

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **UTAS Rural Clinical School graduates in clean sweep of awards for young doctors**

With scores too close to separate, the Tasmanian Health Organisation - NW Intern of the Year Award, announced today at the UTAS Rural Clinical School, has been shared between two UTAS Rural Clinical School graduates.

Dr Carmen Oakley of Latrobe and Dr Harry Laughlin, of Burnie, are joint recipients of the prestigious Paul Huang Intern of the Year Award.

The winners were chosen after a hospital-wide poll of medical, nursing and allied health staff and management who gave feedback on their day-to-day performance on the job combined with their term report results.

Dr Oakley, who is aiming to be an ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) will undertake her surgical year this year at the Launceston General Hospital while Dr Laughlin remains in Burnie at the North West Regional Hospital in ICU anaesthetics and emergency.

Also announced today was the R. E. Buttfield Resident Medical Officer Award, which was also divided to recognise top-performing young doctors from both the NWRH and the Mersey Community Hospital.

Recipients were RCS graduates Dr Alex Frain, who completed her internship at the NWRH and is specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Launceston General Hospital this year, and Dr Rosol Alajanabi, an immigrant from Iraq who has been working at the MCH but has accepted a position this year at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide in emergency care.

The Emergency Department of the NWRH also formally recognised its own Junior Doctor of the Year yesterday by awarding intern Dr Rohan Church who is also a graduate of the RCS.

UTAS graduates from the Rural Clinical School made up nine of the 12 interns employed by the Tasmanian Health Organisation - North West last year.

THO-NW Director of Emergency Services Dr Marielle Ruigrok, who made the presentations, said that the awards are about recognition of excellence and recognising the young doctors who give even more than is expected.

“These doctors can do whatever they want - this is not just about academic excellence, it’s about the whole package, how they communicate with a team and how they work with others. I’m sure whatever they do they will be successful at it.”

The awards are presented in honour of Dr Paul Huang, who was a radiologist at NWRH for many years until his retirement in the early 1990s, and Dr Richard Buttfield, who was a former Director of Medical Services at NWRH and then CEO of the North West Health Region in the early 1990s.

**Information released by:**

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