



44-year-old St George's nurse in the running for national lifetime achievement award

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When Ediscyll Lorusso arrived in the UK from the Philippines aged just 21 the newly registered UKCC (now called NMC) nurse made every effort to adapt to her new environment, dealing with regular bouts of homesickness and finding it challenging to adjust to the temperate British climate and way of life.

From a shaky start to life in the UK at the turn of the millennium, it is all the more remarkable that Ediscyll has been named as a finalist for Our Health Heroes lifetime contribution to healthcare award aged just 44.

Since joining St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as a staff nurse in 2000, Ediscyll has become a passionate advocate for thrombosis prevention, organising regular campaigns, study days, teachings sessions and other initiatives for staff and the community.

Her hard work and dedication led to the Trust being awarded and acknowledged as one of the Exemplar Sites for Venous ThromboEmbolic (VTE) prevention in the Houses of Parliament. Ediscyll was subsequently invited to participate in the All Party Parliamentary Thrombosis Group (APPTG) and has attended meetings with MPs and NHS bosses in the House of Commons every year since 2010.

In 2012, she helped launch a UK first at St George's - the Joint Thrombosis Nurse and Midwife clinic. Her innovative ideas quickly caught the attention of the Department of Health and health authorities around the world, having presented her work to thousands of healthcare professionals and policymakers at conferences in USA, Canada, Australia and Singapore.

Aside from being a full-time nurse and a mum to two young children, Ediscyll volunteers for various Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) networks related to healthcare, including Freedom To Speak Up and Philippine Nurses Association-UK, which provides pastoral welcome packages for newly arrived nurses from Philippines. Ediscyll is also active in the wider community, visiting schools to inspire and educate young children to enter the nursing profession.

Robert Bleasdale, Chief Nurse at St George's University Hospitals Trust, said: "Among the many thousands of nurses nationwide with incredible achievements, Ediscyll's achievements really do stand out.

"Ediscyll has been central to St George's reputation for innovation and excellence in thrombosis care and prevention for many years now and has touched countless lives through her pioneering work.

"In addition to her impressive track record of clinical achievements, Ediscyll is an ambassador for her profession and passionate advocate for Filipino communities across the UK. She truly is an inspiration and we are very proud of her."

Ediscyll Lorusso, Senior Thrombosis Nurse Specialist Practitioner and Our Health Heroes National Lifetime Contribution award nominee said:

"I love working as a nurse and knowing that I make a positive difference in my patients' lives gives me great job satisfaction and a huge sense of achievement.

"As an overseas nurse at the age of 44, to be in the running for the national lifetime achievement award for the Our Health Heroes award is such a huge honour. I would

like to extend my indebtedness appreciation to my past and present colleagues who took the time to make this nomination. I am deeply humbled to represent all the extraordinary, hardworking and selfless nurses all over the world who work intensely every day and especially during the pandemic. This is a collective success for all of us.”

The [Skills for Health](#) Our Health Heroes lifetime contribution award is sponsored by NHS Employers and the winner will be announced at a special ceremony at London Science Museum on 24th March. Show your support for St George’s Senior Thrombosis Clinical Nurse Specialist Ediscyll Lorusso by casting your vote before 4th February here: <https://bit.ly/3mVkISP>

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