

RCOT celebration of Excellence in Occupational Therapy Awards

17 October 2023 at the Shangri La Hotel, The Shard London

A reflection of the event by Ruth Crowley, previous Chair, London Regional Committee

I was delighted as Chair of the London Region to attend this annual event. Although the surroundings were impressive it was the sight of our RCOT team mostly dressed in green welcoming all attendees and the joyous buzz of passionate conversation that resounded and impressed me.

I proudly attended wearing the new logo RCOT membership badge to support all, but specifically our London winners.

Merit Award Winners:

- Musharrat J. Ahmed-Landeryou Associate Professor in Occupational Therapy London South Bank University & Co Founder of BAMEOTUK
- Emma Linley: Clinical Specialist Occupational Specialist in Spinal Cord Injury and Team Lead Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital

Research Priority Grant Winner:

- Dr Anita Atwal; Associate Professor London South Bank University Lead for diversity and inclusion and interprofessional learning.

Our Chair of Council Odeth Richardson opened the event and Steve Ford RCOT Chief Executive introduced nominees and engaged them as they collected their awards.

A delightful message of perseverance was voiced by Fellowship Award Winner Dr Maria Avantaggiato-Quinn who recounted her beginnings into our special profession starting as a support worker and reflecting on her journey through support and hard work reaching a pinnacle through achieving her Doctorate and being bestowed today with the highest-level award of a 'Fellowship'.

Hearing the Early Researcher Prize winner Samantha Bowden's story was inspiring and reminded us how supportive colleagues, mentors and supervisors can be and how it may influence one's career even in its early stages.

After the ceremony there was abundant networking which led to connections with fellow regional chairs, re engaging with previous contacts and potential CPD speakers being sourced for our London Regional CPD programme. Great discussions and conversations with practitioners in a wide area of practice ensued with ideas and different perspectives being shared with our RCOT central colleagues.

A memorable day which was invigorating feel good and reminding us why we do what we do to support those we connect with whatever area of practice we are in. Anticipating next year's awards and a future CPD session born of today's contacts to improve our own practice.



Photographed left to right is Amanda White, Chair, RCOT Eastern region Committee, Lorinda Sharkey, Engagement Officer (Volunteers) and Ruth Crowley, previous Chair of the RCOT London region.

Pictured left to right is Ruth Crowley, previous Chair of the RCOT London region and Professor Mish Ahmed Landeryou, LSBU Head of Division who won a Merit Award at the awards ceremony.

