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Professor's outstanding contribution

A prestigious national award has highlighted South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's growing reputation for excellence in the field of research.

Professor Colin Rees, who is the Trust's director of research and development, has been given the Royal College of Physicians and National Institute for Health Research's Clinical Research Network Award for outstanding contribution to the UK clinical research network in the NHS. Consultant Gastroenterologist Professor Rees, who is Endoscopy Vice President of the British Society of Gastroenterology, was chosen for the honour from representatives from all medical specialties.

He said: "I am personally honoured and humbled but also thrilled at this latest recognition for the Trust. We are at the forefront of a lot of research, locally and nationally, which allows us to offer the very latest treatment options to patients and demonstrates that our clinical teams are forward-thinking. We are always grateful when patients agree to participate in studies because research is a very important way to improve patient care."

The study team works in collaboration with the North East and North Cumbria Clinical Research Network and Durham University. The Trust is the most active in the UK in bowel cancer screening research and has one of the most active gastrointestinal research departments nationally. Stroke services, cancer treatment, reproductive health and intensive care are also among established research areas.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Steve Williamson said: "I am delighted that Colin has received this well-deserved award. He is acknowledged as one of the UK's leading experts in endoscopy and we are fortunate to have him working in South Tyneside. He and his team have done a fantastic job in establishing our Trust as a well-respected centre for research. Less than a decade ago, our research was limited to a small number of fields of medicine but it now covers a wide range of clinical specialities, which has led to involvement in a large number of clinical research trials."

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Pictured above: Professor Colin Rees receiving his award from Professor Jane Dacre, President of the Royal College of Physicians

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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