

PRESS INFORMATION**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****LAING & BUISSON CELEBRATES THE BEST IN INDEPENDENT HEALTHCARE**

Cutting edge projects demonstrating the best in UK health services were honoured at the sixth annual *Independent Healthcare Awards* this week, when the event once again shone a spotlight on outstanding delivery and innovation achieved by private healthcare providers.

Awards organiser **Laing & Buisson** said that despite this being a time of continued financial constraint the event was evidence that there are many reasons for increased optimism about the role that private and voluntary sector healthcare providers can play in the ongoing NHS reforms.

The standards seen in all finalists at the 2011 awards, held on 20 September in the London Marriott Hotel, was once again proof that the independent sector is more than capable of stepping up to the challenge of delivering the highest standards of care.

Established in 2006, the objectives of the *Independent Healthcare Awards* remain to highlight the range of achievements within the sector and to pay tribute to those individuals and teams who have demonstrated outstanding excellence. Over 60 finalists were judged by a board of esteemed judges made up from former government figures, the heads of care sector organisations and senior executives operating within the UK healthcare scene. Among those expert eyes was Sir Peter Gershon, a chief advisor to the Conservative Party in the run up to the 2010 General Election, and the Department of Health patient choice guru Bob Ricketts.

Broadcaster and author Gyles Brandreth hosted the event, entertaining delegates while celebrating the best that the sector can offer.

The 17 winners showcased in 2011 represent the finest companies operating across of wide range of specialisms from acute hospitals to elderly care facilities to rehabilitation units.

Among them was Professor Anan Shetty of the Spire Alexander Hospital who took home the *Innovation* award in recognition of his role in a partnership between the facility and South Korean bio-medical company Regenerative Medical Systems which has resulted in faster treatment of damaged cartilage on a day-case basis - the first such service of its kind worldwide.

Significant investment in the capture of clinical information by private hospital group HCA International was recognised in the *Healthcare Outcomes* category, while the group's London Bridge Hospital was also the recipient of this year's *Medical Practice* award where tests results on the effects of a range of life-saving drugs are being fed directly into national data sets.

Away from the physical provision of healthcare services, law firm Capsticks was named *Legal Advisor of the Year* in recognition of its growth in the sector over the past five years. Meanwhile, with bricks and mortar remaining an inherent part of the healthcare landscape, the dedicated health team and property specialist Knight Frank was named *Healthcare Property Consultancy of the Year*.

Extending his congratulations to all finalists and winners at the event, **Laing & Buisson** chief executive William Laing said:

'Wherever the future takes us, independent healthcare remains a sector that continues to deliver high quality, innovative healthcare solutions for patients and service users.'

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**The Laing & Buisson Independent Healthcare Awards 2011 was held on 20 September 2011 at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square.*

A full list of winners follows:

Healthcare Property Developer - Renos Sideras, CuroCare

Public Private Partnership - Alison Woods and Dr Angus Graham, Frenchay Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre, The Huntercombe Group

Management Excellence - Ty Platten, HICA Group

Nursing Practice - Eszter Bakody, Parkside Hospital, Aspen Healthcare Ltd

Innovation - Professor Anan Shetty, Spire Alexandra Hospital

Hotel Services - Gareth Waters, St Andrew's Healthcare

Best Use of Technology - Kylie Hornby & Paul Volkaerts, Bupa Cromwell Hospital & Nervecentre Software Ltd

Excellence in Risk Management - Dr Cath Finn, UK Specialist Hospitals

Excellence in Training - Jackie Row & Hilary Gonszor, Aspen Healthcare

Healthcare Outcomes - Rosemary Hittinger, HCA International Ltd

Medical Practice - Alan Rayner & Cliff Bucknall, London Bridge Hospital

Healthcare Property Consultancy of the Year - Healthcare Department, Knight Frank

Corporate Financier of the Year - Andrew Brookes & The Hazlewoods LLP Health & Care Team

Investor of the Year - Albion Ventures LLP

Legal Adviser of the Year - Capsticks

Entrepreneurial Achievement - Dr Anil Ohri, Regent's Park Heart Clinics

Outstanding Contribution - Sharon Stewart, Ramsay Healthcare UK

Further details of the winners (and an outline of their winning entry) can be obtained from the Awards brochure - a PDF of which is available upon request.

Event sponsors:



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Founded by William Laing in 1986, Laing & Buisson is the UK's leading provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

Laing & Buisson offers a uniquely focused range of expert services to providers, purchasers and investors in the health and community care markets. Information about the range of products and services provided is summarised below.

Market Reports & Annual Directories: Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. The research and conclusions within the reports are frequently cited in parliamentary questions and answers, official documents and company prospectuses, and are regularly drawn upon by the national media.

Events: In addition to one-off conferences on subjects selected for their special interest or topicality, Laing & Buisson's annual programme features a series of conferences on specific areas including long term care for the older people, learning disabilities and mental health, acute healthcare, insurance and children's nurseries. The Independent Healthcare Forum consists of two major conferences: the acute healthcare conference and the mental health conference and a workshop for private patient units. The Independent Specialist Care Awards and the Independent Healthcare Awards take place in March and September, highlighting the range of achievements and recognising best practice within the sectors.

Newsletters: Laing & Buisson publishes two authoritative monthly newsletters - *Community Care Market News*, which covers the long-term care sector and *Healthcare Market News*, which covers the acute healthcare sector.

CareSearch and Health & Care Data: *CareSearch* is Laing & Buisson's flagship data product, a 'one stop shop' with extremely flexible search facilities for those needing detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on care homes, care home groups, independent healthcare establishments, care commissioners, PCTs and inspection and registration agencies for the whole of the UK. Further to this, details of group operators, their holdings and financial information from statutory accounts offer subscribers an invaluable resource. Alternatively, individual data sets are available to supply as csv files by email. In addition to the data included on *CareSearch* being available to purchase separately, home care agencies and groups can also be supplied.

Consultancy and Market Intelligence: Market intelligence and consultancy work, focusing on non-clinical aspects of health and social care markets, is tailor-made for companies with an active interest in the sector. Examples of recent work include a report on the future of the independent healthcare sector for the Healthcare Commission, the seminal work conducted by Laing & Buisson on *A Fair Price for Care* for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and *Improving Lives - Improving Life*, a report on the key strategic issues facing the long term care sector. Laing & Buisson also frequently assists investors in market due diligence work in the health and care sectors.