

PEOPLE

RVC lecturer 'a woman of outstanding achievement'

SARAH Baillie, senior lecturer in veterinary education at the Royal Veterinary College, has been named as one of this year's 'women of outstanding achievement' by the UK Resource Centre (UKRC) for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET).

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Women of Outstanding Achievement exhibition, which showcases some of the UK's most inspiring women currently working in SET sectors. The exhibition acts as a showcase to inspire other women to progress a career within these sectors. As part of this year's exhibition, a portrait of Dr Baillie (right) was unveiled on March 18 at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London.

Dr Baillie was one of six women honoured this year. She was recognised in the 'discovery and innovation' category for her invention of the 'haptic cow', described by the UKRC as 'one of the most significant devices in veterinary education in the last 50 years'. The citation described her as 'forward-thinking, innovative and a true inspiration to colleagues, peers and students alike'.



Dr Baillie retrained in computer sciences following a 20-year career in practice. The haptic cow was first showcased in 2005

at the Science Museum and is now used in four of the UK's veterinary schools to teach students how to conduct internal examinations on cows. She is now working on additional haptic products, including a haptic horse and a variety of haptic computer games to be used for outreach in schools.

Dr Baillie said: 'It's a great honour to be named as a Woman of Outstanding Achievement and schemes such as this that recognise the achievements of women are a great thing. I've found that a passion for your chosen subject area is a great help and motivator. And, of course, it also comes down to hard work and striving to do your best. Whatever you end up doing, working with a good team and being effective within that team is both personally and professionally rewarding.'

The UKRC is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. It was launched in 2004 and is the Government's lead organisation for the provision of advice, services and policy consultation regarding the under-representation of women in SET.

doi: 10.1136/vr.c1620