



## **Press Release**

**3 October 2022**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Taunton Medic wins Doctor of the Year Award**

A Taunton Doctor is celebrating after winning SAS Doctor of the Year at a national awards ceremony earlier this month.

Organised by Cygnet Health Care, one of the UK's largest independent providers of specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities, the Cygnet Annual Psychiatrists Conference and National Awards 2022 recognise excellence in the healthcare industry. The SAS Doctor of the Year award recognises specialist doctors who demonstrate exceptional clinical skills, service development, teaching, research and leadership.

Winner of the award, Dr Maya Kalaya works at Cygnet Hospital Taunton, Orchard Portman, which provides specialist inpatient services for older adults with mental health problems and for men diagnosed with a learning disability. She was singled out at the awards ceremony for her exemplary clinical skills.

Presenting the award, Dr Dale Lawrence, Responsible Officer at Cygnet Health Care, said: "What is most notable is her amazing skill with regards to admission clerking. The standard is felt to be one of the highest standards within Cygnet Health Care. Dr Kalaya is dedicated to the entire organisation and recently volunteered to work at another site to support that service, and in doing so had to carry an exceptionally large workload.

"She has been very effective in terms of training and education. She recently developed a local training programme aimed at upskilling others and building their confidence. It was so effective that it is now being rolled out throughout the South West Cygnet services.

"Dr Kalaya also led the first Quality Improvement programme at Taunton and ensures not only the appropriate management of medication but that patient choice is preserved."

On receiving the award, Dr Kalaya said: "I'm so pleased to have won the award and to hear the positive feedback from the staff at Cygnet Taunton. It's a really caring place where I've been able to learn and develop skills over the last few years. I am surrounded by some of the most wonderful and compassionate people in Somerset. I am really grateful for the support I have had from my Consultants, my fellow doctors and the managers. Without them I would not be able to thrive in the way I have as a psychiatrist."

Dr Tony Romero, CEO of Cygnet Health Care, said: "These awards recognise the achievements and the difference that motivated, compassionate and value-driven doctors and their teams make for our services users and our residents every single day.

“We have seen so many wonderful examples of our doctors and other clinicians, going above and beyond over the last year and stepping up to work beyond their role and sacrifice their time and dedication for the benefit of the individuals in their care.

“It makes me proud to be the CEO of these exceptional individuals who are a living embodiment of our values at Cygnet. This accolade is testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of Dr Kalaya. At Cygnet Health Care, we strive to provide the highest quality and standard of care and always put our service users at the heart of what we do. This is demonstrated impeccably by Dr Kalaya.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on [gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk](mailto:gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk) or 07718 244811.

**About Cygnet Health Care**

Cygnet Health Care has been providing a national network of high-quality, specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities for the past 30 years.

Cygnet Health Care’s pioneering services support people with complex and acute mental health needs across the UK.

As one of the best quality providers in mental health services in the country, Cygnet Health Care’s focus is always on the best outcomes for those who use or commission its services. 85% of Cygnet’s facilities are rated as good or outstanding, which is above the national average.

[www.cygnethealth.co.uk](http://www.cygnethealth.co.uk)