

HAMPSHIRE: Pauline puts her surgeon and nurse forward for heroes award

If it weren't for them, I would be dead now

By **Melanie Adams**

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IT WAS a devastating blow that caused her to fear she wouldn't be around to spend the new year with her family.

But thanks to what she says was the "fantastic" treatment from a Southampton surgeon and his clinical nurse, Pauline Stone is looking forward to another year with her loved ones.

So to say 'thank you' for making that possible, the 71-year-old great-grandmother has nominated consultant surgeon Mohammed Abu



Hilal and clinical nurse Joanna Dowle for the *Daily Echo's* Hospital Heroes Award.

Back in April Pauline's world was turned upside down when she was told she had cancer and only a major seven-hour operation would give her a chance of survival.

Within two weeks she was admitted to Southampton General Hos-



SO DEDICATED: Pauline Stone, right, has nominated her surgeon Mohammed Abu Hilal, left, and nurse Joanna Dowle from Southampton General Hospital for the Hospital Heroes Award.

pital to have the Whipple procedure, to remove her pancreas, part of her stomach and part of her intestine.

Pauline, from Hedge End said: "It was pretty devastating and very scary because we knew that many don't survive pancreatic cancer.

"But I was extremely lucky to get Mr Hilal as my surgeon and Jo as my nurse.

"If it wasn't for these two, I would be dead by now. They have allowed me to spend another year with my family and it is going to be fantastic.

"They are so dedicated to all of their patients and it was lovely to

look up from my bed and see Mr Hilal coming round, always with a smile on his face. He always made me feel as if I was the most important person in the world.

"Jo simply pulled out all the stops for me and she even gave me her mobile number so that I could call her if I had any worries at all.

"Not only have they got fantastic medical skills but their bedside manner is second to none, and that makes a huge difference

"No one deserves this more than these two."

Mr Hilal said he and Joanna were very happy to be nominated and to

hear Pauline had a good experience with her treatment.

He added: "Mrs Stone is a lovely lady who had a serious disease for which she had major pancreatic resection and coped well and recovered nicely from it.

"My team and I always do our best to offer the best treatment to our patients and it is rewarding when we have a good feedback.

"This nomination is important to raise awareness on pancreatic, duodenal cancer, which is not very common but very serious and more should be done to raise awareness for more research."

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