

5 August 2010

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to inform you of the outcome of the 2010 Round.

ACCEA is today publishing the list of new awardees in the 2010 Round. We are delighted to recognise consultants whose contributions to the NHS have been exceptional and above and beyond contractual expectations. There are fewer awards this year than in the past few years. This is a result of reduced affordability in the light of the fact that fewer consultants have left the Scheme (through retirement or for other reasons) than anticipated, reducing the funds for reinvestment, as well as wider financial constraints. This year 317 awards have been made as against 601 in 2009.

In the 2010 round ACCEA received 1065 applications for bronze, 820 applications for silver, 183 applications for gold and 138 applications for platinum awards. After due consideration by the national nominating bodies, regional sub-committees and the national ACCEA main committee and operating within the available financial envelope 189 Bronze awards, 84 silver awards, 23 gold awards and 21 platinum awards were made. The selection process has been even more rigorous than usual and is summarised, with statistics relating to the Bronze level as an example, below.

Applications were initially considered, scored, and shortlisted by the regional sub-committees of ACCEA and in parallel by the national nominating bodies. In 2010, Bronze awards have been made to 19% of the applicants. Fifty four per cent of the applications were shortlisted, either by our regional sub-committees or by a relevant national nominating body. Those shortlisted applications were reviewed by the Chair and Medical Director and after consultation with the regional sub-committees about 255 of them were screened out. This left 29% of the 1065 applications for bronze awards under consideration after this screening process. With the assistance of further advice on specific issues and re-examination of the application forms, the Chair and Medical director identified some applications that appeared weaker than others. They selected out a further 5% of applications at this stage. This left 24% of the original applications that had met the quality threshold for awards. Up to this point the process was exactly as it has been in recent years.

However, as the level of affordable awards was lower than this number and the Scheme is competitive, a final selection process was agreed by the main Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards, based on the rankings given by sub-committees and national nominating bodies, with the highest ranked applicants being recommended to the Minister. ACCEA believes that this rigorous process has identified the most deserving candidates from the field of applicants in a highly competitive year.

Thank you for all your hard work on the Scheme and we hope you have a well deserved summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Montgomery', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Jonathan Montgomery
ACCEA Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr David Lindell', written in a cursive style.

Dr David Lindell
ACCEA Medical Director