



MOONDANCE
CANCER AWARDS



EXCELLENCE

SHORTLIST



DEPOT, Cardiff

11 June 2026



MOONDANCE
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2026

EXCELLENCE SHORTLIST

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The Moondance Cancer Awards celebrate and spotlight brilliant people across NHS Wales and its partners who deliver, lead and innovate cancer services.

Held biennially, the awards recognise individuals, teams and collaborations working across all parts of the cancer pathway – from detection and diagnosis to treatment and ongoing care – and showcase the innovation and improvement driving better outcomes for people affected by cancer across Wales.

Nominations were invited for 10 awards across 3 categories. Over 110 nominations were submitted for the 2026 awards, and a shortlist of 62, representing 30 organisations, will be considered by an independent panel of judges.

Below are the nomination summaries for the awards under the Excellence category, which includes: Cancer Services Leadership & Delivery, Nursing, Clinical & Diagnostic Practice and Medical

Winners will be announced at the [Celebration & Awards Night](#) on Thursday 11 June at Depot, Cardiff.



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Award:
**Cancer Services
Leadership & Delivery**

Category:
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6 Shortlisted Nominees



Lindsay Richards

Macmillan Project Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



Clare Small

Senior Programme Manager for Cancer Services,
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board



Caroline Williams

Network Manager for Cancer,
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board



Sivakumar Jayakumar

Quality Improvement Research Assistant,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



Laura Jones

Directorate Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



Sue Lawless

Service Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



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Lindsay Richards

Macmillan Project Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Lindsay Richards, Macmillan Project Manager at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her leadership in shaping the Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ) programme. Over the past year, Lindsay led a comprehensive engagement effort, gathering insights from over 700 individuals, including patients, carers, and multi-sector partners.

Through community events, focus groups, and surveys, she identified strengths and gaps in existing cancer pathways, particularly for underserved communities. Lindsay's work has directly informed the development of a sustainable service model, supported by a four-year funding commitment from Macmillan Cancer Support, aimed at improving access and experience for people affected by cancer. Her leadership has strengthened cross-sector collaboration, ensuring that the future ICJ service will be built on a foundation of lived experience and professional insight, creating a more responsive and equitable cancer support system.



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Nomination 2

Clare Small

Senior Programme Manager for Cancer Services,
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

This nomination recognises Clare Small, Senior Programme Manager for Cancer Services at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, for her leadership in developing and coordinating a community-based approach to cancer prevention and early detection. Clare led the creation of a training programme for over 300 hair and beauty professionals across Gwent, empowering them to identify early signs of skin cancer and promote sun safety. This programme has expanded to reach other community sectors, including Welsh Water meter readers, and is being developed further for the agricultural sector. Clare's work has contributed to earlier cancer detection, including a confirmed case of skin cancer identified through a trained hairdresser, and is promoting a proactive, community-driven approach to cancer awareness. Through her leadership, Clare has connected community engagement with clinical services, creating a model for sustainable cancer prevention and early diagnosis.



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Nomination 3

Caroline Williams

Network Manager for Cancer,
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

This nomination recognises Caroline Williams, Network Manager for Cancer at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, for her exceptional leadership in improving cancer services in North Wales. Caroline has played a key role in driving improvements across cancer pathways, including the introduction of nurse-led follow-up pathways and the nurse-led colorectal triage model, which has reduced diagnostic turnaround times. She has also worked to expand access to specialist services not available locally, ensuring that patients in North Wales receive timely, high-quality care. Through her collaborative approach, Caroline has strengthened relationships with stakeholders and patient representatives, leading to improvements in service delivery and more equitable access to cancer care. Her focus on addressing workforce challenges and enhancing service efficiency has made a significant difference in patient experience and outcomes.



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Sivakumar Jayakumar

Quality Improvement Research Assistant,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Sivakumar Jayakumar, Quality Improvement Research Assistant at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for his invaluable contributions to the All-Wales Colorectal Peritoneal Malignancy Service. Since joining the team in December 2024, Sivakumar has played a pivotal role in supporting data collection, research, and the development of integrated pathways with other Peritoneal Malignancy Institutes. His work has been critical in maintaining the service's database, collecting clinical data, and developing patient information materials, including a new webpage for both clinicians and patients. Sivakumar was also instrumental in organising the service's first Patient Wellbeing Day, contributing to its success. His dedication has helped the team achieve a level of data collection and research that would have been difficult to manage without his expertise. Sivakumar's continued involvement in patient experience data collection and future collaborations ensures ongoing improvement and growth for the service.



