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Welcome to the July edition of the Health Innovation Manchester bulletin, bringing you news, events and insights from across Greater Manchester's academic health science system and life sciences sector.

#WeAreHInM

Health Innovation Manchester News



Driving digital innovation across Greater Manchester

In his latest blog, Health Innovation Manchester's Chief Executive, Professor Ben Bridgewater, has shared

Greater Manchester's plan to drive healthcare transformation through digital innovation.

It follows the city-region being successful in obtaining funding in the first wave of the Local Health and Care Record Exemplar (LHCRE) programme last year and the first round of Health Data Research UK (HDRUK) sprint exemplar innovation projects for a new digitally-enhanced heart failure service that will use data from existing implantable devices to transform care.

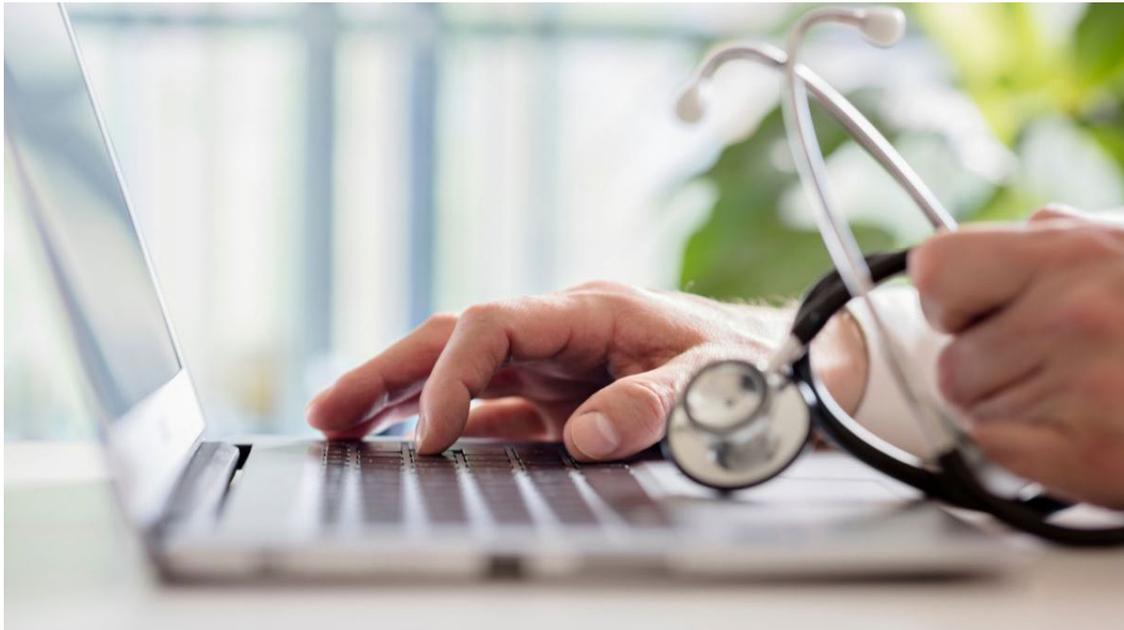
Ben said: "Our approach to digital innovation uses NHS data, and we are running trials and collecting evidence in the real world to measure the effectiveness, but what is more important to both the patients in GM and our industry partners is digital transformation of the patient pathway, which includes the collection and use of new data sources alongside existing data.

"This approach also generates new data on patients, which we can use to further enhance the care pathway, develop new approaches and test new therapies to deliver value. It is changing the way care is delivered and paid for – it is not just about the data and the technology.

"And in Greater Manchester we are in a unique position to deliver these digitally transformed patient pathways because of our health care devolution and the maturity of the city region governance and health and care commissioning structures. We also have exceptional academic assets in the city region through our 4 universities, and there has been a particularly focus locally on research into digital healthcare and data science, which are both key to transforming outcomes."

Click the image above to watch a video about Greater Manchester's plan or select the button below to read Ben's Blog in full.

[Read more](#)



Four healthcare companies awarded a share of £165,000 through Health Innovation Manchester Momentum Fund

Health Innovation Manchester has awarded £165,000 to further develop four healthcare innovations and address population health changes as part of the Momentum Fund.

The fund was established to support the introduction and adoption of needs-led, evidenced-based innovations into Greater Manchester's devolved healthcare system. Businesses applied for up to £50,000 to help accelerate their innovations.

