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Here is the Health Innovation Manchester newsletter, bringing you the most recent and trending news from across Greater Manchester's academic health science system (AHSS) and the region's burgeoning life sciences sector.

For more information on Health Innovation Manchester visit www.healthinnovationmanchester.com and don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

News & Updates



Director of major research centre to head up Manchester faculty

Professor Graham Lord, a leading clinical academic and Director of one of the country's major biomedical research centres is to join The University of Manchester as Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

He will also take up the role of Executive Director of the Academic Health Science Centre as part of [Health Innovation Manchester](#), and will represent the University on the board of [the Northern Health Science Alliance](#).

Professor Lord is currently Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. He is also a clinician at Guy's and St Thomas'.

Professor Lord said: "With its devolved healthcare system, Manchester is a unique environment to conduct research and work in partnership to deliver real improvements to people's health. The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health is a huge contributor to that process – educating and training thousands of students each year and delivering world-class research. It is a great challenge with an outstanding faculty which I am very much looking forward to leading."

[Read more](#)



New world-leading precision medicine campus set to open in Manchester

Proposals have been announced to create a world-leading precision medicine campus in the Corridor Manchester Enterprise Zone, located on the UK's largest clinical academic campus – Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Greater Manchester's ground-breaking partnership between academia, industry and the NHS – Health Innovation Manchester – has been working with global diagnostics firm QIAGEN on a joint project which will create and support up to 1,500 jobs – adding almost £150m to Manchester's economy over a decade. The collaboration will also bring fast-tracked real health benefits to Manchester and Greater Manchester residents, and ultimately people nationally and internationally, through access to new tests and targeted treatments developed through pioneering research.

The benefits for Manchester and its people from this one-off investment will be twofold – delivering health benefits for residents by enabling strides to be taken in the prediction and prevention of disease through new diagnostic tests which enable earlier detection of disease and development of personalised treatments, and by supporting and creating jobs in the city's economy. This investment will directly create around 250 jobs and safeguard an extra 215 while supporting more than 1,000 more indirectly across Corridor Manchester – adding an anticipated £140m to Manchester's economy over a decade.

[Read more](#)

HInM strengthens engagement with pharma industry

As part of Greater Manchester's partnership agreement with the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, Health Innovation Manchester has been working closely with representatives from the UK's pharmaceutical companies to develop opportunities for collaboration.

An engagement workshop was held in June between HInM and all leading pharmaceutical companies to develop a shared understanding of what the opportunities and barriers are to driving innovation forward together within Greater Manchester.

Some of the opportunities identified included maximising opportunities brought from digital innovation and being able to conduct real world trials here in GM. Some of the barriers included needing to dispel the myths preventing the NHS from working more closely with the pharma industry, as well as how to navigate the complex health and social care system to deliver innovation at pace and scale.

Health Innovation Manchester already has four pharma innovation projects in development covering COPD, mental health, hepatitis C and virtual biologics. A further six innovation programmes will be mobilised over the coming year, that meet the needs of the GM population.

This latest engagement work further supports the ambition for Greater Manchester to be one of the safest places in the world to receive medication and will form a longer term workplan with the pharma industry.

If you are interested in learning more please contact: info@healthinnovationmanchester.com

Manchester business awarded funding to develop novel mental health solution

SBRI Healthcare, the NHS England funded initiative championed by the AHSN Network, has announced the programme's latest round of funding is supporting companies to develop novel solutions to tackle the challenges of mental illness.

Mental health problems account for a quarter of all ill health in the UK with mental illness being the single largest cause of disability. One in four of us will experience mental health problems each year at an estimated economic and social annual cost of £105 billion.

XenZone Limited, based in Manchester, was selected for their "Accelerating to wellness through a digital peer support programme". XenZone's aim is to engage young people in peer supporting roles, through digital training, moderation and supervision. Peer support is a successful method of accelerating a therapeutic process and therefore, the journey to wellness, as well as sustaining that wellness. Utilising XenZone's existing online portal, the company is creating innovative methods for enhancing the role of the young peer supporter through a multi-media training portal and online supervision chat room. Outcomes measures will range from economic evaluation focusing on reduction of specialist service use, to the positive impact on peer supporter and wider community including stigma reduction.

