


AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

NOMINATION FORM

CRITICAL CARE PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

Nomination opens:	Monday 11 th July 2022
Nominations close:	5pm - Friday 2 nd September 2022
Award criteria:	<p>This award is for an air ambulance practitioner who has demonstrated excellent clinical standards in delivering the best possible quality of care to patients. This could be a noteworthy incident in the last 12 months involving clinical and/or professional patient care with supporting evidence of clinical or professional intervention. Information provided should detail the treatment or care and patient outcome.</p> <p>Alternatively, entries can be for ongoing exceptional clinical or professional duty over the past 12 months, with evidence to support.</p>
Eligible nominees:	Open to air ambulance paramedics (and nurses performing a similar role as part of a HEMS team)
Eligible nominators:	Air ambulance charities, and former patients or relatives of, who wish to express their appreciation of the professional standards demonstrated by an air ambulance paramedic.
Nominator name:	Claire Wilkinson – Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
Nominator email:	claire.wilkinson@ehaat.org
Nomination submitted:	02/09/2022
Nominator signature:	
Submit application to:	Nick Campion, Independent Secretary to the Judging Panel by email: awards@airambulancesuk.org
Note:	Please type in no less than 11pt Calibri font to a maximum of 2 pages. Please also attach, or link to, any images or film to support your nomination in your email when submitting this application.

CRITICAL CARE PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Nominee name:	Adam Pitcairn
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Our paramedics, doctors and pilots bring the expertise, equipment and treatment of the hospital to the scene of an emergency, working together to deliver the best possible quality of care. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team, always willing to go the extra mile, enhancing their clinical expertise and driving evidence-based practice. Adam Pitcairn is a fine example. He's not only demonstrated excellent clinical standards within his practice, but also pursued his passion for ECG interpretation by running a series of evening lectures for a wide variety of medical professionals.

From HART to HEMS

Adam has nearly two decades of clinical experience, working for the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) on a frontline ambulance before joining the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), which was established in January 2007 to treat casualties and help save lives in very complex and high-risk circumstances. His role at HART saw him attend to patients in hard-to-reach places, such as at heights, in water, confined spaces and irrespirable atmospheres.

Adam said: "The intense training prepared me for the role at EHAAT. At the time (2019), it was my next progression as a paramedic. I knew becoming a critical care paramedic for EHAAT was where I wanted to go and I just love being a part of this amazing team."

A passion for teaching ECG interpretation

In addition to his work as a critical care paramedic, Adam also enjoys sharing knowledge. He recognises how crucial it is to foster a knowledge-sharing culture to reduce the potential for error and enhance patient safety. Whilst working with HART, Adam showed a keen interest in ECGs.

"It's essentially pattern recognition, which I love. I was able to considerably improve my interpretation skills by spending hundreds of hours looking at ECGs – probably too many!"

Adam undertook a level 7 course in pre-hospital cardiology which complimented and cemented much of the material he had learnt. He also provided training for the trust at HART, and part of that was ECG based also.

"Once I started teaching, I became the person people would come to, then I would see even more ECGs alongside the research I was doing in my own time. When I joined EHAAT, some of the consultants and governance leads – some of the smartest people you will meet in your life – were discussing ECGs, and I was having very in-depth conversations with them. People are realising, without me realising, that I know quite a lot."

The formation of a fascinating ECG lecture series

Having provided lectures to paramedics and doctors at EHAAT, Adam was approached by Pre-Hospital Care Doctor, Dr Amy Hughes, to put a series together on pre-hospital ECGs. They began looking at patients who had experienced ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation) after cardiac arrest.

Adam said: "ROSC patients need to be triaged to an appropriate facility to deal with their specific needs. A history and clinical examination will help with this and being able to interpret the ECG is extremely important when making this decision. This enables the patient to go to the right place the first time and if they have an occlusion to a coronary artery then a specialist cardiac centre is the place to be. These are the patients we aimed the first lecture series on, interpreting the ECG and working out the best place to take them."

A positive response from attendees

The response to Adam's virtual lecture series has been "overwhelmingly positive", with doctors, paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and emergency care assistants (ECAs) attending from around the world.

Amy said: "We knew Adam had that expertise and we wanted to share it worldwide! A lot of the feedback, even as a cardiologist or a doctor working among cardiologists, his knowledge beyond that – it's so good! I think what pre-hospital work does is make you want to understand more. We go to a job, and we think we know trauma and understand what each patient has, but we can be surprised, perhaps by one or two of the injuries or their physiology. We often need to delve deeper, and that's exactly what Adam's lecture series does."

Adam and Amy worked closely together to ensure each of the three ECG lectures completed were as interactive as possible. Medical professionals from far and wide have been able to send in ECGs they had questions about, allowing Adam to share those examples, discuss ECGs and respond live to questions from the audience.

Dr Neal Durge, EHAAT's Medical Director, said Adam's knowledge and understanding of ECGs surpasses that of most doctors in this field.

"He's been able to exemplify that. He comes from a paramedic background, and despite the fact we all have skillsets that overlap, there are certain skills that sit within the doctor profile more than they sit within the paramedic profile – and vice versa. What he's been able to do with his evening lecture series on ECGs is really break down those barriers. He is teaching doctors to a level that doctors haven't previously taught. That, from a paramedic, is exceptional, and I think he should be commended for it."