

BLISS Baby Charter Neonatal Awards 2006

On 24 October the Hastings Room of BMA House was full of award finalists, parents and neonatal health professionals, all waiting to find out the winners of the first BLISS Baby Charter Neonatal Awards. The aim of the awards is to recognise and reward the dedication and expertise of nurses and doctors who care for premature and sick newborn babies.

The many entries, nominated by parents or colleagues, were judged by an expert panel consisting of Isobel Gowan (BLISS Trustee), Karen Shaya, (parent), Professor Andrew Wilkinson, Dr Andy Leslie, Dr Jag Ahluwalia (BAPM), Ruth Moore (NNA) and the sponsor judges Dr Jon Ryland (Abbott), Jan Newbold (Medela UK Ltd) and Dr Forbes McDougall (Pampers).

BLISS Vice-president and media doctor Hilary Jones introduced the awards event. It was a day of high emotion with smiles, laughter and a few tears. Four winning teams received £1,000 to be used towards their work and two Individual Lifetime Achievement winners received a specially commissioned silver trophy.

The winner of the Innovation Team award, sponsored by Medela, was the Quiet Time Project Team of neonatal nurses from Liverpool Women's Hospital Foundation Trust. Debbie Webster, who received the award on behalf of the Liverpool development care team said: "We're over the moon to have been selected from so many other excellent teams. This is a real tribute to the collaborative way we work at the hospital, the hard work of the development care team and, most of all, the bravery and courage of local parents who supported us in this project." The runner up was the Nurse Led Care Team at Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital.

Professor Linda Franck (pictured above) from Great Ormond Street Hospital and her collaborators received the Research Team award for their work on pain, from Dr Hilary Jones. Their pain research programme is focused on pioneering pain assessment and management techniques for acutely and chronically ill infants and children. Their most recent research suggests innovative strategies for enhancing the partnership between parents and professionals to ensure children receive



ABOVE: Debbie Webster and Jan Waugh from the Quiet Time Project Team with Jan Newbold, from Medela, who sponsored the award.

optimal pain care.

Mr Ivan Lewis MP, Minister of Care Services presented the Neonatal Community Team Award, sponsored by Pampers®, to the Hospital at Home Team at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. Mum, Helen Parker of Portsmouth nominated the winning team who looked after her daughter Lucy when she was discharged home from the neonatal unit at St Mary's Hospital. She said "The team were very understanding as to how stressful and scary it was to take over the responsibility for my daughter at home, as we had relied on the doctors and nurses for so long." The Neonatal Outreach Team at Blackpool Victoria



ABOVE: The St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, Hospital At Home Team with June Watson, Modern Matron; mum Helen Parker, who nominated them; and Catherine McGough from Pampers, sponsor of the award.

Hospital was specially commended.

The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough was announced as winner of the Neonatal Unit Team Award, sponsored by Abbott. Alison Stephenson, who spent nearly three months in the unit when her twin girls arrived unexpectedly early whilst spending Christmas with her in-laws a long way from home, nominated the team and praised the doctors and nurses who cared for her babies. "It is impossible to describe the feelings of pride and amazement when we look at our two 18 month old little girls. It is down to the James Cook team that we have two happy and healthy children, no other unit could have done this with the same care and compassion that we all experienced." A special commendation went to North Staffordshire University Hospital.

National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, Dr Sheila Shribman, announced Professor Richard Cooke of Liverpool Women's Foundation Trust as the winner of the BLISS Neonatologist Lifetime Achievement Award. Professor Cooke, (pictured right) who qualified in 1971 was described by one judge as having local, national and international impact on neonatal care and another as his work having 'towering achievements'. Professor Malcolm Chiswick from Manchester was a worthy runner up.

The final honour went to Chrissie Israel, winner of the BLISS Neonatal Nurse Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Medela. Chrissie, a Neonatal Development Nurse Specialist at Southmead hospital, qualified in 1973 and was singled out from entries throughout the UK because of her long-term dedication to the neonatal profession. Her nomination papers stated that the impact that she has had on parents and families has been enormous both through her clinical and research work. A close runner up was Lynda Coulter from the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust.



ABOVE: The neonatal team from James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough.



LEFT: Chrissie Israel, centre, showing off her award, with Jan Newbold, Medela, and Heather Borden, who nominated her.



And some special care babies came too!

Concluding the awards, Andy Cole, Chief Executive of BLISS commented "BLISS is really proud to provide this opportunity to recognise and reward the great work by all of those who care for premature and sick, newborn babies and support their parents". "They often work in difficult and stressful conditions but the moving accounts by parents of the care received in our neonatal units and in the community and from colleagues is testament to their dedication."