

Cosyfeet Podiatry Award for Podiatry Student



Abdulkadir Abdul, who has just completed his final year at Southampton University, was awarded the Cosyfeet Podiatry Award 2010.

The £1000 grant funded Abdul's travel and living expenses during his voluntary work in summer 2010, with Central London Community Healthcare, based in Westminster. He worked as a volunteer student podiatrist, treating vulnerable and homeless patients as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

Abdul worked under the guidance of Alison Gardiner, a Specialist Podiatrist with Central London Community Healthcare.

"We provide high quality equitable care to patients, carers and service users throughout Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster, Abdul will be working with our Homeless Health Services team in Westminster and I am looking forward to having him work with us this August," said Alison.

"I think receiving this award is a credit to Abdul and reflects the increased awareness and importance of tackling health inequalities in the UK."

Homelessness in the UK continues to be a major issue with 4692 rough sleepers counted in the capital last year ('Street to Home Annual Report - 2008/2009' Broadway). Abdul worked with patients suffering from a wide range of conditions including Diabetes, TB, HIV, trench foot and malnutrition. In addition he expects many of his patients to have mental health and social issues, such as drug and alcohol dependency, which necessitated specialist care and attention from the multidisciplinary healthcare team of which he was part.

Speaking prior to his placement Abdul said "I hope this experience will make me a more rounded and broader thinking practitioner". "I also hope to raise awareness about homelessness. This highly vulnerable and difficult to reach group of people is on our own doorstep but is all too often forgotten."

Abdul is completing his final report which will soon be published on the website and in professional journals.