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Laura Jones

Directorate Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Laura Jones, Directorate Manager at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her pivotal role in supporting the establishment and ongoing delivery of the All-Wales Colorectal Peritoneal Metastasis Service (AWCPMS). Laura played a key part in coordinating the creation of new governance, financial, and operational structures to ensure the service was integrated into the NHS. She contributed to securing sustainable funding and worked alongside key stakeholders to implement the Prior Approval pathway, ensuring continued access to this essential service. Since its launch, the AWCPMS has supported over 500 MDT discussions and enabled 65 patients to receive cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC treatment. Laura's leadership and collaborative approach have been critical in embedding this service within NHS Wales, ensuring it remains a vital resource for patients across the region.



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Sue Lawless

Service Manager,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Sue Lawless, Service Manager for Haematology, Blood Transfusion, and Phlebotomy at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her outstanding leadership in driving service improvements and supporting her teams. With over 30 years of experience, Sue has demonstrated exceptional dedication to enhancing the quality of care and service delivery within the department. Her leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that diagnostic services, such as the phlebotomy and haematology labs, maintain the highest standards, enabling timely and accurate diagnoses for cancer patients. Sue’s efforts have also focused on supporting team members through the challenges of their roles, fostering an environment of inclusivity and care. Under her leadership, the service has seen improvements in diagnostic turnaround times, reducing waiting and treatment times for patients, which has had a direct positive impact on patient experience.



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7 Shortlisted Nominees

-  **Emma King** Pre-admission Nurse/Case Manager,
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
-  **Natalie Evans** Advanced Oncology Pharmacy Technician,
Swansea Bay University Health Board
-  **Sian Lewis** Macmillan AHP Cancer Lead,
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
-  **Joely Ford** CAR-T Clinical Nurse Specialist,
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
-  **Ceri Smith** Clinical Endoscopist,
Powys Teaching Health Board
-  **Lucy Owen** ERAS Nurse,
Hywel Dda University Health Board
-  **Ellie Lau** Senior Pharmacist for Oncology Patient Services,
Swansea Bay University Health Board



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Nomination 1

Emma King

Pre-admission Nurse/Case Manager,
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Emma King, Pre-admission Nurse/Case Manager for Thoracic Surgery at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her exceptional leadership in designing and delivering care pathways for lung cancer patients in South East Wales. Over the past decade, Emma has built the thoracic surgery pre-admission service from the ground up, ensuring timely and equitable treatment for over 600 patients annually. She developed a bespoke database to track patient progress from referral to surgery, coordinating investigations and liaising with clinical teams to ensure prompt interventions. Emma's attention to detail and organisational skills have been instrumental in improving patient care and outcomes. Recently promoted to a Band 7 role, Emma now oversees the training of future pre-admission nurses and case managers, ensuring the continued success and sustainability of the service.



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Natalie Evans

Advanced Oncology Pharmacy Technician,
Swansea Bay University Health Board

This nomination recognises Natalie Evans, Advanced Oncology Pharmacy Technician at Swansea Bay University Health Board, for her outstanding contribution to breast oncology services. In 2024, Natalie became the first Advanced Pharmacy Technician in Wales to complete the BOPA Standards for Pharmacy Verification of Prescriptions for Cancer Medicines qualification.

Since then, she has clinically verified over 2,000 prescriptions for breast oncology patients, significantly improving service efficiency and safety. Natalie also leads a weekly treatment review clinic, where she performs toxicity monitoring, patient education, and provides holistic support. Through her work, she has removed critical bottlenecks in the prescribing process, improving the capacity of the pharmacy team and enhancing the overall patient experience.

Additionally, Natalie developed an ePROMs assessment tool, streamlining toxicity detection and improving both clinical efficiency and patient safety. Her contributions have strengthened the workforce, improved treatment pathways, and ensured that more patients receive timely, personalised care.



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Sian Lewis

Macmillan AHP Cancer Lead,
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

This nomination recognises Sian Lewis, Macmillan AHP Cancer Lead at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, for her exceptional leadership and innovative contributions to cancer services. Sian has led multiple initiatives to improve equity of access and patient experience, including the development of the Digital Health Optimisation Self-Assessment Tool and the "Getting Ready for Cancer Treatment" webpage, both of which have enhanced patient preparedness and engagement. As a core member of the Prehabilitation Task & Finish Group, she has contributed to the development of a business case that secured funding for site visits and conference attendance, shaping prehabilitation services within the health board. Sian's leadership in community engagement is also notable, having established four 5K Your Way locations across ABUHB and championing cancer awareness initiatives. Through her collaboration, training, and mentorship, Sian has strengthened AHP services in Wales, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care through evidence-based preparation, rehabilitation, and support.



