

ENTER PHARMACY IN FOCUS AWARDS NOW

The Pharmacy in Focus Awards are the most prestigious and respected awards in the pharmacy sector. They celebrate the achievements, innovations, dedication and excellence of pharmacy professionals and teams across Northern Ireland. If you are a pharmacy owner, manager, pharmacist, technician, or support staff, you have the opportunity for your work to be recognised through your contribution to the health and wellbeing of your community. The full list of categories, entry criteria and details on how to enter are listed on the Pharmacy in Focus website. The deadline for nominations is 12 January 2024, so don't delay! The winners will be announced at a glamorous gala ceremony on 2 March 2024, where you will also have the chance to meet with other pharmacy teams across Northern Ireland. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the Pharmacy in Focus Awards and to celebrate the achievements of you and your colleagues in the Pharmacy profession!

Deadline for entry and nominations:
Friday 12 January 2024

HEADLINE PARTNER



CATEGORY PARTNERS



ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



CATEGORIES

INNOVATION IN COMMUNITY PHARMACY PRACTICE

This award is open to all pharmacists and their teams, who have adopted pioneering eHealth and IT solutions (such as mobile applications or robotics) to improve pharmaceutical care, enhance patient safety, and optimize operational efficiency.



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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This category is open to all pharmacy teams, whether independent or part of a chain, who can clearly demonstrate accomplishments through working closely in collaboration with other healthcare teams.



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COMMUNITY PHARMACY OF THE YEAR

This category is open to all pharmacies - either independent or chain - which can clearly demonstrate a strong business profile and a successful track record of providing initiatives and projects for the benefit of their local communities.



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COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & WELLBEING

This category is open to all contractor or employee pharmacists, pharmacy teams working in independent or group pharmacies, and practice-based pharmacists, who can demonstrate an outstanding contribution to their local communities through the provision of health and wellbeing initiatives.

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TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The category is open to all members of pharmacy staff (excluding pharmacists) - pharmacy assistants, pharmacy technicians, dispensers, category specialists (such as those working in the cosmetics or photography departments) - who can provide evidence of outstanding contribution to their pharmacy's services.



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PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

This category is open to all contractor or employee pharmacists working in either independent or group pharmacies, who can demonstrate a clear record of innovative and progressive initiatives, which highlight and enhance the vital role of community pharmacy in healthcare. All nominations can be made through self-nomination, by colleagues or pharmacy business owners.



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COMMUNITY PHARMACY SERVICE TRIBUTE

This category celebrates the dedicated individuals within pharmacy teams who have tirelessly served their local communities in a single pharmacy for more than 20 years. Launched in 2022, this award received such a positive response that it is now a permanent fixture of our awards ceremony! Nominations must be submitted by pharmacy business owners or managers.



[NOMINATE HERE - CLICK ON LOGO](#)

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PHARMACY PRACTICE

This distinguished award, conferred by the UCA-NI LTD board, will honour an exceptional individual who has significantly advanced the pharmacy profession and enriched the wider community. The recipient's dedication and resolute spirit will have translated into a remarkable influence on pharmacy practice, epitomizing a commitment to the profession that goes 'above and beyond'.





TOP TIPS

FROM OUR AWARDS JUDGES

Ahead of this year's application process, Pharmacy in Focus caught up with the judging panel.

Why do you think it is important for the pharmacy industry to have awards and recognition programmes?

The Pharmacy in Focus awards are a unique opportunity to celebrate the world of Pharmacy and the contribution of Community Pharmacists across NI. I think it is important at a number of levels. For individual pharmacists just being nominated is a prestigious professional accolade and winning is good for their professional development, confidence and standing in the community. At an organisation level nomination for and winning awards is good for business; it is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the contribution of all staff and promote the Pharmacy. At a regional level the awards demonstrate the cohesion of Community Pharmacy to the outside world; it is an opportunity to share the successes of the sector with a wider audience. It is great to have 'good news' stories in health when so much publicity is about the 'broken' system.

Can you discuss the criteria that you and the other judges used to evaluate nominees for the awards?

Of course, the criteria which the judges have used to select the winners of each award category vary – dependent on the nature of the award in question, but in the main, these criteria share commonality around the provision of evidence to show the impact of the related activities, the ability to overcome hurdles in order to achieve goals, and the nature and extent of the positive impact which those activities have had on pharmacy more generally, including on the lives and health of patients. If you're considering applying for an award, or nominating someone on their behalf, it's really important to pay attention to these criteria, as they're what judges must and will make use of for judging – so, even if your application is beautifully composed, it won't score well if it doesn't explicitly address the criteria, and

you might not receive an award for which you might well be the worthy winner!

What were some of the standout qualities or accomplishments that you were looking for in award nominees?

I am usually looking for something that goes above and beyond or really pushes forward new ways of working. I particularly love the applications that are celebrating all staff in the pharmacy. I know they are the pharmacy awards and we expect and want the pharmacist to be at the fore but it is nice to acknowledge the other staff who support community pharmacy in their daily work.

How do you think the awards can help to promote innovation and excellence in the pharmacy industry?

The reason for these awards is to celebrate innovation and excellence, and above all else, the winners of the awards and the work that they've done will undoubtedly inspire others in the pharmacy community to act in a similar way – being able to both read about the applicants in more detail within Pharmacy in Focus, and hear about them at the awards event can allow others to gain motivation to offer that service that they've been thinking about for a while, or to enhance their activities in another way that they know will bring about positive effects, and to realise that they too can achieve hugely positive outcomes within their communities. The awards also foster collaboration between pharmacy teams, allowing individuals who may not normally be aware of each other's initiatives to work together, bringing about an even more significant effect.

Can you discuss any trends or developments in the pharmacy industry that were reflected in the award nominees and winners?

There has been a growing trend of pharmacies working closely with their communities to provide

services and initiatives to meet local needs whether through Building Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) projects or spearheading other public health developments. Many impressive pieces of work have been carried out that have had a significant impact on local people across the age spectrums with innovative services implemented that are clearly welcomed in that community.

How do you see the role of pharmacists evolving in the coming years, and how do you think awards and recognition programmes can support this evolution?

I expect to see more innovation in how services are developed to improve access to medicines and health advice for local communities, and to support self-care. This will be supported by more effective use of technology, development of independent prescriber led services and better use of a wide range of skills throughout pharmacy teams. Awards programmes will continue to recognise excellence in these developments and award innovation in developments.

Can you tell us why you think events like the industry pharmacy awards can help inspire and motivate pharmacists to continue driving positive change in their work?

Pharmacists and pharmacy teams are, by their very nature, equipped and eager to bring about positive change, but this can be challenging in the face of ever-increasing workloads, staffing challenges, and the availability of financial support which can be so critical in allowing an initiative to be a success. Despite this, awards which celebrate those within the pharmacy industry act as inspiration simply via the positive atmosphere that they bring, as the community takes time to reflect on what they have achieved and celebrate the achievements of others as well as themselves.