[Read more](#)

Firefighters add heart checks to Safe and Well visits with expansion of innovative project

Firefighters in Eastern Cheshire will soon be adding potentially life-saving heart checks to their

Safe and Well visits following the expansion of an innovative project.

Health Innovation Manchester has funded eight MyDiagnosticks, mobile electro-cardiograph (ECG) screening tools, which firefighters in Eastern Cheshire can use to carry out checks for atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rhythm that is hard to detect and is a common contributing factor for stroke.

Currently, people receiving a Safe and Well visit are given advice and referred into service for help and assistance for slips, trips and falls, bowel cancer screening awareness, stopping smoking and alcohol reduction, and affordable warmth.

The new devices will now enable firefighters to expand the heart checks to the Eastern Cheshire CCG area.

Further training will see crews being given information on the causes of atrial fibrillation and taught how to use the MyDiagnostick. A firefighter will carry out a simple ECG test to assess whether the householder has an irregular heartbeat. Anyone who tests positive is given a leaflet to explain they have been screened for atrial fibrillation by a trained firefighter, given basic information about what it means and advised to make an urgent GP appointment.

More than 5,000 people in Eastern Cheshire are thought to have atrial fibrillation with over 1,200 unaware they have irregular heart rhythms.

[Read more](#)

Life sciences industry research flourishing in Greater Manchester

More NHS research studies sponsored by the life sciences industry are being carried out in Greater Manchester than ever before – according to new figures from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

This is allowing even more patients across the region to gain earlier access to potentially cutting edge new treatments, while also helping to answer important health questions.

In Greater Manchester, the number of NIHR-supported life sciences industry research studies being conducted rose by 4.4 per cent in the 2017/18 financial year. That equated to 307 commercial research studies – the most to ever take place in the region.

More than 3,650 participants in Greater Manchester took part in those studies in 2017/18, which represented an increase of 34.5 per cent on the previous year.

The latest figures reflect a growing trend, as the amount of NIHR-supported commercial research taking place in Greater Manchester has risen significantly over the past decade. In 2008/09, 31 of such studies were carried out in the region, with 410 patients recruited. Since then, the number of studies has increased by 890 per cent and the number of participants by 792 per cent.

NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Greater Manchester collaborates successfully with a range of commercial partners from the life sciences industry. For example, earlier this year global pharmaceutical company Sanofi named NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Greater Manchester as its first UK Premier Site.

[Read more](#)



Opportunities and support

SBRI Healthcare competition

SBRI Healthcare is an NHS England initiative, led by the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), who aim to promote UK economic growth whilst addressing unmet health needs and enhancing the take up of known best practice

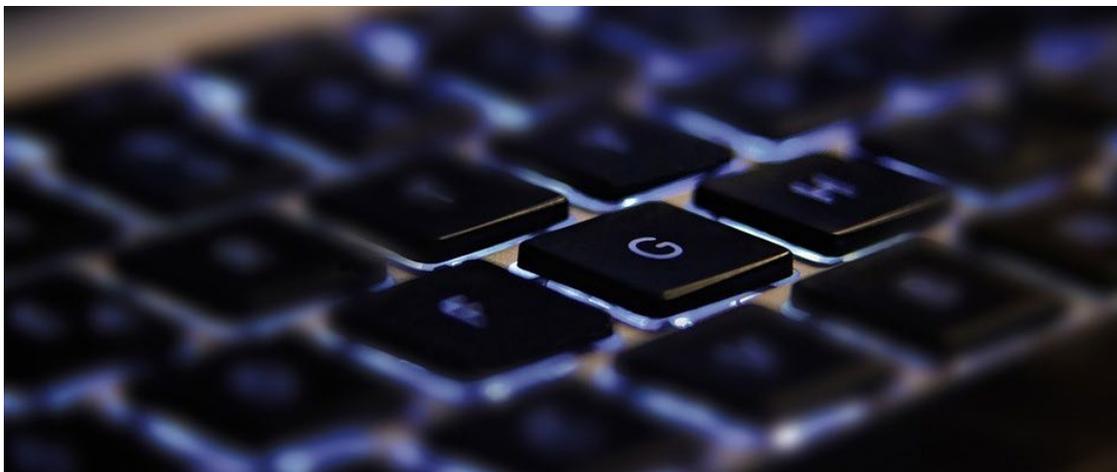
The latest competition will have the following areas of focus:

