



NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

30 June 2025



***Developing medical devices,
diagnostics and digital
technologies to improve
surgical care.***

Welcome to the HealthTech
Research Centre in Accelerated
Surgical Care newsletter.

Forming Collaborations

*The NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in
Accelerated Surgical Care is part of the NIHR and
hosted by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in
partnership with University of Leeds.*

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<http://hrc-surgical.nihr.ac.uk>

Bringing new surgical technologies to
those who need them most by
ensuring our activities and reach are
inclusive and reflective of the needs
of underserved groups.

Building capabilities in the generation
of evidence for HealthTech and
improving knowledge of market
access requirements

Our Research Themes

- **Theme 1 – Early Diagnosis and Personalised Care**
- Theme 2 – Minimally Invasive Therapies and Extended Realities
- **Theme 3 – Assisted Healing and Rehabilitation**
- Timely clinical evaluation
- **Surgical Care Observatory**
- Sustainability & NHS net carbon zero

Celebrating the four innovators from our 'Innovation for Healthcare Net Zero Programme'



Our sustainability theme presented a showcase at the Med-Tech Insights Expo 2025 on how they've embedded sustainability and circular economy strategies into their innovations.

This links the DHSC's Design For Life (DFL) roadmap, our hashtag#sustainability theme at NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) and the industry expertise of Pd-m. More information to follow, in the meantime, check out each of the innovators below for some inspiring and hashtag#sustainable MedTech!

Incubators - rethinking incubators using circular approaches

LAYCO - creating reusable vacuum-assisted delivery devices

William Oak Diagnostics - developing low-carbon impact lateral flow tests for nutrient health assessment

Aseptuva - developing UV-C systems for on-site disinfection with a lower carbon footprint

The 'Innovation for Healthcare Net Zero Programme' is a collaboration between Accelerated Surgical Care HealthTech Research Centre, Pd-m and Health Innovation Network. Big thanks to all involved.

Research@MechEng - University of Leeds Rich Shaw, Adam Peckham-Cooper, Richard Hall MSc, BA(Hons), CMgr MCMI, FRSA, Varaidzo (Vee) Mapunde, Rory Turnbull

New MHRA hub set to drive growth and jobs creation - “fantastic news” for region



The MHRA has launched a new hub in Leeds .

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) new Leeds hub has been hailed as "fantastic news" for the region, with the potential to create jobs and drive economic growth.

Leeds was selected for the new digital hub due to its expertise in digital health and strong academic base.

The new hub is set to build on the city's momentum – driving regional partnerships, attracting skilled talent and local investment.

It forms part of the MHRA's broader strategy to enhance regulatory agility, strengthen digital capabilities, and deliver better outcomes for patients, the public and industry.

The hub is also expected to enable closer collaboration with digital health networks, NHS organisations, and leading academic institutions nationwide.

Lawrence Tallon, chief executive of the MHRA, said: "By establishing an MHRA hub in Leeds, we're strengthening our ability to collaborate with partners across the North of England – bringing regulatory expertise closer to the people, organisations and innovations we serve.

“This hub will play a vital role in shaping the future of regulation, including how we harness technology to deliver regulation that meets the needs of patients, supports the health system, and drives life sciences innovation across the UK”.

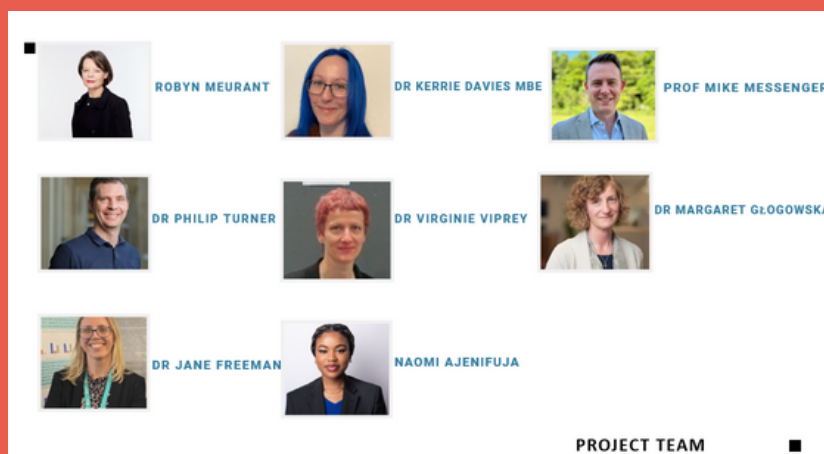
The new hub will be located in Wellington Place in Leeds city centre. The MHRA will initially recruit around 30 permanent, highly-skilled roles, focused on digital delivery, software development and data science, with the ambition for further expansion in future phases.

NIHR Training Camp 7th July 2025

The event will provide an overview of NIHR Opportunities and presentations on topics such as: “Selling Yourself and Your Project” and “Developing Your Research Question”. Along with an Inspirational Speaker discussing their research journey, there will also be a dedicated virtual Q&A session where attendees will be able to pose questions to experienced researchers and NIHR staff.

[Register Now](#)

Transforming diagnostics. Empowering labs. Strengthening public health across Africa



The Early diagnosis and personalised care theme recently played a central role in the EXPANDIA project, led by ICGEB, which is working to transform how diagnostics are developed, selected, and implemented across sub-Saharan Africa.

