

Connecting People

Emma Shkurka

I would like to nominate Emma Shkurka for the 'connecting people' award. Emma is a senior physiotherapist at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and an NIHR Doctoral student. Collaboration and sharing knowledge between different paediatric centres seems to be at the heart of many of Emma's endeavours, including her PhD research. Emma was a founding member of the paediatric ECMO network, which seeks to find shared understanding in the best ways to manage this vulnerable patient group. She is co-chair of the ACPRC London regional network that has held several very successful networking events. Emma has a gift for bringing people together and always encourages others to work towards common goals, rather than struggling on as individuals. She never seeks the limelight, but is always quick to acknowledge the contribution of others. I think it is time to shine the spotlight on Emma and formally recognise her collaborative leadership style.

Gareth Tantram

Gareth has worked as a Band 7 within the Surgery Team at MRI since October 2019. Since coming into post he has encouraged team members to openly collaborate leading by example. He has proactively completed excellence referrals for numerous members of the MDT which has helped promote good practice within the team and ward / critical care environment. He has helped to improve links within critical care by setting up an MDT ward round which allows for rehabilitation plans to be made in conjunction with ICU Consultants along with other members of the less well seen MDT including Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists along with Dieticians. This has helped to streamline rehabilitation plans for patients and improve patient experience along with staff engagement. He has been an excellent role model to junior members of staff as well as peers.

Zoe van Willigen

I would like to nominate Zoe for her work connecting people during the Covid pandemic. Zoe created a 'slack' group enabling physiotherapists to share their expertise with others treating patients with Covid. This rapidly grew into a dynamic on-line community, with physiotherapists from all over the world. Community members were able to contribute to specific discussion threads, share files and form collaborative links with other clinical therapists. This proved invaluable, particularly at the start of the pandemic when there was a rapid learning curve for everyone. Zoe's contributions to the group were always supportive and encouraging. She fostered an ethos that 'there is no such thing as a silly question' and made individuals feel less isolated and well supported.