Cambridge research nurses are finalists for the ‘nursing Oscars’

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The BioResource is comprised of volunteers from around the UK who are willing to be approached to participate in research studies and trials on the basis of their genetic make-up.

Located on the Cambridge University Hospital (CUH) campus, the BioResource has thousands of volunteers sign up to participate in research studies investigating the links between genes, the environment, health and disease. Participants are selected to the study on the basis of information and samples they have supplied.

The BioResource team includes seven research nurses, led by the lead research nurse Kelly Beer. The nursing team’s role includes coordination of research studies, collection of blood samples and clinical data, and recruitment of volunteers. The nursing team work in close collaboration with research and support staff within the BioResource to ensure that research targets are achieved.

The Nursing Times Awards are dubbed the ‘Oscars’ of the nursing world, and profile good practice and outstanding nursing achievement. The team put themselves forward for the Clinical Research Nursing category to share the model of research nursing they have developed and to raise the profile of research nurses. Lead research nurse Kelly Beer said: “We would like to use the Nursing Times Award nomination as a platform to promote the important role of research nurses, in ensuring the delivery of a high standard of research alongside positive volunteer engagement.”

For their entry to the Nursing Times Awards, the nursing team focused on their ‘volunteer-centric’ approach. Kelly said: “In particular, the nursing team are proud of the efforts that we make to act as volunteer advocates. Entering this award we wanted to focus on our nursing activity, engaging with hard-to-reach groups, such as working parents, as well as highlighting how we make it easy for people to participate in research. Volunteers have given their time
to take part so we want to make it as accessible and enjoyable as possible. Our team feel that if we didn’t use a volunteer-centered approach we wouldn’t have so many valuable volunteers on our panel.”

Professor John Bradley, director of Research & Development said: “The scientific impact of the NIHR Cambridge BioResource has been acknowledged internationally; for Kelly and the nursing team who have made it all possible to be recognised in this way is absolutely fantastic.”

In September the team will present their entry to a judging panel and the winner will be announced at the Nursing Times Awards dinner in London on 12 November. The BioResource team will be competing with nine other organisations, including the James Paget University Hospitals Foundation Trust, the Evelina London Children Hospital at Guy’s & St Thomas and Doncaster Royal Infirmary for the prestigious award. Kelly added: “We are delighted to have been shortlisted for the award. It’s a wonderful recognition of the hard work of the NIHR Cambridge BioResource team in establishing such a successful research resource.”

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