Successful innovations include; an app to encourage effective tooth-brushing in children; a digital project that will manage the mental health of children in Greater Manchester; a device that can assess a patient's risk of severe disease in inflammatory bowel disease; and a digital personal care record app.

Richard Deed, Associate Director of Industry for Health Innovation Manchester, said: "This Momentum Fund call focused on the use of digital technologies in mental health and community care, and we were pleased to receive many high-quality applications. This made selecting the winners quite challenging but using a panel of relevant and commercially focused experts we were able to select a small number of diverse but successful applicants with whom we look forward to working with."

[Read more](#)



Self-testing service for heart patients extended after successful evaluation

A self-testing pathway for patients receiving treatment for long-term heart conditions in north Manchester has significantly increased the quality of their therapy.

At the start of the project, the average time spent in therapeutic range (TTR) for the participating patients was 68 per cent, rising to 75 per cent when it concluded.

Evaluation by Health Innovation Manchester found the pilot study reduced the chance of blood clotting and prevented at least five potential strokes among the group of 198 users. It also demonstrated the potential to save more than 3,000 community outpatient appointment slots.

The project, which was led by NHS Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) in partnership with the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Health Innovation Manchester and



New community pharmacy project helps patients keep safe after hospital stay

Patients leaving hospital in Salford are now being offered extra support taking their prescribed medicines as part of a new digital health project designed to keep them safe from harm after a hospital stay.

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust is the first trust in Greater Manchester to launch the Transfers of Care Around Medicines (TCAM) project, an electronic pharmacy referral system.

TCAM aims to help patients who need additional support taking their prescribed medicines following a hospital stay. This may be because their medicines have changed or they need support taking their medicines safely and effectively. It is one of the projects selected for spread nationally through Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs), including Health Innovation Manchester.

Inhealthcare, has paved the way for the service to be rolled out more widely for eligible patients in Manchester.

Professor Ben Bridgewater, Chief Executive of Health Innovation Manchester, said: "This powerful collaboration between the NHS, industry and academia shows how Greater Manchester is leading the way in the digitally-enabled delivery of health and social care."

[Read more](#)

Since the project launched earlier this year, more than 350 patients have been included in the TCAM system, with 230 patients completing a medication review with a pharmacist.

Dr Tracey Vell, Health Innovation Manchester's Clinical Director, said: "It is a great example of how digital innovation can improve the discharge process to ensure patients get the best care and have a reduced risk of harmful effects following a hospital stay."

[Read more](#)



Partnership to address urban diabetes in Manchester

Health Innovation Manchester and Cities Changing Diabetes have announced a pioneering project to address urban diabetes in Greater Manchester.

Cities Changing Diabetes, initiated by pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk, works with cities to develop new approaches and design interventions to deliver impact.

Currently 7.2% (90% type 2, 10% type 1) of the population in Greater Manchester are living with diabetes while Type 2 diabetes prevalence in the region has doubled in the last 20 years..

On 17 June, Health Innovation Manchester and Novo Nordisk discussed the shared ambition to bend the curve of type 2 diabetes in Greater Manchester with speakers including diabetes specialists, international public health organisations and people living with type 2 diabetes in Greater Manchester.



Patient flow and bed management workshop

Health Innovation Manchester hosted the second AHSN Network Patient Flow and Bed Management workshop at Citylabs 1.0 in Manchester on 18 June.

The event was hosted by Dr Paula Bennett, Associate Director of Clinical Development at Health Innovation Manchester, and discussions were focused on supporting health and social care partners within the Greater Manchester footprint to maintain and improve 'Patient Flow and Bed Management'.

As part of the workshop, delegates discussed practical examples of innovations to improve safety and staff & patient experience and heard how organisations are utilising technology to transform data into meaningful solutions. Guy Lucchi, Digital Innovation Director at Health Innovation Manchester, also showcased the GM Digital Agenda and how it will make an impact.

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Latest Funding Calls



£80,000 development fund for unmet needs launched in Greater Manchester

A collaboration between Health Innovation Manchester, MIMIT (Manchester: Improving Medicine with Innovation and Technology) and Oxford Road Corridor (ORC) has established an £80,000 development fund to pump-prime up to eight projects that aim to provide solutions to unmet healthcare needs.

The fund is seeking submissions from practicing clinicians, community healthcare, GPs, nurses and healthcare workers across all fields in the Greater Manchester health and social care system to identify potential unmet healthcare needs in the areas of 'living well' and 'ageing well'.

