

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Award-winning research at Trust**

Research scientists in Dudley have picked up two awards for their work – including one project which led to three people being diagnosed with rare diseases.

Research and development teams at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust picked up the gongs at the Clinical Research Network WM awards ceremony in Birmingham.

Dudley won awards for Creative Recruitment and Business Intelligence Leaders.

The recruitment award was for the team's part in the Pathfinder study which looked for rare diseases from routine pathology results. Dudley had committed to recruiting 50 patients and actually recruited 675.

Of these, three were found to have rare, adult-onset genetic metabolic diseases – two had Pompe disease, while a third was a carrier of Gaucher disease. They were all referred to Birmingham Metabolic Centre.

Most people with late-onset Pompe disease experience progressive muscle weakness, especially in the legs and the trunk, including the muscles that control breathing. As the disorder progresses, breathing problems can lead to respiratory failure.

With Gaucher disease, both mum and dad have to pass one abnormal copy of the disease gene to their child in order for the child to develop the disease, which causes harmful substances to build up in the liver, spleen, bones, and bone marrow. These substances prevent cells and organs from working properly.

The Business Intelligence Leaders award was for our innovative database work which has been shared as good practice outside the Trust.

“The awards celebrate the wide range of high quality clinical research taking place throughout the West Midlands – improving the health and the wealth of the nation through research. This is the fifth year the CRN WM have put on the awards and we did extremely well to win two,” said the Trust's research and development manager Claire Phillips.

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