

EXCELLENCE IN PHARMACY

UniChem Pharmacy Awards 2008

UniChem hosted its annual pharmacy awards in November with the evening witnessing cricket-related anecdotes, encouragement to strive for improvement and excellence being awarded...



L-R David Gower, hosting the Awards; Jennie Bond and Mike Smith, chairman UniChem



P&G receives Health & Beauty Supplier of the Year Award L-R David Gower; Joanne Dee, P&G's UK pharmacy manager; Mark Stephenson, UniChem

The annual UniChem Pharmacy Awards 2008 held last month in London were attended by over 450 guests. Hosted by David Gower, former England cricketer and currently working as a cricket commentator, the evening witnessed 14 awards handed out to deserving individual and team performances.

Commenting on the Awards, Mike Smith, chairman UniChem, said: 'Tonight is a celebration of all that is good about pharmacy and a clear demonstration of the commitment that all of us at UniChem have to excellence in community pharmacy. I said at the convention in Oman that we have tremendous opportunity in community pharmacy, but we need to go to four back-sides to take this opportunity. Tonight you will see outstanding examples of pharmacists who have done just that.'

Jeremy Main, UniChem's managing director, in his speech, emphasised the challenges faced by pharmacists and across the supply chain need to be tackled as a united force. 'We have emphasised the importance of partnership at this year's awards and I truly believe that if we are going to take the challenges presented to us head on, we need to really embrace this partnership approach across the industry.'

'It doesn't matter whether you are an independent pharmacy with a single shop or global manufacturer, at the end of the day we all have a common goal and that is providing the best level of service and care to our patients.'

Prestwich Pharmacy, Prestwich, ran away as the big winners of the night as they scooped the Community Pharmacy of the Year and Pharmacy Retailer of the Year awards by 'demonstrating how an independent pharmacy can really raise the bar within its community'.

The Awards consisted of frequent breaks for food and drinks, allowing Gower to entertain the attendees with cricket-related anecdotes and with a live band and post-Awards entertainment, it was not just the winners that went home happy.



Prestwich Pharmacy awarded the Pharmacy Retailer of the Year L-R David Gower; Fin McCaul and his pharmacy team; Duncan Murray, CEO Murrays Healthcare; Sara Vincent, managing director Actavis, and Mike Smith



PS Chemist receiving Community Healthcare Award L-R David Gower; Mandeep Mudhar, director of commercial services UniChem; Shaheen Bhatia from PS Chemist; Indu Patel, senior dispenser; and Mike Smith



L-R Pegah Esmaili, head of client partnerships UniChem; David Coles and Laura Hayden, contracts operations manager Pfizer



Manuela Alexander; Helen Beechey; Jeremy Main, managing director; Catherine Brown; and Meera Sharma (all from UniChem)



Guests enjoying the live band on the dance floor



Post-Awards entertainment kept many back after the ceremony