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South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS research teams in running for top award

Research and innovation teams at South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts are in the running for a prestigious award for their work which is bringing major benefits to patients.

The Trusts, which are working together as part of the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group to provide sustainable services of the highest quality to local patients, have both been shortlisted in the 'Partnership with the NHS Acute Care' category in the Medilink Northern Powerhouse Healthcare Business Awards.

South Tyneside's entry is for a North East-led research partnership between the NHS, industry, academic centres and patients which is delivering high quality, world-leading, gastrointestinal endoscopy research.

The Gastroenterology team at South Tyneside District Hospital piloted the innovative 'Endocuff Vision' device, developed by ARC Medical to improve detection of colorectal cancer, which is the UK's fourth most common cancer and second commonest cause of cancer death, with 40,000 new cases and 16,000 deaths annually. The device is used during colonoscopy – an investigation to detect and prevent colorectal cancer. It attaches to the colonoscope, holding back the lining of the colon and providing better images, thereby improving the detection rate and preventing cancer. Along with N.WORTH (a UK Clinical Research Collaboration) and Newcastle University, large research studies involving 5,000 patients were then developed to evaluate the effectiveness of the device in clinical practice and the benefit to patients.

City Hospitals Sunderland's Research and Innovation team works in close partnership with Quality Hospital Solutions (QHS) Ltd to attract funding for innovative product development at the Trust. Working together with staff and patients, and using the expertise and network of stakeholders to which QHS has access, the

collaboration is allowing many innovative ideas to be developed. The partnership has already led to the development of several successful, award-winning products and service improvements. These include an air flow meter to ensure safe administration of oxygen, significantly enhancing patient safety, and a quick and efficient beverage trolley for patients which saves a significant number of man hours and which NHS Trusts around the country, as well as catering organisations, have since taken up.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Director of Research and Development, Consultant Gastroenterologist Professor Colin Rees, whose Gastroenterology team was judged the best in the country for clinical research in the HSJ Awards 2016, said: "Our Trusts in South Tyneside and Sunderland are at the forefront of a lot of research, locally, nationally and internationally and being shortlisted for these latest awards demonstrates our joint commitment to involvement in high quality research with a view to achieving better outcomes for patients. The willingness of our patients to take part in studies is very much appreciated. In doing so, they are helping to improve patient care now and for future generations."

Mr Kim Hinshaw, Director of Research and Innovation at City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, said: "At City Hospitals Sunderland and South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trusts, we strongly feel that technology and innovation are key in helping to unlock many opportunities to further enhance high quality care within the NHS.

"At Sunderland, we have successfully collaborated with local and national academia; small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); the North East and North Cumbria Academic Health and Sciences Network, and healthcare providers, to develop novel solutions to improve healthcare delivery and patient experience. Our consistent success at the annual 'Bright Ideas in Health' awards, which celebrate the achievements of individuals and teams working within the NHS, industry and academia, along with other accolades received by staff, are an endorsement of our commitment towards innovation in healthcare."

The Medilink Northern Powerhouse Healthcare Business Awards cover the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, as well as the North East, and recognise achievements in acute care, primary care, digital health, exports and innovation. The

winners will be announced at a ceremony in Manchester on Wednesday (*March 7th*) when representatives from industry, academia and the NHS will come together to toast the achievements of health sector organisations across the North.

ENDS

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