**Winners of 18th Northern Ireland Healthcare Awards Revealed**

The sector’s finest were out in force on the 23rd February as the Northern Ireland Healthcare Awards got underway.

 Now in its 18th year, the annual event is dedicated to celebrating those whose exceptional expertise and contribution to their profession have transformed the provision of healthcare for the better.

 This year, renowned broadcaster, Pamela Ballantine, took on presenting duties, humorously guiding the proceedings and entertaining the 340-strong crowd who gathered in Belfast within the elegant setting of the Europa Hotel.

 Drawing on the industry’s diversity, the 12 accolades up for grabs ranged from Dental Practice of the Year, to Medical Student Leadership, and Innovation in Ophthalmology. And in an especially moving moment, an astounded Dr Rosemary Black was revealed as the worthy recipient of the Lifetime Achievement honour in tribute to her role as Associate Specialist in Dermatology at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

The gala was devised by publishing specialists MEDCOM – responsible for UK-wide healthcare and pharmacy magazines, websites, and digital alerts.

***All the winners and their stories of success will be featured in the forthcoming edition of Northern Ireland Healthcare Review, while the exclusive pictures can now be viewed online by visiting www.nihealthcare.com/awards.***

*Winners in Full*

**Asthma Project of the Year:** Dr Keith McCollum Willowbank Surgery & Dr Terry McManus WHSCT Respiratory Team (joint winners)

**Dental Hygienist/Therapist of the Year:** Lorna McGrath

**GP/Pharmacist Partnership Working:** Dr Rose McCullagh & Bernard Brannigan, Grosvenor Road Surgery

**Pharmacy Student Leadership:** Oliver McKee, University of Ulster

**Most Innovative Use of an eHealth Solution for Patient Care and Safety:** Professor Jim McLaughlin & Team NICHIC

**Hospital Pharmacy Team of the Year:** Dr Ruth Millar & the Medicine’s Optimisation in Older People Team – WHSCT & NHSCT

**Pharmacy Practice of the Year Independent:** Sharon Diamond & O’Kanes Pharmacy Draperstown

**Medical Student Leadership:** Patrick Hickland & Cathal O’Hagan (joint winners)

**Dental Practice of the Year:** Galgorm Dental Team

**Innovations in Ophthalmology:** Miss Sonya George & the Neuro-Ophthalmic Visual Impairment in Children Team

**Clinical Leadership Team of the Year:** Dr Peter Kennedy & the Radiology Department Team BHSCT

**Special Recognition Award:** Dr Rosemary Black