



Gala Dinner and NRAS Champions' Awards Press Release

The National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) is excited to announce on 9th September we will be holding our 21st Anniversary Gala Dinner and Awards' ceremony in Windsor at the Castle Hotel. As well as marking a significant milestone in the history of the charity and celebrating the amazing work of NRAS Champions the event will be raising essential funds for the vital services the society provides.

The judging panel had a tricky time selecting the final winners for the prestigious NRAS Champions' Awards, from some superb nominations. It was just too close to call in one category so we have two winners in the Individual Paediatric Rheumatology Champion category!

Clare Jacklin, NRAS CEO says *'I'm sure there are many more worthy winners out there working hard to improve the lives of those living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), so while we have identified these marvellous winners, may I suggest that they are representative of the hundreds of hard working, dedicated Volunteers and health professionals. Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help achieve 'life without limits for all those with RA or JIA'*

Champions' Award Winners 2022

Individual NRAS Champion

Katy Pieris, NRAS Volunteer and Fundraiser

Katy has been an exemplary NRAS Member and Volunteer for many years, representing people living with rheumatoid arthritis. She leads the Croydon NRAS Group, as well as being a Here For You telephone support volunteer, and has also been instrumental in setting up and leading on NRAS 'JoinTogether' online groups. Katy was nominated for this award for her work in supporting others and raising awareness of RA, as well as being an amazing fundraiser for NRAS; a true inspiration for others with RA to live life without limits.

Individual Rheumatology Champion

Dr Lizzy MacPhie, Consultant Rheumatologist from the Minerva Centre in Preston, Lancashire

Lizzy received two glowing nominations and also impressed the judges with her exemplary work, especially during the pandemic, when she led the Clinical Guidance Group with the British Society for Rheumatology.

Individual Paediatric Rheumatology Champions

Jenny Wyatt, Paediatric Rheumatology Nurse Specialist, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast "Overall, she has made our arthritis journey much more positive and deserves recognition for this." says her nominator, a mother of a child with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.

Sam Small, Paediatric Rheumatology Specialist Nurse, Southampton Hospital “Sam will always be a big part of our journey of life with JIA. I will always be grateful” says her nominator, a mother of a child with JIA.

Rheumatology Team Champion

Rheumatology Team at East & North Herts NHS Trust, Lister Hospital, Stevenage

The multi-disciplinary rheumatology team was nominated by two of their patients. In their nominations they said of the team, “They always listen and make me feel part of the team” and “I feel very supported by this amazing, proactive team. I’m very grateful to be under Jeremy, Fidelma, Alex and whole team’s care”.

Paediatric Rheumatology Team Champion

Paediatric Rheumatology Team from NHS Highland, based at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness

A mother of a child with JIA, said this of the team in her nomination: “While we are remote geographically, the quality of care means we do not feel left out or neglected in any way. As a parent I have appreciated the 24/7 access to information, advice and care. My daughter, knows them, they know her, and above all the team go above and beyond to promote her well-being”.

Congratulations to all our winners, and also to those who were shortlisted.