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Joely Ford

CAR-T Clinical Nurse Specialist,
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Joely Ford, CAR-T Clinical Nurse Specialist at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her exceptional clinical leadership and patient-centred care in the CAR-T service. Since joining in October 2023, Joely has demonstrated outstanding clinical expertise in managing the complexities of CAR-T therapy, ensuring patients receive safe and effective treatment. Her compassionate approach goes beyond clinical care, as she creates a supportive and reassuring environment for patients during their treatment journey. Joely's dedication includes coordinating multidisciplinary care, providing emotional support, and addressing patient concerns with empathy and clarity. She also contributes to the education and development of the team, enhancing the service's overall quality and fostering a compassionate, patient-focused atmosphere. Joely's blend of clinical competence and emotional intelligence has had a profound impact on both patient experience and the success of the CAR-T service.



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Ceri Smith

Clinical Endoscopist,
Powys Teaching Health Board

This nomination recognises Ceri Smith, Clinical Endoscopist at Powys Teaching Health Board, for her leadership in introducing novel diagnostic tests in the nurse-led endoscopy service at Brecon Community Hospital. Ceri played a key role in the implementation of capsule sponge testing and transnasal endoscopy, innovations that have improved the efficiency and accessibility of diagnostic services for patients in Powys. By embedding these techniques into routine practice, Ceri has enhanced the patient experience, reducing waiting times and providing more patient-friendly diagnostic options. Her work has been instrumental in expanding access to early diagnosis for upper gastrointestinal cancers, with positive feedback from patients and a growing influence across Wales. Ceri's dedication to improving diagnostic pathways has set a model for other teams in Wales to follow, ensuring that more patients can benefit from timely, high-quality care closer to home.



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Lucy Owen

ERAS Nurse,
Hywel Dda University Health Board

This nomination recognises Lucy Owen, ERAS Nurse at Hywel Dda University Health Board, for her leadership in implementing the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programme for colorectal patients at Bronglais Hospital. Lucy has been instrumental in the successful introduction of the ERAS pathway, which has transformed perioperative care, reduced the median length of stay to just four days, and led to 70% of patients being discharged within five days of surgery. Lucy's leadership has fostered collaboration across multidisciplinary teams, ensuring the pathway is optimally designed and consistently delivered. Her compassionate approach to patient care, combined with her strategic oversight, has resulted in measurable improvements in patient outcomes, such as reduced complication rates and faster recovery times. Lucy's commitment to continuous improvement has strengthened the colorectal service, setting a new standard for surgical care and patient experience within the health board.



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Ellie Lau

Senior Pharmacist for Oncology Patient Services,
Swansea Bay University Health Board

This nomination recognises Ellie Lau, Senior Pharmacist for Oncology Patient Services at Swansea Bay University Health Board, for her significant contributions to improving colorectal cancer care. Ellie led the establishment of a pharmacist-led capecitabine clinic, reducing the waiting time from consent to treatment by 11 days and improving service flow. In addition, she developed the UK's first pharmacist-led clinic for patients on anti-EGFR therapies, managing complex skin toxicities and ensuring safe, effective treatment. Ellie has also been pivotal in introducing a homecare service for oral chemotherapy, reducing hospital visits and improving patient satisfaction. Her leadership has enhanced the efficiency and capacity of oncology services, expanded the role of pharmacy technicians, and set a national precedent for pharmacist-led cancer care. Ellie's work has not only improved clinical safety and patient experience but also contributed to workforce sustainability and the overall effectiveness of cancer treatment delivery.



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5 Shortlisted Nominees



Dr Olwen Westerland

Consultant Radiologist,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



Dr Owen Nicholas

Consultant Clinical Oncologist,
Swansea Bay University Health Board



Dr Alex Murray

Consultant Geneticist,
All Wales Medical Genomics Service



Dr Ricky Frazer

Consultant Medical Oncologist,
Velindre University NHS Trust



Ms Jody Parker

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



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Dr Olwen Westerland

Consultant Radiologist,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Dr. Olwen Westerland, Consultant Radiologist at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her leadership in improving the myeloma patient pathway. Since joining the multidisciplinary team in September 2024 for one session per week, Dr. Westerland has made significant changes to the radiology protocols and imaging sequences, ensuring the department aligns with the latest national best practice. She introduced a triaging system to ensure patients with suspected myeloma are scanned promptly and that the results are reported by the most appropriate clinician in a timely manner. This has led to better images and more accurate, timely reports, enabling the MDT to work more effectively.

