

A night of success for N. Ireland Laboratories at the Ulster University's inaugural Impact Excellence Awards 2017

Leading organisations across a wide range of sectors have been recognised for their commitment to graduate employability and research at Ulster University's inaugural Impact Excellence Awards ceremony held on 11 May 2017.

From more than 180 applications, 35 partnership organisations were shortlisted into categories across employability and research at the prestigious event, which celebrated how Ulster University's civic partnerships are positively impacting upon students, society and economy. Laboratories from both the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) were shortlisted in the public sector category. For two laboratory sites to be shortlisted was a great achievement and recognition of the continuing commitment which Laboratories across N.Ireland provide to Ulster University placement students each year.

The Laboratories of the Belfast Trust received the award for *Placement Employer in the Public Sector* category and the Laboratories of the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) received a Highly Commended certificate.

This achievement follows on from last year's success, when the Belfast Trust Laboratories received a "Highly Commended" certificate at the Ulster University Placement Employer of the Year Awards in 2016.

Hospital Laboratories across N.Ireland facilitate a 52 week placement programme each year for up to 25 Ulster University students undertaking the integrated degree programme in Biomedical Sciences with Diploma in Professional Practice (Pathology). During placement the students complete the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (IBMS) certificate of competence training portfolio, and following successful completion of their degree programme are then eligible to apply for Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) professional registration and Biomedical Scientist positions.

Pictured accepting the award and certificate are left to right: Mr Sean Conlan, Immunology Discipline Manager and Laboratory Training Co-ordinator and Mrs Sharon Burrige, Training Co-ordinator from Biochemistry in the Belfast Trust; centre is Dr Declan McKenna School of Biomedical Sciences Ulster University and placement student co-ordinator; Mrs Irene Griffin, Training Officer from Haematology and Dr Ryan Graydon, Training Officer & Section Head from Microbiology in the South Eastern Trust.

Dr McKenna paid tribute: "On behalf of the School of Biomedical Sciences I would like to congratulate both the Belfast and South Eastern Trust Laboratories on their success at the inaugural UU Impact Excellence Awards. The Best Placement Employer Award and Highly Commended certificate are much-deserved rewards for the outstanding placement opportunities which are provided for our Biomedical Science students. The placement component is integral to the success of our course and the future employability of our students, so this is clear recognition of achievement in this aspect."

Congratulations go to all the trainers, mentors and staff involved with training throughout the Laboratories of both the Belfast & South Eastern Health & Social Care trusts.