Find out more [here](#)



SBRI Healthcare programme – funding for cardiovascular disease and integrated care & social care

SBRI Healthcare have announced the launch of their next funding competition and companies/organisations are invited to bid for funding to develop solutions to challenges in:

- Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), including; Detection and prevention; Intervention and invasive investigations; and Efficiency of CVD pathway
- Integrated Care and Social Care, including; Improve effective data sharing system across the care network; and Reduce social care workforce pressure

The development contracts placed will be for a maximum of six months and up to £100,000 per project. Find out more [here](#)

Health Innovation Manchester Blog

Supporting industry-led innovations into the healthcare system

Daniel Zamora, Health Innovation Manchester's Commercial Programme Manager, recently visited the HIMSS/ Health 2.0 European Conference in Helsinki. In his new blog he explains how he works with local companies with healthcare innovations to improve their products, develop pitching skills and access their



target market both in the UK and further afield.

Daniel said: "The conference featured outstanding presentations, patient-centred keynotes, great exhibitors and many opportunities for networking with almost 3000 delegates in attendance, including investors, entrepreneurs, clinicians, developers, CIOs and thought leaders from more than 60 countries."

[Read more](#)

Greater Manchester System News



Local Industrial Strategy reveals Greater Manchester's ambitions to become UK's leading green and digital city-region

Greater Manchester's ambitious and ground-breaking plans to become the UK's leading green and digital city-region have been backed by Government in the city-region's new Local Industrial Strategy.

As part of the strategy, the UK's first city-region Clean Growth Mission to achieve carbon neutral living in Greater Manchester has been launched. The city-region's bold 2038 target is 12 years ahead of the national ambition. It also sets out an aim to establish Greater Manchester as a global leader on health and care innovation, creating new industries and jobs, and improving population health and extending healthy life expectancy;

Greater Manchester is only the second place in the country to agree a Local Industrial Strategy with

Government, and its leaders are harnessing the full power of the most advanced devolution deal of any city-region in England for the benefit of almost three million residents.

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham said: "This bold and innovative joint plan between Greater Manchester and the Government puts Greater Manchester back as an industrial and social pioneer. This is a plan focused on people and ensuring we have the good quality jobs to ensure people can succeed now and in to the future."

[Read more](#)



Manchester BRC receives £4.4M investment to fight antibiotic resistance

Manchester BRC has received a £4.4M investment as part of the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) latest commitment in the fight against antimicrobial (antibiotic) resistance (AMR).

Dr Tim Felton, Consultant in Intensive Care and Respiratory Medicine at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Senior Lecturer in the Division of Infection, Immunity and Respiratory Medicine at The University of Manchester and Manchester BRC researcher, will lead research to test 'individualised' approaches to antibiotic prescribing by bringing together patient care and clinical research.

Dr Tim Felton said: "Our research will ensure patients with infections are given the right antibiotic at the right dose and for the right duration. An individualised approach to both diagnosing infection and antibiotic dosing will ensure effective use of current antibiotics."

Manchester is one of ten leading research centres across the country to receive funding to explore innovative new ways to inform prescribing and identify patterns of resistance.



Record 83,470 patients take part in clinical research in Greater Manchester in 2018/19

More people than ever before took part in research studies in Greater Manchester in the last year, according to new figures released this month by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN).

In 2018/19, a total of 83,478 people participated in studies carried out across the region. This surpassed the previous highest for Greater Manchester by more than 21,000.

This total accounted for 9.5 per cent of all recruitment to studies in England last year, despite the fact the region accounts for around only 5 per cent of the population.

The statistics cover commercial research studies sponsored by the life sciences industry – such as pharmaceutical companies – and non-commercial studies funded by organisations such as medical charities, research councils, the government or the NIHR.

Debbie Vinsun, Chief Operating Officer, NIHR Clinical Research Network, Greater Manchester, said: "We are delighted that a record number of

The respiratory infections programme of the BRC research is working towards earlier diagnosis and more targeted approach, which match an individual to the treatment most likely to provide the desired response.

[Read more](#)

patients have agreed to participate in our region during 2018/19. Their involvement is making sure the NHS continues to get stronger and more efficient with new and improved treatments in all disease areas for current and future generations."

[Read more](#)



Trial starts for phone app which uses light, sound and brainwaves to treat pain

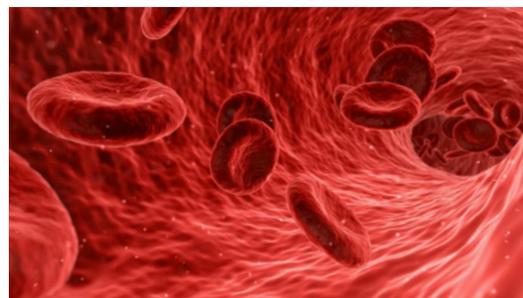
Scientists at The University of Manchester are developing a smart phone application connected to goggles which flash light at a special frequency to tune patients' brains in a ground-breaking treatment for chronic pain.

The phone app being developed by the team will eventually allow patients to choose between light, audio, or 'neurofeedback' treatments for pain.

The team are now on the hunt for volunteers with any chronic pain condition – except cancer – to test the three revolutionary technologies in a clinical setting.

The group's study, published in 2016, examined pain-free volunteers, giving them short bursts of pain. The volunteers reported feeling less pain when they were exposed to light pulses or sounds at alpha frequency.

Professor Anthony Jones from The University of Manchester is the Director of the Human Pain Research Group (HPRG), which is based at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We hope this work will be good news for up to 40 % of the UK's population – rising to 62% in the over 75s – who suffer from chronic pain.



New scientific test could improve the health of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers

An Oldham-based doctor, James Bluett, has developed a new blood test which could help local rheumatoid arthritis patients to better manage their illness by keeping to their medication regimes.

Methotrexate is the most commonly prescribed drug for the 400,000 people in the UK suffering from this autoimmune disease. However around 40% of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients do not take the drug as prescribed and clinical staff currently have no way of knowing whether a patient is taking their medication as advised.

The new test, developed, refined and assessed over 4 years, measures the methotrexate levels in a patient's blood over the previous seven days.

The final research results showed that the test has a 95% sensitivity in detecting whether someone took their methotrexate in the preceding week. It enable doctors to start supportive conversations with patients about the difficulties they may be experiencing with the medication and how to resolve them

Dr Bluett practises at the borough's Pennine MSK Partnership which provides care for patients in orthopaedics, rheumatology and chronic pain. He is also a researcher for the National Institute

"These exciting technologies are a simple, safe and harmless and have exciting potential to allow patients with chronic pain to treat themselves in the comfort of their own homes."

[Read more](#)

for Health Research (NIHR) Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and a Clinical Senior Lecturer at The University of Manchester.

[Read more](#)

National News



NHSX officially launches to drive forward the digital transformation

NHSX, a new joint organisation for digital, data and technology, officially launched on 1 July. It brings teams from the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement together into one unit to drive digital transformation and lead policy, implementation and change.

NHSX will deliver the Health Secretary's Tech Vision, building on the NHS Long Term Plan and aims to speed up the digital transformation of the NHS and social care. The organisation has set itself five missions focused on making things better for patients and staff. These are:

- Reducing the burden on clinicians and staff, so they can focus on patients
- Giving people the tools to access information and services directly
- Ensuring clinical information can be safely accessed, wherever it is needed
- Improving patient safety across the NHS
- Improving NHS productivity with digital technology



NHS Patient Safety Strategy officially unveiled with aim to build on safety culture

Patient safety is about maximising the things that go right and minimising the things that go wrong. It is integral to the NHS' definition of quality in healthcare, alongside effectiveness and patient experience.

The new NHS Patient Safety strategy sets out what the NHS will do to achieve its vision to continuously improve patient safety.

Speaking about the launch Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety, said: "A national patient safety strategy is needed to set the direction in changing how we approach patient safety to go further to reduce the levels of harm."

Between December 2018 and February 2019 NHS Improvement held a consultation on an original set of ideas for a national patient safety strategy for the NHS. In total 527 contributions from organisations and individuals (staff, patients and carers) were received. Workshops and online discussions were also held with staff, patients and senior leaders across the country.

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[Read more](#)

The AHSN Network in numbers



The AHSN Network launch impact report 2018/19 and new magazine “The Innovators”

The AHSN Network has released the latest impact report for 2018/19, demonstrating how the AHSNs are transforming lives through innovation – delivering better health outcomes, improving patient experience and safety, driving down the costs of care and supporting economic growth.

Headline impacts from the report include; helping 2,605 companies develop or spread 3,630 innovations; leveraging £152 million of inward investment; and supporting 32,758 patients who need extra help with prescribed medicines when they leave hospital.

Dr Séamus O’Neill, Chair of the AHSN Network, said: “Due to our unique relationship with all the agents and beneficiaries of transformative innovation, our three national commissions are mutually reinforcing each other, each stronger and more effective because of the mandate we have from our regions coupled with our commitment to collaborate nationally.”

To coincide with the impact report, the AHSN Network has also launched The Innovators magazine, which draws together insights and learning on how healthcare innovation is transforming lives.

[Read more](#)

Piers Ricketts announced as new Chair of the AHSN Network

The AHSN Network has announced that Piers Ricketts will be taking over the role as Chair in August 2019.

Piers, who has been the Network’s Vice-Chair since November, will continue his current role as Chief Executive of Eastern AHSN, which he has held since April 2018.

Piers said: “The AHSN Network has made a step change in the last year, in which we have demonstrated our ability to introduce innovative solutions at scale into the NHS. Our connections with healthcare, industry and research give us huge opportunities to do even more.

“I am excited at the prospect of continuing to build on our excellent work to drive change and deliver better patient outcomes across the NHS whilst generating economic growth by supporting our innovative healthcare and life science businesses.”

It follows an earlier announcement stating current chair Dr Séamus O’Neill will step down when he leaves his role as CEO of the AHSN North East and North Cumbria to take up the position of CEO of the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA).

[Read more](#)



Guest Blogs

The future of audiology – helping people to help themselves

In a new blog, Dr Piers Dawes, Minimising Risk Programme Lead, discusses how Manchester BRC aims to help people with hearing problems have a better quality of life – by helping them to help themselves.

He said: "We propose viewing hearing problems as a chronic condition that is best self-managed by people in their daily lives, rather than as an acute condition that is 'treated' by a health care professional in a clinic. The goal is to give those one in six people in the UK with hearing problems better quality of life by helping them to help themselves."



[Read more](#)

Opportunities and support

Develop your skills with a postgraduate qualification

The University of Manchester has a range of courses aimed at professionals that can help you further your specialist knowledge or gain expertise in leadership and decision making. Places are available for September 2019 in: Advanced Leadership and Professional Practice, Social Work, Medical Humanities, Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry, Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice, Clinical Biochemistry, Infection Biology, Specialist Practice (Cancer), Genomic Medicine and Translational Medicine. Find out how you could further your career with a postgraduate qualification (MSc, PGDip, PGCert and CPD) [here](#).

Events

International Women In Engineering Day – Get Involved 4 July

International Women in Engineering Day (#INWED19) is an awareness campaign to raise the profile of women in engineering, and focus attention on the amazing career opportunities available to girls in this exciting industry. The theme for 2019 is #TransformTheFuture, and to celebrate Manchester Science Partnerships are hosting an event at the MSP Tech Incubator to bring some fascinating insights from unique women in the tech industry, including a keynote talk from Hadley Beeman, Chief Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. [Read More](#)

Health Sector Business Breakfast: Health and smartphones 10 July

This workshop, from Health Innovation Manchester and Innovation Agency, will support businesses to identify potential benefits and opportunities in using smartphones to provide efficient and effective healthcare. It will feature speakers from business, local authority and the NHS. [Read More](#)

SBRI Healthcare Competition Briefing 10 July

This event will provide an opportunity to know more about the latest SBRI Competition for projects to develop technology enabled solutions to healthcare challenges. Attendees will be able to hear about the healthcare challenges from clinical experts in the sector, find out how the AHSNs can provide support and ask questions [Read More](#)

Greater Manchester Connected Health Ecosystems 12 July

Greater Manchester is embarking on an ambitious plan to build on our existing assets to become a globally leading centre for digital innovation, data science and analytics. Professor Ben Bridgewater, Chief Executive of Health Innovation Manchester, and Guy Lucchi, the newly appointed Digital Innovation Director at Health Innovation Manchester, will outline the vision for digital innovation in GM and the emerging Digital Innovation Hub model. There will also be opportunity to learn more about how GM's plans to improve infrastructure and interoperability across public services are shaping up, with use cases on dementia, frailty and early years. [Read More](#)

Manchester Cancer Research Centre Conference 14-16 July

The Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) and the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMC) network will be hosting a three-day conference on Phase I: Where Science Becomes Medicine, at Hilton Deansgate, in Manchester city centre. The keynote speakers include Professor Lillian Siu (Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto) and Skip Burris (Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Nashville). [Read More](#)

Our full events calendar is also available on our website

[Read more](#)

Masterclasses and Courses

- [Health Risk Prediction: Methodology and Applications](#) — 18 July
NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

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