

The conjunction: Ambassadors and Champions

**Nitin Shrotri (Consultant Urologist (retd) East Kent, NHS AI Champion for Responsible AI) and
Dr Alison Tweed (Head of AI Partnerships, AI Team)**

The 1st of April 2026 will mark a significant day in the world of AI in the National Health Service. Two groups will come together bringing into action the fact that “we are always better together.” Over the last 12 months, and slightly more, colleagues at Responsible AI, UK (RAI UK) and the NHS AI Ambassador Network have been collaborating. It began as an informal conversation between interested individuals, whose only interest was AI, and how it was burgeoning and mushrooming so rapidly, that bringing every colleague together would be the best thing since sliced bread, to use an old cliché!

As we all know, there are multiple AI tools in use. Health and social care staff are caught up in this traffic, which resembles the M25 on a Monday morning. Everyone wants to get to work fast, without being delayed, or caught up in accidents or anything unpleasant. Road rage may be at its highest. So too with AI. In this new age, evolving super-rapidly, we are all trying to get ahead, or better perhaps, not left behind. New tools are coming up every day, replacing older ones, and perhaps in the future, replacing some of us. This race, the interest, the excitement, and the fear it's causing, are driving some of us towards near-insanity.

The idea of AI Champions was mooted nearly 3 years ago in the Health and Social Care network for RAI UK. The aim was to appoint a single Champion in each Acute NHS Trust and large GP Practice around the United Kingdom to form a network of individuals working with, or keen on AI. What has resulted is a group of individuals who were personally brought together by Prokar Dasgupta, Professor of Surgery at Kings, (one amongst many of his other accolades, which include the Padma Shri and the OBE). They're all individuals, often international, who work with artificial intelligence and have a high level of skill, knowledge, expertise and devotion. They breathe AI day in and day out and work at its cutting edge. Currently there are over 120 NHS AI RAIUK Champions.

The NHS AI Ambassador Network membership consists mainly of NHS and social care colleagues, who work across the country and use AI in their day-to-day work. This project was initiated under the leadership of Dom Cushnan, Deputy Director of AI, NHSE/DHSC over a year ago. Working together with the team at NHS Horizons, they requested Ian Baines to facilitate this group. Dom, Ian and Alison, along with support from other colleagues, have taken

the NHS AI Ambassador Network from a starting point of zero to over 14000 members in a matter of months. It has been a near stampede, and the interest demonstrated has been nothing short of phenomenal. Every calendar month has an AI meeting attended by over two thousand individuals online.

Over the last few months the two founders of both groups have been collaborating on the idea of coming together, better and stronger. This has resulted in the first joint meeting between the Champions and the AI Ambassadors set for Wednesday 1st April. A small but significant group of highly talented individuals at RAI UK, and a very large group of Ambassadors, a force to reckon with, will come together to learn and share. From our collaboration we also aim for the Champions and Ambassadors to connect outside of the network meetings to strengthen the two communities.

This is a dream which will grow, and the idea is that we all work together better in the advancement of ideas, networking, peer support, governance, ethical use and further guidance in the safe use, dissemination and adoption of AI in the NHS.

The AI Ambassador Network is open to anyone with an interest in AI in health and social care. Please click to join here [Membership - Artificial Intelligence Ambassador Network](#)

AI Ambassador Network & Responsible AI (RAi) NHS_Champions co-hosted meeting: Building an AI pathology trial to solve pathway bottlenecks, Responsible AI in dermatology & more... 1 April 2026, 10.30 – midday

Dom Cushnan (Director of AI, NHSE / DHSC) and Nitin Shrotri (RAi) will introduce the collaboration between the NHS AI Team and Responsible AI NHS Champions, and how AI Champions experts can support organisations on their AI journey.

Dr Rubeta N Matin (Consultant Dermatologist, Oxford University Hospitals) will explain how the British Association of Dermatologists is promoting clinical leadership, regulation and patient trust to deliver safe, fair AI to improve access to specialist care.

Shazad Ashraf (Colorectal Surgeon, NHS UHB) will outline the COBIX AI trial and the journey from AI concept to NHS adoption in colorectal pathology as an exemplar.

Both new and existing members are very welcome.



Nitin Shrotri

Alison Tweed

Dom Cushnan

Last modified by  [Lewis Edwards](#) 2 weeks ago