

Ethnic Achievement Celebrated at the National Mentoring Consortium – NHS Merit Awards 2008

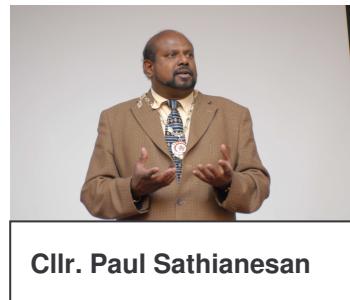
Graduates from the University of East London (UEL), making significant achievements in healthcare, were celebrated in a buoyant awards ceremony hosted by National Mentoring Consortium (NMC) at the University's Stratford Campus on Wednesday 2nd July, 2008.

The event, sponsored by the Department of Health Equality and Human Rights Group and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, recognised the contribution of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME) whose contribution, past and present, has had a positive impact on our health service.

This was particularly poignant as the ceremony also recognised the 60th anniversary of the National Health Service. It also acknowledged a milestone in the building of our multi-ethnic community, the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush to Britain, bringing skilled labour from the Caribbean, many about to enter the newly created NHS.

Alan Ingle, Secretary and Registrar for UEL welcomed guests and nominees to the ceremony, was enthused that so many graduates had made strides in the health arena.

Cllr. Paul Sathianesan, Deputy Civic Ambassador for Newham shared his experiences of someone from an ethnic background who came to Britain as a refugee and made an impact upon his local community. Cllr. Sathianesan is also an honorary fellow of UEL and encouraged nominees to keep working hard to achieve their goals.



Cllr. Paul Sathianesan

The National Mentoring Consortium was honoured to have Windrush veteran and author, Sam King address the audience. They were intrigued by his recollections of coming as a former WW11 RAF veteran returning on the Windrush to settle in Britain. Sam faced many trials, but made many achievements, notably becoming the Mayor of Southwark.



Sam King (centre) with Barry Mussenden (left) and Joe Greenland

His colleague, Arthur Torrington, also recalled the experiences of being a new migrant to Britain and the difficulties that were overcome.



Arthur Torrington

Both Sam and Joan Saddler OBE, Director (designated) of Patient and Public Affairs, emphasised the importance of

education and the need to strive for excellence in how we organise and perform in our professional lives.

Yvonne Coghill, leader of the NHS ‘Breaking Through’ Programme (and chair of the event) and colleague Barry Mussenden of the Equality and Human Rights Group, stressed the range of opportunities that exist within the NHS for BAME’s. This was most relevant to the undergraduates who were present.

Yvonne said ‘success is achievable but we must work hard and have the right skills. The Breaking Through Programme is designed to support those who are aiming to fulfil their fullest potential in the NHS’.



**Joan Saddler
OBE**



**Event Chair, Yvonne
Coghill - NHS**

Joe Greenland, Director of the National Mentoring Consortium, extolled the successes of the graduates by saying “without the past there can be no future, and we are proud to recognise the achievements of past UEL graduates. The NMC is working to ensure that more UEL graduates and undergraduates that we work with from other universities will have successful futures in graduate-level careers.”

The Award Winners

Joy Sadeghian
Pradip Karanjit
Ali Asad
Sarah Rose
Karen Gordon
Geok-Liew Ong
Satwinder Bhatia
Ileen Ashitey
Lola Oni OBE
Mary Clarke CBE

Award Category

Service Development & Provision
Service Development & Provision
Staff Training & Development
Public and Community Health
General Management
Staff Training & Development
Patient Care
Public and Community Health
Patient Care
General Management



The award winners with Cllr Sathianesan & Joe Greenland, Director of NMC

The National Mentoring Consortium thanks all those who submitted nominations.

Special thanks go to Department of Health Equality and Human Rights Group, NHS National Institute for Innovation and Improvement, Mr Chris Middleditch of Woodside Hospital Radio, the Windrush Foundation and all our guest speakers for making the event such a success.

Links:

NHS

[**NHS 60 : Department of Health**](#)
[**Health Service Journal - NHS Diamond Anniversary**](#)
[**NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement**](#)
[**NHS Breaking Through Programme**](#)
[**Equality and human rights : Department of Health**](#)

Windrush

[**SS Empire Windrush - SS Empire Windrush - Icons of England**](#)
[**BBC - History - Windrush - the Passengers**](#)