

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS 2018

Innovation, creativity, leadership & compassion



PRESS RELEASE

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Clinical scientists from Scotland and Northern Ireland create an app to reduce anxiety in children

Jonathan Ashmore and Cormac McGrath, clinical scientists from NHS Highlands and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have won a major UK award for their innovative work to help prepare children before they have an MRI scan.

They are the winners of the **Viapath award for innovation**, part of the prestigious Advancing Healthcare awards programme. The judges commented: 'This was a really good example of joint working between play therapists, radiographers, clinical scientists, parents and children to reduce anxiety in children.'

Jonathan and Cormac developed a free app which allows children to experience their upcoming MRI in virtual reality, helping them to understand and prepare for what is often a difficult and scary experience. The app utilises videos from within an MRI scanner accessed through an animated and interactive virtual reality interface. It also takes children on the entire MRI journey starting from when they arrive at reception.

The Advancing Healthcare awards programme, which crosses boundaries and fosters partnership working, is open to allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them in support roles. The award was presented by Dominic Harrington, at a celebration lunch on 20 April 2018 at the Chelsea Harbour Hotel in London.

Other sponsors of the awards include NHS Employers, the National Institute for Health Research, Health Education England, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, Department of Health Northern Ireland, Macmillan Cancer Support, Health Services Laboratories, Chamberlain Dunn Learning, Chroma, Faculty of Public Health, Public Health England, the Institute of Biomedical Science and The Guardian.

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