
VTE AWARD, CLINICIAN AWARD

Unsung Hero Award

Nominated by a fellow healthcare professional, this award recognises an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication in going above and beyond to make a difference to VTE awareness, VTE prevention, VTE management, VTE advocacy or VTE patient education and support.

Their work has had a tremendous impact positively influencing improving VTE Management to support clinical outcomes and benefit patients requiring anticoagulation therapy. The individual will have led or been part of a team in primary or secondary care with the responsibility to influence policy development, implementation and education within their setting. Their leadership and positive attitude demonstrated by their continuous commitment to improve service delivery.

Despite blood clots being very common, frequently VTE seems the Cinderella of health diseases.

As a charity we hear quite often from people who have experienced other serious health issue such as cancer or heart health, who are given a wealth of information on 'what comes next', and access to teams of healthcare specialists covering the diagnosis, well-being and recovery...all designed to support and inform the individual and their family throughout the journey.

In VTE, this is often not the experience, there is rarely ringfenced funding for a full blown VTE service that supports from suspicion to diagnosis and continues to recovery.

In VTE we rely on individuals working in VTE healthcare to be the pioneers who spearhead change, develop services, adapt and often with little or no funding, implement care that safe-guards, benefits and improves a patient's experience and recovery.

It is vital that we recognise those passionate drivers who bring a quiet, but magnetic force that enables everyone to succeed. Impacting, influencing, a team player and always, always dedicated to helping their team deliver the best of care in VTE.

One such individual has been responsible for spearheading an anticoagulation package on a new electronic system... EPIC, a software package introduced to the UK from the USA, but where health systems are very different.

This individual recognised the system had a function, but it had to be useful, user-friendly, and deliver what was required to the patient and the health team's needs.

Dedicated to achieving this, he created a bespoke dosing programme within the software in order to maintain current recommendations by NICE without the need for the complexities of costly additional computer software.

To make sure the new system delivered the best to patients and NHS staff he tested to validate its efficacy against other previously used software packages and then took on leadership to roll this out across three large hospitals covering approximately 2000 patients on long-term warfarin.

Next, he turned his focus to look at particular risk groups taking Vitamin K antagonists such as patients with APS and cardiac valves. Identifying challenges, he developed a multi-disciplinary network between pharmacy, haematology and cardiology to discuss anticoagulation options on an individualised level. While also building a bespoke APS dosing package to improve anticoagulation quality. Always engaging with patients to make sure it was working for them, too.

When a cyberattack to South London laboratories occurred, this unsung hero was able to use the software to ensure that all patients requiring INR monitoring were prioritised for rapid procurement of point of care testing machines and supported high-risk patients such as those in nursing homes or requiring renal replacement.

The dedication not only brought excellence and benefit to St Thomas' Hospital, King's College Hospital and Royal Brompton Hospital Anticoagulation clinic but also across London and beyond, to provide opportunity to offer remote anticoagulation monitoring to patients with difficult management in various parts of the UK

We are delighted to award the Unsung Hero nominated by clinical colleagues to John Bartolli Abdou for his work on the EPIC tool.

