

ACBNews

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UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence

Ian Young, Queen's University, Belfast

In 2019, the ACB was delighted to support the inaugural UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards hosted by leading professional healthcare societies, institutions and associations. This is intended to be an annual award which will recognise interdisciplinary care teams around the world who have achieved measurable, innovative impact within the healthcare system. It is hoped that the award winners – and participants – will provide models to inspire continued solutions within healthcare that will positively affect patients, clinicians and health systems globally.

It was particularly pleasing that two of the three winners in the first year of the awards – which were open to global participants – were from the UK, reflecting the strength of laboratory medicine in the UK and the strong collaborations which exist between laboratory professionals and clinicians. The awards were presented during the AACC Meeting in Anaheim in 2019 and subsequently celebrated at events in Oxford and Dundee.

A multidisciplinary team from Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust evaluated the use of new diagnostic tests for

pre-eclampsia to help improve outcomes and reduce readmissions, leading to increased patient satisfaction and lower costs. A team from the University of Dundee and Ninewells Hospital developed a novel approach to improve the diagnosis and management of liver disease using an intelligent algorithm, called iLFT (intelligent liver function test). The iLFT system offers real-time decisions about testing results, generating a follow up plan that is sent to the primary care physician in as little as four hours. A pilot of the test at the University of Dundee found that iLFT helped increase diagnoses from 41 to 93%, and use of the algorithm could provide improvements in the patient's quality of life while reducing the number of follow-up visits.

Representatives of both teams were due to be presented at Focus 2020 in Belfast in May to discuss their innovative approaches.

The UNIVANTS 2020 Awards are now open for entry with a deadline of 31st August. Further details can be found at: <https://www.univantshce.com/> It would be great to see more ACB success this year! ■



Dundee Team from left to right: Elizabeth Furrrie, Ian Kennedy, Jennifer Nobes, Michael Hugh Miller, John Dillon, and Ellie Dow



Oxford Team from left to right: Guy Checketts, Tim James, Julia Eades, Manu Vatish, Matthew Covill (missing from this photo is: Sofia Cerdeira)

Photos courtesy of Lisa Harrison, Abbott