

SOUTHAMPTON: Awards ceremony recognises the work staff and volunteers in the

AND THE HEROES ARE...



GUEST SPEAKER: Sailor Hannah Jenner. Order no: 118655689

■ **By Melanie Adams**

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THEY ARE the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to care for patients on our city's hospital wards.

And last night their dedication and hard work was celebrated at a special awards ceremony to honour Southampton's Hospital Heroes.

The waiting was finally over as hundreds of hospital staff from across the city waited with bated breath to find out who had won the prestigious gongs, including the *Daily Echo's* Hospital Heroes Readers Choice Award.

We teamed up with Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust (SUHT) to track down those individuals who have gone that extra mile to bring a smile to those suffering.

It was a tough decision, with five very deserving nominees, but a panel of *Daily Echo* judges chose clinical nurse specialist Miranda Gardner as the overall winner.

She was nominated by Louise Dowra who believed Miranda deserved special recognition for the extraordinary care she gave to her 22-year-old son, James Riley, after he was hit by a train, leaving him with a catalogue of life-threatening injuries. Louise said: "She became a reassuring, friendly face for James, taking the time to explain things and she was instrumental in allowing him to return home very quickly."

Unfortunately Miranda, who works at Southampton General Hospital, was away on leave so wasn't able to pick up her award.

The runner-up award went to consultant surgeon Mohammed Abu Hihal and his clinical nurse Joanna Dowle, who were nominated by their patient Pauline Stone.

Pauline had to undergo major surgery after she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and believes she is only here today thanks to the treatment she received from the duo.

She said: "They are such wonderful people and they deserve all the praise that anyone can offer. I just couldn't say enough to thank them."



TEAM OF THE YEAR: Winners Medicine for Older People - Cake and Concert Events are presented with their award by guest speaker Hannah Jenner.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARD: Winners Clinical Education and Practice Development Team - Cardiovascular and Thoracic Care Group.

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After their names were revealed by *Daily Echo* editor Ian Murray, Mr Abu Hihal said: "I am really happy and very

glad that the team has been recognised. It is always a wonderful thing to feel appreciated by your patients."



Southampton University Hospitals Trust chairman John Trewby.
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Joanna added: "We are really honoured to be nominated so to be named runner-up is fantastic."

"We were just a small part of a very big team who took care of Pauline and I want to thank Pauline for her nomination and for helping to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer."

All of the nominees received a pair of tickets to see *WU! Rock You* courtesy of the Mayflower.

The *Daily Echo* award was one of nine awards presented as part of SUHT's annual Hospital Hero Awards, to recognise staff, individually and collectively as teams for their outstanding work over the last 12 months.

Sailing star Hannah Jenner was special guest for the evening and presented some of the awards.

Mark Hackett, chief executive of SUHT, said: "This shows we are really making progress towards our 20/20 vision and how inspiring and fantastic our staff are in terms of what they have achieved."

"Healthcare is all about people and we have fantastic people."