

# ACBNews

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## Team Wolves scoop Healthcare Excellence Award!

**Mike Hallworth, Shrewsbury**

A multi-disciplinary team from the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust led by Consultant Clinical Biochemist Clare Ford has won one of the first UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards for achieving measurably better healthcare performance.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence programme is sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics and brings together a range of leading global healthcare organizations to recognise healthcare teams that have integrated across disciplines to lead best practices in the care delivery process and demonstrate measurably better patient outcomes as a result.

The UNIVANTS programme is intended to highlight best practices, inspire unity

and to encourage novel, avant-garde ways of thinking (the name UNIVANTS derives from 'unity' and 'avant-garde'). Abbott has partnered with the IFCC, AACC, the European Health Management Association (EHMA), Modern Healthcare magazine, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the US National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) and the Institute of Healthcare Economics to recognise and support healthcare teams that work together and break down silos for the sake of patient care. Tricia Ravalico, Abbott's Director of Scientific Leadership, said "Laboratory medicine can play a key role in improving patient flow throughout health systems, uncovering new insights



*The Wolverhampton team with their awards. From left to right: Clare Ford, Kate Willmer, Simon Whitehead and Andy Morgan*

and/or changing clinical care pathways. Regardless of discipline, if all stakeholders aren't at the table, information can be missed. Opportunities to work together are not only empowering but beneficial across the care continuum".

The Wolverhampton team consisted of Head of Clinical Chemistry Clare Ford, Consultant Acute Physician Kate Willmer, Principal Clinical Scientist Simon Whitehead and ED Consultant Andy Morgan. Together, they initiated a novel integrated clinical care project to optimize pathways for patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS). Identification of low risk patients using clinical assessment and high sensitivity troponin I (hs-cTnI) measurements reduced the number of patients admitted unnecessarily and ensured patient safety.

Safe rule-out of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) was based on low clinical risk and low levels of hs-cTnI on presentation. Rule-in of AMI was based on higher clinical risk assessment, elevated troponin values and serial troponin estimations on specimens collected on arrival and three hours later. Implementation of this strategy reduced the hospital admission rate from 60.9% to 38.4% and the mean length of stay from 23 hours to 9.6 hours. Crucially, the strategy was confirmed to be safe for patients by measuring the major adverse cardiac event rate (MACE) for patients who were discharged early at 30 days and nine months after presentation. The

negative predictive value for MACE was 99.6% at 30 days and 98.4% at 9 months.<sup>1</sup> Consultant Physician Kate Willmer said "Implementation of our novel ACS pathway has improved our confidence in safely discharging low risk patients while admitting high risk patients". The estimated annual cost saving for the Trust was approximately £788,000.

The Royal Wolverhampton team won one of four inaugural honorary UNIVANTS awards to mark the inception of the UNIVANTS programme. Other awards were won by teams in Tübingen, Germany; Christchurch, New Zealand and Chicago, USA. Clare Ford commented "We are proud to be amongst the inaugural, honorary winners of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award. We believe that increased laboratory involvement in care pathways has considerable potential to benefit patient outcome and we look forward to being inspired by future winning collaborations".

The 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards will be accepting applications on 1st August 2019 – so get busy!

More details of the honorary awards and the UNIVANTS programme can be found at [UnivantsHCE.com](https://www.univantshce.com)

1. Ford C. Benefits of high sensitivity cardiac troponin I at admission. Medical Lab Management (CLMA) 2017; 6(6); 20-24 <https://www.medlabmag.com/article/1394> ■