- Improving Outcomes in Musculoskeletal Disorders.
Including the following sub themes: Self-care & preventative interventions, Efficiencies in delivering care and Scaling up the use of regenerative medicine
- Dentistry, Oral Health & Oral Cancers
Including the following sub themes: Improving oral health for children & young people; Oral cancers – triage, diagnostics & patient outcomes

Further information is available on the [SBRI website](#), including briefing documents, FAQ's and access to the application portal. Deadline for applications is **22 August 2018** (12 noon).

[Read more](#)

Expert Blogs



Would you like to feature in our Expert Blogs?

Are you an innovator, clinician, researcher, industry expert or patient representative? Do you have any insight to offer on the Greater Manchester or Eastern Cheshire health and social care landscape? If so, we would love to hear from you and share your views!

Expert blog contributors are welcome to share their blog posts with the team here at Health Innovation Manchester, and we may even share your blog in this monthly bulletin!

Submission deadlines are the final working day of every month, and blog posts (with title and writer profile photo) should be sent to communications@healthinnovationmanchester.com

Events



A Showcase of Greater Manchester and East Cheshire's Research Assets and Academic Healthcare Partnerships

19th Sept 2018 | 1.00pm - 4.30pm | Alderley Park Conference Centre



A showcase of Greater Manchester and East Cheshire's Research Assets and Academic Healthcare Partnerships 19 September

Our event will explore Greater Manchester's footprint (including Cheshire East) research assets, academic expertise and capability building opportunities across our local universities, the Greater Manchester Research Hub, the opportunities available at the Medicines Discovery Catapult and the NHS infrastructure available to support Research and Innovation in the region.

Information will be available as to the support our unique academic health science and innovation system, Health Innovation Manchester can offer to businesses who are on a journey to develop products for the healthcare market.

This is also an opportunity for businesses across the region to meet senior staff from the NHS and Universities to discuss opportunities for collaboration as well learn more about some key research assets available across the GM and East Cheshire conurbations. Academic and NHS advisors from across Health Innovation Manchester will be on hand to advise on how to access support, and identify the right expertise to help you develop products with our academic and NHS partners more effectively.

[Read more](#)

BRC Themed Discussion and Networking Event: "Prevention better than cure?" 17 September

This workshop, which is being run by Manchester Biomedical Research Centre on Monday 17 September, will cover the development of disease prevention intervention strategies and the complexities of human behaviour and motivation when it comes to making lifestyle changes and how this influences intervention implementation.

It will take place at The Nowgen Centre, Grafton Street, and is designed for staff and students engaged in or supporting all P4 medicine research affiliated with the BRC, The University of Manchester and/or Health Innovation Manchester.

For more information and to book your free place click [here](#).

Courses



Masterclass: Medical Product Development, Quality & Regulatory Thursday 2 August

Regulatory and quality experts, David Small and David Kershaw will deliver a number of presentations on the EU medical device regulations, the process of obtaining a CE mark and the process of implementing the supporting quality systems.

Click [here](#) for more information and booking.

Webinar: Life QI Wednesday 15 August

Life QI is a web-based platform designed to assist front line staff running Quality and Safety improvement projects and connect with a community across the country to share best practice. **Webinars** are taking place for anyone working on any healthcare improvement programmes in Greater Manchester and would like to know more about LifeQI and the free licenses available.

Click [here](#) for more information and booking.



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