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PRESS RELEASE

Trust's research wins awards

Research in Dudley that helps improve treatments and care for patients has been recognised in a regional awards ceremony.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust picked up a gong and was highly commended in another category for its research work.

The Trust's consultant rheumatologist Dr Holly John took home the Research Impact Award at the Clinical Research Network West Midlands Awards. Her 'Love Your Heart' project developed an interactive online video programme to help patients with rheumatoid arthritis at increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

It is the second award this year for Love Your Heart – a joint project with the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society. Research carried out by the Rheumatology Department at the Trust has made a significant contribution to national and international guidelines on the subject.

The Trust was also highly commended in the Business Intelligence Leader category. This award recognises the quality and accuracy of the data from the up to 260 studies the Trust is involved in at any one time, each helping to develop improved treatments for patients.

Dr Jeff Neilson, R&D director, said: "It is fantastic that Dr John's research has made a difference. It has the potential to help any rheumatology patient with internet access.

"The majority of departments at the Dudley Group are actively recruiting into clinical studies, many involving treatments, which can mean patients getting tomorrow's treatments today."

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For more information, please call Alison Ashmore, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 3403 or email alison.ashmore1@nhs.net