The project is focused on:

- Transferring cost-effective, real-time diagnostic tools
- Supporting training for African scientists
- Building local capacity to manufacture diagnostic reagents
- Providing guidance to navigate regulatory environments

The team's contribution centred on co-developing a decision-making tool designed to help African public health laboratories choose diagnostic tests that best match their local clinical and operational contexts.

What was delivered:

A stakeholder survey and qualitative interviews across African public health labs

A comprehensive thematic evidence review

The development of a diagnostic decision-making algorithm

A full project report capturing insights, recommendations, and next steps

This collaborative work brought together expert voices from countries including Cameroon, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ethiopia and other Sub-Saharan African countries. Together, they explored how diagnostics can be selected more effectively, with a focus on public health impact, affordability, usability, and long-term sustainability.

Accelerating HealthTech Innovation in West Yorkshire –



Accelerating HealthTech Innovation in
West Yorkshire – Webinars still available
to join

We're nearly halfway through this ten-part webinar series from Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, designed to support HealthTech innovators at every stage of their journey – from initial idea to adoption. There's still time to sign up for the remaining sessions, covering key topics such as regulatory compliance, generating evidence, and securing funding. Each webinar features expert speakers and regional leaders offering practical insights and highlighting the support available across West Yorkshire.

Whether you're an early-stage innovator or an established company, the series is flexible, attend the sessions most relevant to you and connect with the right people to help move your innovation forward.

[Register here](#)

NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre 2025 Pre application support fellowships. Round 2

In order to support applicants applying for competitive funded career development fellowships, BRC are holding a targeted support funding call: To allow individuals from HCPs* and methodologists from across our region, to apply for the NIHR Leeds BRC pre application support fellowship.

(* HCPs include registered professions such as AHPs, nurses, midwives, ACPs, pharmacists, healthcare scientists etc)

The NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre is delighted to invite applications for the 2025 Pre-application support fellowships: Round 2.

Applications will need to align with the broad remit of the BRC, which is to support early translational research (musculoskeletal disease, cardiometabolic disease, surgical technologies, pathology, haematology, antimicrobial resistance and infection).

Closing date for applications: 17:00 hrs 5th
September 2025

Interviews week commencing 9th October 2025

Further details and application form can be
found at

[NIHR Leeds BRC: Pre-Application Support
Fellowships 2025: Round 2](#)

HLTH Europe Conference



Along with colleagues from across the powerhouse that is the North of England were proud to represent Accelerated Surgical Care HealthTech Research Centre at HLTH Europe.

Europe's biggest health innovation conference this is the second time we have attended this event. This conference is ideal as it puts us in the same space as start-ups and SMEs, that are at the right stage to utilise our services. We have some exciting technologies to explore over the next few weeks.

NIHR Themed Funding Calls

NIHR themed calls are funding opportunities focusing on a particular priority research area. The government's Chief Medical Officer sets out an annual research priority, calling for researchers with interest in that area, to come forward.

The current themed call is around prevention. A focus on prevention will enable people to live healthier and happier lives, improve economic growth, and reduce pressure on the NHS.

More details are available [here](#)

Events



The events calendar is now available on our [website](#), this will be populated with events that might be of interest.

You can subscribe to the calendar so that you are notified of events.

[NIHR Doctoral Research Training Camp – Applying for Further Funding](#) - 7th July

[Empowered by Innovation: Women shaping the future of HealthTech](#) - 8th July

[Talking Point Tuesdays – Horizon Scanning: Globally](#) - 15th July

[Webinar 8: Adoption and Spread: Commercial Strategy & Go-to-Market Planning](#) - 16th July

[Webinar 9: Funding: Securing Funding for Innovation in West Yorkshire](#) - 23rd July

[Webinar Series – Human Factors in Healthtech Innovation](#) - various July dates

[Webinar 10: Innovating for a Greener NHS](#) - 30th July

[Yorkshire Post Health and Life Sciences Business Breakfast](#) - 17th September

[NIHR Nursing and Midwifery: annual Post-Doctoral NMAHP Colloquium event at Wallacespace Spitalfields](#) - 26th September

[2025 SEHTA International MedTech Expo & Conference](#) - 2nd October

[AI in the NHS 2025](#) - 14th October 2025



HealthTech Funding Opportunities

The following are funding streams that are suitable for collaborative application with the HealthTech Research Centre in Accelerated Surgical Care.

We advise all potential applicants to discuss their potential applications well in advance of the application deadline.

Deep Tech Venture Builder Programme Call – 14 July 2025

Barclays Eagle Labs Female Founder Accelerator 2025 – 14 July 2025

Horizon Europe Pump Priming collaboration opportunities 2025 – 15 July 2025

Developmental pathway funding scheme: stage one – 16 July 2025

Quantum Business Incubation Centre – 18 July 2025

Australia-UK platform studies in areas of unmet clinical need – 23 July 2025

Improving diagnosis of Urinary Tract Infection in older adults – 30 July 2025

Hospital at home/virtual wards: service delivery, integration, evaluating impact on health and social care – 05 August 2025

Swiss-UK investigator-led randomised controlled clinical trials in areas of unmet clinical need – 09 September 2025

Horizon Europe 2025 work programme Cluster 1: Health – 16 September 2025

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP): 2025 – 2026 Round 3 – 17 September 2025

Horizon Europe 2025 EU Missions: Cancer Mission – 24 September 2025

Health Technologies Connectivity Awards: round two – 02 October 2025

Future Leaders Fellowships: round 10, business and non-academic – 05 November 2025

Innovation and Improvement in Health and Care – 15 November 2025 (Forecast)