NHS Scotland Healthcare Scientist of the Year: winner – David Baty, Consultant Clinical Molecular Geneticist, Dundee Genetics Service.

David merits national recognition as the NHS Scotland Healthcare Scientist of the year for his outstanding contribution over many years.

David was involved in shaping the national strategy for Genomics as part of the Human Genomic Strategy Group (HGSG) Working parties for Service Development, Innovation and Education and Training. David worked tirelessly to ensure that the national policy would enable safe and sustainable Genetic Services for the UK at the highest quality, which would enable us to become world leaders in this area.

Dave worked closely with colleagues to bring together the Molecular Geneticists and Cytogeneticists under one professional group, first in shadow form from January 2012 then as a Charities Commissioned Body when the new body, The Association for Clinical Genetic Science, was established. This would not have been achieved if it hadn’t been for the tireless dedication and sheer determination on David’s part, acting as a diplomat, the voice of reason, a figurehead and role model of what was expected of other senior leaders in bringing together two professional groups. Through all this David has headed up his own Regional Genetic Service successfully and worked with other Genetic Leads in Scotland to bring together the Genetic Consortium across the whole of Scotland.

It doesn’t end there, David now heads up the Workforce Development Group in ACGS and represents Genetics on the Board of the Academy for Healthcare Science. David has ensure that the Academy has not lost focus of the Genetics Workforce and David still works tirelessly to ensure that the new STP Programmes for Genetics and Genomics are fit for purpose and will produce exceptional scientists (like himself) that will continue to keep Genetics at the forefront of healthcare delivery.

David is admired by all in the profession, he is always willing to provide support (including emotional) to all in the profession and at every level.

David is an exceptional leader, a real inspirational healthcare scientists and a worthy receiver of this honour.
HCS Support worker of the year: winner – Agnieszka Pytlak, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Histology, NHS Lothian

Agnieszka has been employed with the NHS Lothian Department of Laboratory Medicine since February 2008 and has progressed from her initial post as Support Worker in the Combined Reception to Assistant Practitioner working within Histology.

During her time with NHS Lothian, Agnieszka has completed both the Modern Apprenticeship Level 3 in Laboratory Associated Technical Activities and the Higher National Diploma. She is due to commence the final stage of her education (another two years) in September 2014 which will see her register as a Biomedical Scientist.

This has been an exceptionally long journey for Agnieszka which started in 2009 with her being accepted onto the pilot of the Modern Apprenticeship Programme led by Adam Smith and Forth valley Colleges. Her application form demonstrated how committed she was in continuing her education to achieve her aspiration of becoming a Biomedical Scientist and this has been evident in her achievements to date.

Agnieszka has been an active member of staff within the class and has assisted her colleagues by setting up study groups and she has continued this in her current role by mentoring new staff that have been recently promoted. She is also assisting current staff on this programme in the completion of their vocational portfolio.

Agnieszka was promoted to her current post as Assistant Practitioner in Histology in 2013 on the strength of her commitment to the course and also her dedication to her role within Combined Reception.

Agnieszka has continued to embrace her education and has undertaken the HND (also by twilight teaching) and has recently completed her project within Histology. This project centred on the introduction of a new stain which has now been incorporated into routine use through the results of the report. She has been instrumental in the validation of the stain and is now involved in the training of the new technique to all grades of staff within histology.

Agnieszka has achieved so much since 2008 and her achievements have motivated others in a similar situation to think about improving themselves. She is a true professional and an outstanding role model for all staff in the laboratories.
Rising Star: Winner – James Hollington, Bioengineer, SMART Centre NHS Lothian

James works in Rehabilitation Engineering Services in Special Seating for Children and Adult Wheelchair services and the Gait Analysis Laboratory at the SMART Centre in Edinburgh. James has worked in SMART since November 2009 with previous experience in Sussex and Ireland.

Impressed by his energy, dynamism, insight, leadership and people skills, evidence gathering and the business case for introducing new technology and treatment into his chosen field. He has not been frightened to question existing practice and tackle historical methods of working. He has used good rational thinking and persuasion skills to get more senior colleagues onside. In management terms he has also shown great potential to work with multidisciplinary colleagues (AHPs) and use analytical skills to work through existing pathways and identify opportunities for change and optimisation. In addition he has established good networks with the rest of the UK and Ireland to help link Scottish Rehabilitation to the wider community of practice. He has helped the branding of Healthcare Science by promoting the health aspects within his own Professional body (the IMechE).

He has been able to influence his peers and this resulted in them modifying their practice of their peers and elders in quite such a smooth fashion which I attribute to James’ skill set, commitment to patient care and drive.

Custom contoured seating manufacture was initially bought in from an external company by the SMART service. James analysed the cost effectiveness, lead times and clinical experience of this service. He wrote a proposal demonstrating that in house manufacture of foam carve contoured seating could reduce system costs by 50% and lead times from assessment to delivery from 14 weeks to 5 weeks.

James recently instigated and led a review of the Enabling Technology for Children service (children’s wheelchair service). The Provision pathway and processes were reviewed and streamlined, roles and responsibilities defined and documented for multi-disciplinary team members, and service delivery ethos and design reviewed against published recommendations and workforce need recommendations made. Additionally the need for healthcare scientist input into the service has been piloted, accepted and quantified.

James introduced 3D Computer Aided Design software into the Engineering service.

James co-founded a live web streamed conference with a colleague from Ireland, in which Scottish and Irish posture and mobility services share knowledge and experiences through online live streaming of presentations from case studies to the
latest research. This has been running for 3 years now with around 120 delegates each year.

James is on the organising committee for the Scottish Rehabilitation Technology services training event.

James is an executive committee member, trustee and previous vice-chair of Posture Mobility Group (PMG), a registered charity in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

James has also worked with the Scottish Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Young Engineers group to promote and introduce rehabilitation engineering and Healthcare Science to undergraduate engineers.

**NHS Scotland Healthcare Scientist of the Year: special commendation - Stephen Pye, Department of Medical Physics NHS Lothian**

Has demonstrated an outstanding and sustained contribution to Healthcare Science worthy of this award over a number of years and in a range of areas including service development, innovation, training and leadership.

**Rising Star: special commendation – Nadine Wilkinson, Department of Laboratory Medicine, NHS Lothian**

Nadine has played an instrumental role in the development of training and education for HCS with the laboratory in NHS Lothian.