Dr. Westerland also attends the weekly MDT meeting in person to present findings, which has enhanced the quality of the meetings and created a learning environment for the team. Her work has greatly improved the quality, efficiency, and collaboration within the myeloma MDT, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care in a timely manner.



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Dr Owen Nicholas

Consultant Clinical Oncologist,
Swansea Bay University Health Board

This nomination recognises Dr. Owen Nicholas, Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Swansea Bay University Health Board, for his leadership in advancing radiotherapy techniques and ensuring high-quality care for patients in South West Wales. Dr. Nicholas has led the implementation of state-of-the-art radiotherapy techniques, particularly in breast cancer, enabling the service to offer care equivalent to leading UK centres and participate in national research. As the local Principal Investigator for the PARABLE proton beam therapy trial, he led Swansea's recruitment efforts, surpassing recruitment targets. Dr. Nicholas also played a key role in introducing MRI-guided radiotherapy planning in South West Wales, securing charitable funding and coordinating a multidisciplinary approach. His work has improved access to advanced treatments, ensuring Swansea patients receive cutting-edge radiotherapy without having to travel outside the region, and has strengthened the radiotherapy service's capacity to deliver high-quality care.



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Dr Alex Murray

Consultant Geneticist,
All Wales Medical Genomics Service

This nomination recognises Dr. Alex Murray, Consultant Geneticist at the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS), for her exceptional leadership in navigating the service through significant growth and demand. During her tenure as Clinical Director, Dr. Murray led a multi-disciplinary team to adapt to a 25% increase in cancer genetics referrals, ensuring timely and safe care. She introduced a system of medically-led triage to prioritise referrals and streamline pathways, improving both patient experience and service efficiency. Dr. Murray also played a pivotal role in developing and implementing the UK Somatic Variant Interpretation Guidelines (UK-SVIG) within AWMGS, improving the consistency and quality of somatic variant interpretation. Her leadership has resulted in improved clinical pathways, increased capacity, and enhanced training for genetic counsellors, ensuring that AWMGS meets the evolving demands of cancer genomics.



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Dr Ricky Frazer

Consultant Medical Oncologist,
Velindre University NHS Trust

This nomination recognises Professor Ricky Frazer, Consultant Medical Oncologist at Velindre University NHS Trust, for his exceptional leadership in the development of the South East Wales Immunotherapy Toxicity Service. Recognising the complexity of immunotherapy toxicities, Professor Frazer led the establishment of this proactive, specialist service, integrating multidisciplinary expertise and regional collaboration to manage immune-related adverse events (irAEs) safely and efficiently. Under his leadership, the service has supported over 1,000 patients and reduced 65% of immunotherapy-related emergency admissions, significantly improving patient outcomes. Professor Frazer's work has also extended to the introduction of novel immunotherapies, such as tebentafusp, and the development of robust clinical pathways for their delivery. His efforts in education and collaboration, including the Immuno-Oncology Clinical Network and Immunobuddies podcast, have positioned Velindre as a hub for immunotherapy expertise, ensuring that both patients and healthcare professionals benefit from cutting-edge knowledge and practice.



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Ms Jody Parker

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon,
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

This nomination recognises Ms. Jody Parker, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for her leadership in establishing the All-Wales Colorectal Peritoneal Metastasis Service. Recognising the lack of a local pathway for cytoreductive surgery with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (CRS + HIPEC), Ms. Parker led the creation of the first and only specialist service for peritoneal malignancy in Wales. Her efforts in securing funding, overcoming systemic barriers, and engaging with multidisciplinary teams have transformed access to life-extending treatment for patients with peritoneal metastasis. Since the service's launch, over 65 patients have received CRS + HIPEC, and more than 500 MDT discussions have taken place. Ms. Parker's advocacy has ensured that Welsh patients no longer have to rely on costly, out-of-region care, improving both access and equity. Her work has fundamentally changed the landscape of peritoneal cancer care in Wales, delivering both clinical excellence and significant improvements in patient outcomes.



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