



Media Release

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LEADING ULSTER DIETITIAN WINS AWARD FOR HER DEDICATION TO PATIENT CARE

Ulster-based dietitian Jennifer Holmes was awarded the prestigious Ibex Award at The British Dietetic Association Awards Ceremony on 21st June in London, at the Association's annual conference. This award was presented in recognition of the significant contribution to the dietetic profession which Jennifer has made in Ulster since 1980.

Jennifer started her career at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and was instrumental in turning around the dietetic service in the 1990s in her role as Nutrition and Dietetic Services manager at the hospital, a position which she held for ten years until 2005. Prior to this, Jennifer also held a variety of honorary positions within the professional Association as public relations officer and later chairman of the Ulster branch of the BDA. She then became involved in the BDA's Council as the Ulster representative and was involved in the professional development committee. She also had a lengthy involvement at the Department of Health and Social Services, as a member and subsequently chair of the Advisory Committee of Professions Allied to Medicine; her level of influence has been considerable.

She has made a significant contribution to the area of diabetes, also as a member of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes and, more recently, has worked to develop guidelines for the management of enteral tube feeding in adults, a hugely significant piece of work, which has been highly influential for dietetic practice. Between 2004 and 2005, Jennifer was also involved in developing care standards for patients receiving treatment and care in the independent sector. Jennifer has also played a key role in the education of dietitians in Northern Ireland, as a lecturer at the University of Ulster, and she has mentored and motivated countless dietitians.

She is currently general manager for the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Royal Hospitals in Belfast, overseeing senior executive business, with a pivotal role in integrated governance.

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Jennifer expressed her delight at being nominated for the award and commented: "I feel honoured that colleagues have recognised the contributions that I have made to the profession of dietetics and have nominated me for this award."

Speaking about her current role, she continued: "For me, although my role has become more corporate, I continue to retain a clear focus on clinical governance and remain fully committed to the provision of safe and effective patient care, provided by multi-professional teams where the patient is at the centre. What has not changed is my continued interest and passion for the provision of high quality care for patients."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

1. The British Dietetic Association Awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday 21 June 2006 at The International Hotel, Docklands, London.
2. Further information on the conference and the awards ceremony is available from:

Dr Frankie Phillips National PR Officer, The British Dietetic Association. Tel: 01626 362473, Mobile: 07908 712277, Email: pr@bda.uk.com

3. The British Dietetic Association, founded in 1936, is the professional association for registered dietitians in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the nation's largest organisation of food and nutrition professionals with over 5,000 members. About two-thirds of members are employed in the National Health Service. The remaining members work in education, industry, research, sport settings or freelance.

Registered dietitians hold the only legally-recognisable graduate qualification in nutrition and dietetics. They are experts in interpreting and translating the science of nutrition into practical ways of promoting nutritional well-being, disease treatment and the prevention of nutrition-related problems. Their advice is sound and based on current scientific evidence.

Registration, awarded by the Health Professionals Council, is an indication that a dietitian is fit to practise and is working within an agreed statement of conduct.

For further details about The British Dietetic Association, please visit our website: www.bda.uk.com

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www.bdaweightwise.com

www.teenweightwise.com