



December 3rd, 2015

Hospital Consultant leads the way in training doctors of the future

A South Tyneside doctor has been named NHS Innovator of the Year in the North East NHS Leadership Recognition Awards 2015, which celebrate leaders who have improved people's health and the public's experience of the NHS.

Dr Richard Cooper, a Consultant Radiologist at South Tyneside District Hospital, is head of Health Education North East's (HENE) School of Radiology, co-ordinating the education and training of junior doctors, ensuring that the future workforce is trained effectively to deliver the highest quality care to patients now and in the future. He was given the award in recognition of his passion for improving the quality of education and training delivered in the North East so the highest quality candidates are attracted to working in the region for the ultimate benefit of patients.

Dr Cooper said: "I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of the School of Radiology for the innovative work the team has done in partnership with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and with the University of Teesside to build and develop state-of-the-art, hi-tech training facilities that will greatly improve the standard of training across the region, which will ultimately translate to a better and safer patient healing experience. I would also like to thank my own department and the senior leadership team at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, who support staff undertaking activities that benefit the wider region."

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Steve Williamson said: "We are very lucky to have Richard working with us at South Tyneside District Hospital and we are delighted that he has received this well-deserved recognition for his commitment to enhancing the reputation of the whole of the region for first class training for junior doctors."

Dr Cooper recently developed two initiatives to enhance the region's attractiveness to trainees and also improve the quality of the training delivered. The Radiology MaCLAB is an electronic archive of cases, which provides a unique opportunity for junior doctors and other professions to share learning experiences. This improves their knowledge and skills in a safe environment, making them more competent in real life situations, which improves the outcomes for patients. He was also instrumental in introducing Ultrasound Simulation Training, which provides a training environment where many professionals can safely be trained or practise techniques using simulators. As a result, they have more experience when actually undertaking procedures, leading to improved outcomes and experience for the patient.

Both initiatives have received national recognition from Health Education England and the



Royal College of Radiologists, which has led to other areas of the country exploring the possibility of introducing similar facilities.

Dr Cooper and the other winners of the NHS North East Leadership Academy's Recognition Awards will now go through to the national awards, to be held on March 8th 2016 in London.

ends

Pictured above: Dr Richard Cooper, second from left, with Falklands veteran Simon Weston OBE, who hosted the awards; Michelle Brown, Head of Organisational Development, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, and Alan Nobbs, Senior Programme Lead, Programme Delivery & Frameworks, NHS Leadership Academy

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

For press enquiries on this release, contact 0191 404 1128 or email kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk