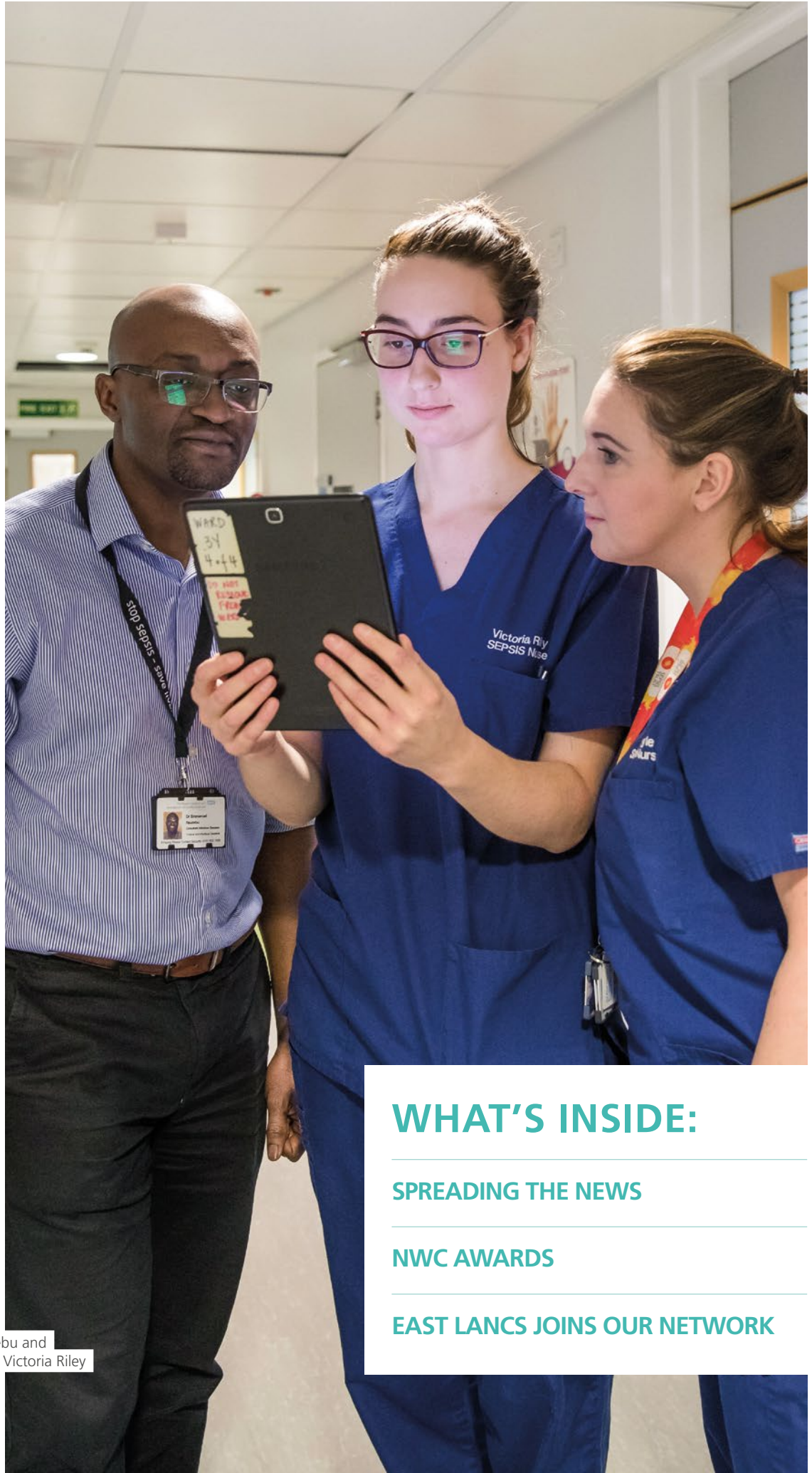


# INNOVATIONS

The latest innovations to improve health care in the North West Coast

Issue #2  
Spring/Summer 2018

Pictured: Dr Emmanuel Nsutebu and  
Sepsis Nurses Maz Hoyle and Victoria Riley



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SPREADING THE NEWS

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EAST LANCS JOINS OUR NETWORK



## Growing our network

by Dr Liz Mear and Gideon Ben-Tovim

It is a time of expansion for the Innovation Agency, which befits springtime as we see the first shoots of the new season.

The most exciting news for us is the addition of East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals to our network of NHS trusts.

Now, they are officially part of our family of trusts and our teams are looking forward to involving them in all areas of our work.

Another expansion has been in our national remit, with a new commission from the Office for Life Sciences to deliver an Innovation Exchange programme. This will be replicated across the AHSN Network, with a co-ordinated approach to spreading innovations and matching local needs with nationally approved products and systems.

Our new licence is now live and we are more committed than ever to delivering nationally agreed priorities alongside projects identified by our local partners as essential to meeting challenges and achieving transformation.

Do get in touch if you would like to find out more. ■

Yours,

**Dr Liz Mear, Chief Executive**  
**Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE, Chair**

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Dr Emmanuel Nsutebu and Sepsis Nurses  
Maz Hoyle and Victoria Riley

## Improving care through NEWS2

The Innovation Agency is helping trusts to implement a new version of the National Early Warning Score to identify acutely ill patients including those with sepsis.

NEWS2 was developed by the Royal College of Physicians and endorsed by NHS England and NHS Improvement. It is a scoring system which is used by medical and nursing staff to record vital signs and alert staff that a patient's condition may be deteriorating.

Our Patient Safety Collaborative team is offering packages of support for trusts implementing the system, depending on their needs.

Associate Director for Patient Safety Andrew Cooper said: "All trusts will be moving towards the adoption of NEWS2 and they are all at different stages, so we are providing bespoke support which will be a combination of quality improvement tools, techniques and coaching."

The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust uses NEWS and will implement the new version before the end of the year.

Dr Emmanuel Nsutebu, Clinical Lead for Sepsis at the Trust, said:

"We will be adopting the scoring system across the Royal and Broadgreen hospitals and with our colleagues at Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We intend to use the same system for assessing deteriorating patients because staff and patients frequently move between these hospitals.

"We want to reduce variation in outcomes nationally, by using a common language about deterioration, in all ambulance and acute trusts."

The Royal has developed its own award winning e-sepsis tool for identifying sepsis, which aims to improve care and has the potential to save lives.

Dr Nsutebu said: "In the past our screening for sepsis used to vary between 60 and 80 per cent in all patient observations. Now it is 100 per cent and steady because our system does it automatically and you won't get through without somebody thinking about sepsis.

"We estimate that we could save around 50 lives in the first year of using this system." ■



Kevin McGee

## New NHS partner for the Innovation Agency

We are delighted to welcome East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust to the Innovation Agency network.

The trust is now an official member of our NHS partnership, having been part of Health Innovation Manchester, the Greater Manchester AHSN, for the last five years.

Even before the move, we have engaged with staff and patients through several of our programmes, such as electronic transfer of care, maternal and neonatal health safety collaborative and stroke prevention. One of our sponsored projects involves using wearable technology to predict and prevent falls by older people. QTUG – Quantitative Timed Up and Go – screens people for gait and mobility impairment and identifies those at risk from a fall.

Innovation Agency Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim said: “We are looking forward to a closer working relationship with colleagues in East Lancashire; it feels like a natural transition and a very welcome move for us.”

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust Chief Executive Kevin McGee said: “We are really pleased to become an official member of the Innovation Agency network. We are dedicated to providing safe, personal and effective care to our patients so our involvement with the network is an obvious connection to make. We are looking forward to giving back as much as we get out of this relationship.” ■



Associate Commercial Director Mike Kenny with award sponsor Alan Runacus of World Courier (right) and event host Professor Elemental

## Bionow award for business support

A top award was presented to the Innovation Agency's Commercial team for their work supporting businesses in healthcare.

They received the Business Support Award at the Bionow Awards, which recognise outstanding achievement and enterprise in the life sciences sector across the North of England.

To date the team has engaged with more than 500 businesses and provided bespoke support to 81 companies with products and services to benefit healthcare.

Innovation Agency Chief Operating Officer Lorna Green said: “It is fantastic to win this award, not just on behalf of our team but also in recognition of the partner organisations which help us to deliver bespoke support to small and medium size businesses with innovations to improve health and social care.” ■

## Launching an Innovation Exchange

Our match making between health and care organisations and businesses is about to get a big boost with the creation of an Innovation Exchange, through support and funding from the Office for Life Sciences.

This is part of the Government's response to the Accelerated Access Review and will ensure a step-change in the capacity of Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) to speed up the adoption of innovation and drive economic growth.

We are one of 15 AHSNs across England and we will all create an Innovation Exchange with the same remit, to identify the needs of our health and care systems and to communicate those needs to innovators.

We will broker partnerships between commissioners and providers to undertake real world testing to create evidence so that products can be spread. And we will work together across the 15 Innovation Exchanges to spread innovations with the most promise.

In the North West Coast, we will be supporting our region's two transformation partnerships to articulate unmet needs within the healthcare system and foster collaboration with industry and SMEs to assess needs, co-create solutions, commercialise practitioner-led innovations and de-risk change. ■



Telehealth team Dr Andrew Hill, Karen Blake and (left) IT project manager Vince Owen

## Video appointments on offer at Whiston

Patients are being offered video consultations as part of a service transformation at St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, supported by the Innovation Agency.

A secure Cisco system has been installed at Whiston Hospital which is enabling a video alternative to face to face appointments with the Specialist Stroke Service and the Burns and Plastic Surgery Department.

The pilot project involves patients due for a stroke review and burns and plastics patients who are using surgical drains. They are offered the choice of either video or clinic appointment – and so far the response has been overwhelmingly in favour of the video alternative.

Patients receive an email with a link to the video call system and they can use any device – mobile, tablet or computer with webcam.

Stroke Specialist Nurse Karen Blake said: "We ran our first video clinic on a day of heavy snow, which meant we had appointments which otherwise might have been cancelled.

"One patient forgot we needed to know about his medication and he took us on a tour of his house with his phone as he went to find them! Another person was able to include his daughter in the consultation as she was able to pop in, which she

- ▶ wouldn't have had time to do if the appointment was in hospital.

"It is also useful to see a patient in their own environment; I can see lots of benefits of this with assessing frailty and the risk of falls."

As the Trust is a regional specialist centre in burns and plastic surgery, specialist staff go to hospitals and clinics in North Wales to check patients' wound sites and surgical drains.

Using secure video consultations means that local nurses can carry out the checks and consult the specialist team by video link.

Consultant Stroke Physician Dr Andrew Hill said:

"As well as the obvious advantages of convenience and time saved for the patient, there are further benefits. Where a video consultation happens, it means that the specialist nurse in Whiston Hospital can call on other specialists because they will be close at hand, for instance to tackle problems with diet and nutrition."

**"If we can remove the barriers of distance and accessibility we can make big improvements in the care of these patients."**

— Dr Andrew Hill

"It also means that we will be able to deliver specialist care to the patients who need it most yet are the hardest to reach – those in care homes. If we can remove the barriers of distance and accessibility, we can make big improvements in the care of these patients."

The Trust treats around 850 stroke patients each year and it's estimated that half of these could benefit from video consultations in place of follow up outpatient clinic appointments.

The aim is to learn from the project and expand the use of telehealth for other services, particularly those which are delivered across a wide area. ■

## A themed approach

To help NHS colleagues understand how we can help them with transformation, our team has organised evidence-based innovations and products into eight categories of pathway redesign.



Transformation Director  
Carole Spencer

The themes are:

- Prevention
- Activation and self care
- Greater resource and support for primary care
- Workforce resource optimisation
- Digitising the system
- System flow
- Operational excellence
- Patient safety and quality improvement

NHS and social care colleagues looking for a solution are invited to contact a member of our Transformation Team who will search these categories for relevant products and systems.

Transformation Director Carole Spencer explained: "If you have a problem or you are planning to redesign a service pathway, you probably don't need to invent a solution as there are so many already developed and ready for adoption."

"Our team will do the searching for you; contact one of us to find out how we can help. Also, we are continuing to build our prospectus so if you have worked with a company and would recommend their product, please let us know so that we can share their offer with colleagues."

**In Lancashire and South Cumbria**  
please contact Eleanor Garnett-Bentley at:  
[Eleanor.Garnett-Bentley@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](mailto:Eleanor.Garnett-Bentley@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk)

**in Cheshire and Merseyside**  
please contact Jenny Dodd at:  
[Jennifer.Dodd@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Dodd@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk) ■

## Ready to roll – nationally funded innovations

Four innovations are being fast-tracked into use with pump priming by NHS England and support from the Innovation Agency and its fellow Academic Health Science Networks.

The Innovation and Technology Payment programme will cover costs, fund real world evaluation and encourage uptake of the products, which are:

- **HeartFlow** - Advanced image analysis software that creates a 3D model of the coronary arteries and analyses the impact that blockages have on blood flow, to rapidly diagnose patients with suspected coronary artery disease. The use of the device can avoid the need for invasive investigations such as coronary angiography, usually carried out under local anaesthetic. NICE estimate up to 35,000 people per year could be eligible.
- **Plus Sutures** – A new type of surgical suture that reduces the rate of surgery-linked infections such as MRSA, through the use

of antimicrobial suture packs.

There were 823 cases of MRSA reported in the NHS in 2016/17.

- **Endocuff Vision** – A new type of 'bowel scope' that improves colorectal examination for patients undergoing bowel cancer tests. Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in England with 34,000 people diagnosed each year. For every 1,000 people screened for cancer, it is estimated that six cases could be avoided thanks to early detection through this device.
- **SecurAcath** – A device to secure catheters that reduces the infection risk for patients with a peripherally inserted central catheter. The use of this equipment helps to reduce the time taken to care and treat

patients with a peripherally inserted central catheter. This type of catheter is normally used in people needing intravenous access for several weeks or months in both inpatient and outpatient settings. NICE estimate up to 120,000 people per year could be eligible.

Professor Tony Young, National Clinical Lead for Innovation at NHS England, said: "For new innovations to flourish and spread at scale, access to funding is critical, by buying these four innovations centrally NHS England has removed the barriers to the spread of these innovations so patients can benefit faster."

To find out how to procure these products and for support in their adoption, please contact our Transformation Team – details available on page 6. ■

## Introducing ESCAPE-pain

A NICE and QIPP endorsed programme which helps people to manage joint pain and avoid surgery is being introduced in the North West Coast through the Innovation Agency.



ESCAPE-pain is a six week course which has led to improvements in physical function, general wellbeing and quality of life – and reduced healthcare costs.

Developed by NHS Innovation Fellow Professor Mike Hurley with support from the Health Innovation Network (the AHSN for South London) we are funding its spread in our region by training two trainers and providing courses for local physiotherapists and other health professionals.

The first two organisations to trial ESCAPE-pain are North West Boroughs Healthcare and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.

Innovation Agency Project Manager Jen Gilroy-Cheetham explained: "This is a course with lots of evidence to show that it works; people attend

twice a week for six weeks of sessions which include simple education, self management and coping strategies and personalised exercise routines.

"Our aim is to spread this programme into community settings and help more people to manage pain in hips and knees so they can avoid surgery – and enjoy a more active lifestyle."

Recent independent evaluations have reinforced how much money the NHS saves, showing that every £1 invested returns more than £5 in wider health and social value.

To find out more about the training, please email: [Jen.GilroyCheetham@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](mailto:Jen.GilroyCheetham@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk) or call 01772 520263 ■



**Clinical Research Practitioner of the Year**

Dr Alison Birtle,  
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals,  
NHS Foundation Trust



**Research for Wellbeing**

Developing and evaluating neighbourhood resilience interventions to reduce health inequalities – Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care North West Coast (CLAHRC NWC)/ University of Lancaster



**Taking Research into Practice**

Implementing a programme of prescribing error feedback in an acute hospital setting  
St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

**Clinical Research Team of the Year**

The Clinical Eye Research Centre at St Paul's Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust



**Transformation Award**

Bringing Genomics to Healthcare across the North West Coast, Educating Staff and Patients and Changing Pathways  
NWC Genomic Healthcare Alliance Education, Liverpool Health Partners



**Culture for Innovation Award**

Well Halton  
NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group



**Outstanding Contribution to Patient and Public Involvement**

Mr Keith Wilson  
Research Patient Ambassador,  
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust





### Culture for Innovation Award

Well Halton, NHS Halton  
Clinical Commissioning Group



### Partnership in Innovation Award

Collaborative Partnerships  
The Life Rooms



### Patient Safety Innovation Award

Novel Nurse Led pathway for commencing Haemodialysis  
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust



### Clinical Research Rising Star of the Year

Selina Johnson, The Walton Centre  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Regional stars in research and innovation

## North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2018

Our annual awards event attracted more entries than ever before, to all 12 categories.

The event gave us an opportunity to hear about fantastic research and innovations being delivered around the North West Coast.

Judges commented on the strength of the nominations, making it difficult to pick just one winner and two finalists for each award and we congratulate everyone who was selected for the shortlist.

The awards were a collaboration between the Innovation Agency, NIHR CLAHRC NWC and NIHR CRN NWC and took place at Preston North End, compered by Granada TV News presenter Elaine Willcox.

Chris Carlin said: "I was extremely proud to collect the Culture for Innovation Award on behalf of Well Halton. Our programme is all about building on the cultures of local communities in order to help local people generate their own solutions.

"Ideas can be brought to the Well Halton Steering Group and pitched by anyone involved in the work. We are very keen to capture the ideas and passion of all the people involved; it's fantastic that non-clinical work like ours can be considered innovative." ■



Dani and Eleanor Gillett

## Improving Me adopts self care app

A self care online platform for parents developed by a Liverpool company is now being used by Improving Me, the Cheshire and Merseyside Women's and Children's Services Vanguard.

The interactive website Lincus Maternity provides mums with an online personal health record and self-management tools, targeting help with smoking cessation, weight management and nutrition.

It also enables parents to share their health record with professionals, to help with management of their pregnancies.

It is based on the Lincus app, a NICE-approved Class 1 medical device, co-designed by Rescon Technologies with support from the Innovation Agency and now used by 3,900 people.

Mother of three Dani Gillett of the Cheshire and Merseyside Maternity Voices group, predicted the platform will provide a welcome boost to parents, particularly those suffering antenatal or postnatal depression.

"When you are at your lowest ebb, you don't know where to turn and GPs and health visitors aren't always available when you need them. The Lincus app is great as it provides a way of tracking how you feel so you can see if you are improving.

"It helps to be able to see that you are getting better, as it takes time and can add to your feelings of desperation if you think things aren't improving."

Dani suffered postnatal depression after her second baby and became an active member of Maternity Voices and of Improving Me.

"The work of Improving Me is absolutely amazing. As a mum you can feel isolated but the work of the Vanguard team is having a big impact and they are involving parents and acting on our ideas and feedback. I have seen real improvements in maternity care in the time between having my baby three and a half years ago and the birth of my daughter Eleanor in 2017."

The use of Lincus Maternity by parents and clinical teams across Cheshire and Merseyside aims to reduce co-morbidities by ten per cent, creating savings of at least £7.5m per year.

**Lincus Maternity can be found at: [www.improvingme.uk](http://www.improvingme.uk)**

**The Lincus Companion app is available on the App Store and you can read reviews on the health app review platform [www.orchac.co.uk](http://www.orchac.co.uk). ■**



Consultant Cardiologists at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital with a 3D print of a heart; Dr Suneil Aggarwal, Dr Rob Cooper and Dr Nick Palmer

## 3D LifePrints secures £500k investment

A Liverpool business which has been supported by the Innovation Agency since its early years has secured £500,000 investment for growth.

Leading medical 3D printing company 3D LifePrints UK Ltd, produces 3D prints of body parts to help surgeons prepare for surgery. The highly detailed anatomical models allow clinicians to examine problems before surgery and perform simulations, shortening theatre time and saving costs.

The Innovation Agency has provided funding and NHS introductions and has showcased the company's 3D anatomical prints at regional, national and international events. ►

- Now, 3D LifePrints has secured £500,000 from Fenwall Investments Ltd to accelerate the company's expansion.

It will be used to expand their portfolio of embedded medical 3D printing hubs across the NHS and overseas; recruit additional bio-medical engineers and 3D technologists, as well as continuing to invest in research and development.

Consultant Cardiac Surgeon Mark Pullan at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital has used 3D prints of a patient's heart. He said: "It was invaluable, really good for guiding my operation. I would have struggled to work out what to do rather than knowing beforehand – and it was excellent for explaining to the patients. The staff in theatre liked them as they could understand what I was doing and what I needed. It should be the standard of care for septal patients."

Company Chief Executive Henry Pinchbeck said: "3D LifePrints is indebted to the support from the Innovation Agency and wider NHS network. The Innovation Agency has helped with introductions to relevant institutions through their Innovation Scout network and supported our expansion into the Royal Liverpool Hospital and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital through their match-funded grant scheme." ■



Pharmacist Burhan Zavery tests colleague Helen Wilkinson

## Pulse testing devices being rolled out

Portable devices which detect an irregular heart rhythm are being distributed by the Innovation Agency to GP practices, pharmacies and NHS community clinics across the North West Coast.

The devices identify possible cases of atrial fibrillation (AF), the most common type of irregular heart rhythm which is responsible for around 20 per cent of all strokes.

One million people in the UK are known to be affected by atrial fibrillation and experts estimate that an additional 422,600 people are undiagnosed. Stroke survivors often live with disabling consequences and treating the condition costs the NHS over £2.2 billion each year.

The Innovation Agency has been a leader in introducing devices and raising awareness of the importance of pulse checking. In the last four years, they have recruited health professionals, individual volunteers and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in their campaign to prevent strokes.

Their work has identified an estimated 7,000 people with atrial fibrillation – potentially preventing more than 300 strokes.

All 15 Academic Health Science Networks are distributing 6,000 more devices to health professionals across the country, funded by NHS England.

Burhan Zavery, pharmacist at PharmaC at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, said: "Community pharmacies already offer smoking cessation, blood pressure and glucose testing, as well as offering advice on diet and healthy lifestyles, so this is another service we can offer.

"The fact that something so simple as the AliveCor device can identify problems and perhaps prevent a stroke is brilliant." ■



## AF Ambassadors

A team of community volunteers from a range of backgrounds has been recruited to help spot friends, relatives and neighbours at risk of a stroke.

They include staff from Johnnie Johnson Housing Association and Royal Mail, who have become AF Ambassadors, using AliveCor Kardia devices to identify people who may have atrial fibrillation. The Kardia is a portable Electrocardiogram (ECG) monitor which attaches to the back of a smartphone and displays a heart rate reading on an app.

Sue Whittaker from Blackpool said: "I have tested colleagues at Royal Mail with no positive results to date and feedback has been really great. It's always good to introduce an innovation which helps keep the staff safe so I am happy to provide a useful service while supporting the NHS.

"I have found the kit easy to use and because the test only takes seconds it doesn't delay staff during busy operational times."

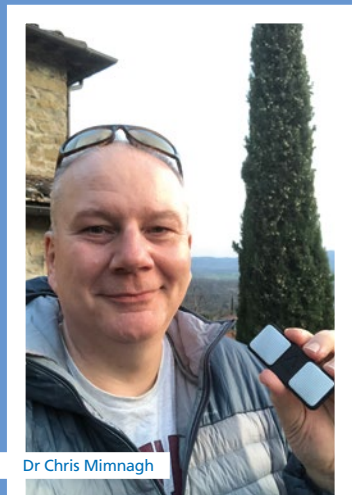
Head of Programmes Julia Reynolds said: "We are delighted with the enthusiasm and dedication of the AF Ambassadors to work with us to help prevent strokes and use technology. We know that early detection and management of people with AF saves lives. We will carry on developing the AF Ambassador community to support our work in reducing strokes. We know that they have already made a difference and identified over 50 potential people with AF."

Pictured above, are the latest recruits at a training session with the Innovation Agency's Head of Programmes Dr Julia Reynolds and Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear (right) and Patient and Public Involvement Lead Debbie Parkinson (left). ■

*Knowsley GP*

*Dr Chris Mimmagh said:*

*"The AliveCor is now a daily part of my clinical care, it has detected a couple of unknown atrial fibrillation cases and alongside the pulse oximeter app is the only bit of medical kit I don't leave home without!"*



Dr Chris Mimmagh



## Health tech helps patients avoid a stroke

Patients with long-time heart conditions can monitor themselves at home and reduce their chances of having a stroke with an innovative new digital health service.

The technology is for people at risk of stroke caused by atrial fibrillation (AF) who are prescribed the drug warfarin to prevent blood clotting.

Under the new service, patients can test themselves at home using a handheld device and send in their results via a bluetooth mobile app, secure web portal or automated telephone call to receive their dosage information. This reduces attendance at clinics for blood tests.

The project is part of the Innovation Agency's stroke prevention programme, delivered by health staff in East Lancashire Hospitals and in the area's GP surgeries. Roche INRange testing machines are used alongside technology provided by digital health specialist companies Inhealthcare and INRStar, linking the information and readings from the machine to patients' hospital records.

This helps to reduce errors, transferring information easily and accurately.

Patient Yvonne Egan from Blackburn was diagnosed with AF in 2012. She said: "I think it's going to be great once I've practised it a few times. It will save me the hassle of taking time off work to visit the clinic."

Dr Julia Reynolds, Head of Programmes at the Innovation Agency, said: "We are delighted to be working with such an innovative team at the hospitals and supporting their health staff to introduce technologies which help patients."

Research has shown that self-testing can improve the quality of therapy, reduce the risk of blood clotting and prevent stroke.

Bryn Sage, chief executive at Inhealthcare, said: "This is exactly the sort of service that can reduce pressure on busy NHS clinics and allow staff to spend more time with patients who need care the most.

"Digital health is helping to improve the wellbeing of the UK economy as it allows people with long-term conditions to avoid time-consuming hospital appointments for routine check-ups."

He added that it was one of its best service roll-outs to date, thanks to the engagement and enthusiasm of NHS staff across the region. ■



## Liz Mear named as top health tech pioneer

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear has been named as one of the country's top 51 health tech pioneers.

Liz was listed by national technology magazine *BusinessCloud*, alongside successful entrepreneurs and cutting edge companies.

She said: "It is an exciting time to work with innovative entrepreneurs and clinicians with fabulous products, apps and technologies with the potential to transform the way we deliver care.

"Now, more than ever before it is important that we help the NHS and social care providers to adopt proven innovations which will improve the quality and value of services. I am privileged to work with a fantastic team at the Innovation Agency and with brilliant people in our partner organisations – hospital trusts, commissioners, universities, charities and local authorities." ■

## Coaching Academy invitation

Applications open in the autumn for the second round of our Coaching Academy programmes to help health and social care professionals introduce innovations and improvements, to benefit patients and service users.

Participants can be from the NHS, universities, voluntary and other public sector organisations as long as they work in the North West Coast.

Two core programmes are on offer; the course 'Coaching to create a culture for patient safety improvement' will open for applications at the end of October 2018; and applications for the course 'Coaching for innovation spread and adoption' will open in September 2018.

The aim is to improve spread and adoption of innovation and to create a safe and continuously improving healthcare workplace culture, using the best available strategies and techniques.

To find out more, look on our website or to arrange an informal discussion email: [juliette.kumar@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](mailto:juliette.kumar@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk) or call 01772 520263. ■



Jenny Marsom

*Walton Centre occupational therapist Jenny Marsom took part in an Innovation Agency Adoption Accelerator programme - a forerunner of the Coaching Academy.*

*Jenny said: "The programme gave me structure and deadlines which helped me to progress my innovation. There was a weekly shot challenge in which you had to summarise your work and send it to five people you wouldn't normally share it with. That led to me presenting my innovation, a patient equipment tracking system, to our Medical Devices Trust Board and that helped to propel it forward."*



Business apprentice Lauren Peate;  
Associate Director of Improvement Juliette Kumar;  
and Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear



## NHS Digital director joins us

A director from NHS Digital has joined the Innovation Agency to lead on plans to create a digital health partnership across the North of England.

Dr David Hughes has taken up secondment from his role as executive director of life sciences at NHS Digital to lead on the NHS Northern Digital Strategy.

David said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to take up a strategic role in one of the key organisations helping to shape and deliver health and care services of the future."

He has worked in healthcare for 25 years and at NHS Digital he authored the Data and Information Strategy and led a team of 600 analysts.

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear said: "We are delighted that David is joining us to lead a North of England Innovation Exchange partnership, which will accelerate the adoption of digital health technology across the North and beyond. David will build on our very strong links with the digital health sector and our health and care partners to support them in deploying technologies that will improve the lives of residents, patients and staff." ■

## It's gold – again!

Thanks to our relentless focus on staff development and wellbeing, we have been accredited with the Investors In People (IIP) Gold Award – for a second time.

A rigorous assessment involving staff interviews, observations and a survey has resulted in being re-accredited with the coveted Gold IIP status.

Investors In People Assessor Allyson Barton said: "Key strengths of note include outstanding, inspirational leadership; an exceptionally supportive and innovative values-based culture; a superb, well embedded and sophisticated approach to knowledge sharing through effective teamwork and collaboration across all areas to drive innovation.

"Change and the people related challenges of relicensing have been managed particularly well with effective and transparent communications. Interviews with staff consistently confirmed that people enjoy great autonomy and high levels of job satisfaction in their roles which are richly rewarding and motivating for staff: As one staff member said: 'People have a lot of freedom to be creative here – it is a very unique organisation.'"

Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear paid tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of staff. She said: "We have an excellent team with a range of skills, experience and knowledge which they bring to help organisations in our region to adopt new ways of working which improve the health of our population.

"I am extremely proud of their positive attitude and dedication to our mission to improve healthcare." ■



Dr David Hughes

# HEALTH AND CARE INNOVATION EXPO

**5-6 September 2018  
at Manchester Central**

This is the event of the year for everyone interested in innovations transforming health and care.

The AHSN Network will have a major presence in the Innovator Zone and Innovation Agency staff will be delighted to introduce our North West Coast colleagues to some of the exciting innovators who will be taking part.

It is free to all NHS, local government and wider public sector staff by registering with the ticket code:

## EXPO18

at [www.england.nhs.uk/expo/support](http://www.england.nhs.uk/expo/support)



▲ NHS England National Clinical Lead for Innovation Professor Tony Young at Expo 2017



**INNOVATION AGENCY**

Academic Health Science Network  
for the North West Coast

To find out more, visit:

[www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](http://www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk)

Join the conversation online:

 @innovationnwc

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 Innovation Agency