



Eye surgeon is recognised for “miracle” work



SPECIALIST: Corneo plastic unit director Sheraz Daya was awarded for his work at the Queen Victoria Hospital

by **Shella Gow**

PIONEERING eye surgeon **Sheraz Daya** has been described as “a genius and miracle worker” by a patient at East Grinstead’s “magical” Queen Victoria Hospital.

Mr Daya, consultant corneo plastic and ophthalmic surgeon, received one of two honours for the hospital at the NHS south east coast “best of health and social care” awards, at the Brighton Centre last week.

The second award went to the team responsible for the QVH telemedicine system led by head of informatics, Ted Balk. The awards were presented by television personality Claudia Winkleman.

Mr Daya’s “leadership for improvement” award, recognised his work in turning the QVH corneo plastic unit and eye bank into an internationally renowned unit, providing some of the most modern eye care in the world. He was said to have developed new techniques in corneal transplant and his pioneering work in stem cell transplantation had resulted in a breakthrough in 2005.

Patient Sara Wiseman, who nominated the eye specialist, said “**Mr Daya** is a genius and miracle worker. He is forever fighting for people who others see as beyond help. He transforms lives in an unimaginable way and literally given sight to the blind. I have comfort I never dreamt possible for the first time in 30 years.”

After receiving the award, **Mr Daya** said: “The hospital in East Grinstead is a magical place and this award is all about the staff there, their incredible willingness to achieve. Everyone’s focus is to do whatever it takes to provide the highest possible quality of care to our patients.”

The telemedicine system allows the expertise of QVH consultants to be shared by other hospitals across the south east.

It has solved the problem of trying to describe burns and other injuries over the telephone. Referring hospitals can now send instant images and clinical information to the experts at East Grinstead and is also used internally by surgeons to review cases elsewhere in the hospital.

Burns consultant Baljit Dheansa praised the system as “invaluable”.

Mr Balk accepted the ward for innovative information communications and technology.

Sharon Colclough, QVH chief executive, said she was “really proud” of all the people at the hospital.

“In particular it’s great that the telemedicine system has been recognised as it helps so many patients over such a wide area,” she said.

The two winners will now join others in the national finals.