Judges' comments:	I was very impressed by this nominee's patient focus, caring attitude and commitment to becoming a pharmacy technician. He has embraced opportunities to promote the profession (This person) clearly has the admiration of his colleagues and has made a significant impact to colleagues both in pharmacy & as part of the MDT. He has shown dedication to the profession.

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The APTUK Exceptional Contribution to Pandemic Award recognises an outstanding pharmacy technician, team or project that has made a significant contribution to pharmacy services and patient care during the pandemic.

Winner:	<i>APTUK Executive Team - Liz Fidler, Ellen Williams, Andrea Ashton, Gail Hall</i>
Nominated by:	<i>Gail Hall, Pharmacy Workforce Lead, Joined up Care Derbyshire</i>
Nomination summary:	<p>Despite announcing suspension of business as usual, to support volunteer board members of APTUK to focus on their substantive posts, four members of the executive committee continued to voluntarily support APTUK and all pharmacy technicians.</p> <p>They successfully lobbied government for national recognition of key worker status and access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This, along with developing frameworks and protocols, enabled pharmacy technicians to work safely to provide healthcare to patients during these unprecedented times.</p>
Judges' comments:	<p>Each example clearly demonstrates how much superb work was done within the pandemic; each nominee deserves huge credit and thanks for their work - outstanding and humbling to read. Really tricky to split the nominations!</p> <p>This team has the opportunity that comes with leadership roles however thats easy to say but really tough to do. They showed brilliant leadership to step up, think strategically about what the key topics were and then act in these areas to have the right impact - their actions created crucial change at pace and had a really important impact for the profession, members and patients.</p> <p>When there is a problem, this team knows how to deal with it. Rather than accepting defeat, they are very pro-active to finding a solution. Great team work</p>

APTUK Fellow Membership Award



Fellow membership is the highest level of APTUK membership and recognises developed expertise and sustained professionalism. Being awarded a fellowship is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a member.

The membership category of Fellow is achieved through peer nomination. To be eligible to be nominated members of the Association must demonstrate upholding the values of the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK) demonstrating loyalty to APTUK and the Pharmacy Technician profession and be well respected by their peers and colleagues.

A Fellowship is awarded in recognition of exceptional professional performance or outstanding service contribution to the Pharmacy Technicians profession or to the Association, on either a local or a national level.

This year we are delighted to award 2 people the Fellowship award:

<i>Fellow membership award winner</i>	Melanie Boughen
Judges' comments:	<p>The nomination shows that this person is clearly very devoted to the profession and is consistently working to improve outcomes and opportunities for pharmacy technicians. From the nomination we can see everything that she has achieved within her career and how she supports Pharmacy Technician education.</p> <p>A well-rounded career and at the forefront of providing the future workforce with the appropriate skills.</p>

<i>Fellow membership award winner</i>	Andrea Ashton
Judges' comments:	<p>This was a strong nomination, and it is clear from the information provided that this person is a dedicated pharmacy technician and has gone above and beyond with her work with APTUK</p> <p>She has worked continually throughout the pandemic, not only in her busy NHS role where she supports and dedicates herself to Pharmacy Technician practice, but also within APTUK where she has given her own time to support and develop strategy and moving the PLB forward.</p> <p>A well-rounded application demonstrating excellence and integrity for pharmacy technicians.</p>

APTUK Honorary Membership Award



An honorary membership category, ratified by members, was introduced in June 2011, to enable APTUK to acknowledge exceptional service, given either to the association or to the pharmacy technician profession generally, by a person who is not eligible to be a member of APTUK.

The honorary member is a distinctive membership bestowed in recognition of the efforts of the nominee who has made a profound difference by either:

- Championing and upholding the professional role of pharmacy technicians
- Publicly supporting the continued development of pharmacy technicians
- Advancing the roles, knowledge, skills, and behaviours of pharmacy technicians
- Working consistently hard on behalf of pharmacy technicians.

<i>Honorary membership award winner</i>	The Right Honourable Stuart Lawrence
Board of Directors' comments	<p>The nominations were very strong this year, but the Board voted unanimously for this person who has provided public support from a non-healthcare professional on campaigns for better utilisation of pharmacy technicians. He has invested significant personal time to support pharmacy technicians with member meetings and worked directly with APTUK on the IPP work and has offered to support the profession with further pieces of work.</p> <p>The examples provided in the nomination demonstrate a public commitment to the pharmacy technician profession. It is striking how a non-healthcare professional, let alone pharmacy professional has supported APTUK and the profession as a whole, undertaking the work on a voluntary basis.</p>