

MDS award winners announced

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The winners of the 2010 Macular Disease Society Awards have been revealed.

Clare Bailey and Mark Stoddart, consultants in the ophthalmology departments at Bristol Eye Hospital and Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary respectively, have been named joint winners of the 'Best Practitioner of the Year in Clinical Services' award. And sharing the 'Best Support Services' accolade are the Sensory Support Services team led by Laura Cromie at the South Eastern Trust, Northern Ireland, and Hillingdon Hospital's Eye Clinic team led by Pardip Grewal (pictured).



The four recipients of the Macular Disease Society's Chairman's Award are 60-year-old Alan Macfarlane, a volunteer who runs a local support group in Peterborough; Les Geddes who invented the Geddes Reader; Phyll Pridemore, founder and group leader of the Stockport MDS group; and 66-year-old Wendy Pepper who runs her local support group in Barnt Green, Birmingham.

A special ceremony will be held in honour of this year's winners in London on September 25.

Helen Jackman, chief executive of the Macular Disease Society, said: "We have been delighted by the number and quality of the nominations for these awards – we received nearly 80, from the north of Scotland to Southampton. Each nomination carries its own story of everyday heroism by dedicated professionals and volunteers who care so much, and do so much, for people with macular disease – which causes a devastating, and sometimes frighteningly sudden loss of central vision. The winners are people with a commitment to excellence; who, despite the obstacles of heavy workloads or, in some cases, advanced age or sight loss, are passionate about improving the lives of MD patients.

"We felt it was time they were recognised and thanked – and it is our great pleasure to tell them how grateful we are for the fantastic work they do."

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