



NEWSLETTER

Issue 4
30 September 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.

Email: hrc-surgical@leeds.ac.uk
<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

The LeVe CPAP Assembly Experience



Professor Culmer Professor of Healthcare Engineering in the School of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Leeds visited ShiShi International who are leading the way in strengthening capacity for local production of medical devices in Uganda in collaboration with Makerere University Biomedical Engineering Unit, the purpose of the visit was to join a workshop looking at training and manufacture of the LeVe CPAP system - an initiative focused on building low-resource, cost-effective CPAP systems to improve access to respiratory care.

Under the guidance of Dr Robert Ssekitoleko and Eng Brian Matovu, they were trained in the local assembly of CPAP devices using accessible components, part of a broader push to manufacture and maintain respiratory technologies right in Uganda while verifying the assembly procedures developed by the team.

Over three sessions they learnt:

- Component selection, blower system assembly, tubing configurations and valve tuning.
- Testing for flow rates, pressure stability and safety across different respiratory conditions.
- Real-time problem-solving with a team that included engineers, students and clinicians.

Driving the Future of Innovation - West Yorkshire's Health Tech Cluster



West Yorkshire is recognised globally as a leading region for HealthTech, innovation, and research. This first-of-its-kind event will showcase how our HealthTech Cluster is shaping the future of healthcare.

The full-day programme with speakers from across the NHS, Government, research, funding bodies and industry, includes keynote speeches alongside panel discussions on the impact of the 10-Year Health Plan, real-world adoption of innovation, and the support available to HealthTech companies in the region.

Breakout sessions will provide practical insights on funding, investment opportunities, and the future HealthTech strategy for West Yorkshire. With extensive networking opportunities, this event is a must for anyone interested in HealthTech innovation.

Places are limited – secure your spot today!

Register [here](#)

Bringing a medical technology from idea to market

Bringing a medical technology from idea to market is never a straight path. Watch this webinar where five experts explore the critical steps, challenges and opportunities in turning a concept into a clinically viable solution.

Watch now on [YouTube](#).

Featuring our very own panellists [Varaidzo \(Vee\) Mapunde](#) along with [Robert Sackin](#) of [Reddie & Grose](#) Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, [Lyubomyr Dutko](#) of [Lemberg Solutions](#) and [Morven Shearlaw](#) of [Fearsome](#):

NICE publishes document outlining its role in the 10 Year Health Plan



NICE has recently published a [document](#) outlining its role in the 10 Year Health Plan and how the plan empowers NICE to deliver on three core priorities:

1. Accelerating the rollout of high impact health technologies
2. Continually updating guidance to ensure smarter spending
3. Implementing parallel decision-making for faster access to new treatments

Key points addressed in the publication include:

- NICE will establish clear and consistent requirements for the evaluation of digital tools, devices and diagnostics, similar to those already in place for medicines, to reduce confusion and ensure equitable adoption across the NHS.
 - NICE plans to test the pathway with a few technologies initially, with a view to increase numbers in future years.
- Stakeholder consultations on changes to the existing health technology appraisal manual will take place in September and October 2025, with initial topics announced in December 2025, marking the first steps toward the new approach.
 - NICE has now launched this consultation; more information can be found below.
- Guidance will transition to a whole life-cycle model, with NICE continually updating recommendations as new evidence emerges, in order to provide clearer decision pathways for clinicians.
 - This evolving guidance will help to "phase out less effective innovations to create financial headroom for tomorrow's clinical breakthroughs".
 - The first guidance using this whole cycle approach was published this month ([guidance on chronic heart failure](#)).
- By April 2026 NICE will align its evaluation timelines with the MHRA to allow for simultaneous decisions on the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of new medicines, with the aim of bringing medicines to patients 3-6 months faster, and streamlining regulatory processes.

Following on from the above publication, NICE has today launched a [consultation](#) seeking views on proposed changes to the NICE health technology evaluations manual, which are to support the production of technology appraisals on medical devices, diagnostics and digital technologies. The consultation is open for feedback until 22nd October 2025. The HTA will be considering a response to the consultation, and will follow up on this shortly.

Additionally as a reminder, we are holding our next member meeting with MHRA and NICE on Wednesday 8th October. The speakers confirmed are:

- Thomas Slater, Director of Health Technology and Advice, NICE
- James Pound, Interim Executive Director of Innovation and Compliance, MHRA

Please reach out to the Secretariat if you have questions on any of the above.

The NIHR funded Senior Clinical Academic Practitioner Award Cohort 3 is open.



The Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award (SCPRA) provides up to 5 years of funding for individuals at the postdoctoral level to engage in research activities.

[Watch the webinar: get tips for putting together a strong application](#)

This award is open to senior clinicians and senior practitioners who have already been awarded a PhD or a MD.

One aim of this award is to support underrepresented groups and professions.

We also encourage applications from individuals who are:

- typically underrepresented in research
- from a range of backgrounds and communities (including applicants who may be from medical specialties, rather than the specialisms listed above)
- whose research career to date has been affected by personal circumstances

If you work in other underrepresented areas or disciplines, use the 'Contextual factors' section of the application form to detail why this award would benefit you based upon personal circumstances.

If you have a medical background you should use this section to state clearly why you are in an underrepresented group.

Full details of the eligibility criteria for the scheme can be found on the [award page](#)

Key dates

Application opening date

Wednesday 24 September 2025

Application closing date

Tuesday 25 November 2025

Application assessments

December 2025 - January 2026

Award start dates

1 May - 1 September 2026

Further details are available [here](#)

Health Equity Training with Deloitte:

In Collaboration with Deloitte we delivered Health Equity Training

The session focused on understanding and activating health equity in your work.

Did you know...



Social determinants of health account for up to 80% of health outcomes. Patient outcomes begin well before they enter the hospital or GP walls!



Outcomes from surgery are not equal. People from deprived backgrounds are more likely to face longer wait times and face multiple health conditions



Men are almost 3x more likely than women to receive or be on the waitlist for cardiac surgery



Black men have higher complication rates in both the UK and the US (with ~50% higher mortality rate in the US, compared to white men)

We had an interactive discussion, including hearing from patient representatives who shared their personal reflections on inequity they had faced.



LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES WORLD-FIRST DIGITAL TWIN PROJECT FOR THE NHS



We are proud to be part of A groundbreaking partnership between Nexus and the Health Innovation Network Yorkshire & Humber, West Yorkshire ICB, and Kidney Research UK is set to transform how chronic kidney disease (CKD) is diagnosed and treated across the NHS.

The organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch the world's first population health digital twin – a virtual model that mirrors real-world health systems, allowing experts to test interventions safely and effectively before applying them in clinical practice. The project will begin by focusing on CKD, one of West Yorkshire's most urgent health challenges.

Chosen as one of just eight international testbeds by the global [Digital Twin Consortium](#), the project is already gaining national and international recognition, with the potential to scale across the NHS.

Find our more [here](#)

Inclusive research means better research and fairer systems” – New action plan to increase inclusion in research and address health inequalities



We attended an event at the Senedd, to launch Health and Care Research Wales' new three-year Inclusivity Action Plan.

The event, chaired by Chief Dental Officer Andrew Dickinson, also marked the launch of a new partnership between Health and Care Research Wales and the Centre for Research Equity (CFRE) Oxford University.

Dr Mahendra Patel, founding director and Inclusion and Diversity lead at CFRE, was one of a number of inspiring speakers, which also included Professor Chris George, chair of the National Cardiovascular Research Network (NCRN), among others.

Healthcare inequalities are a continuing challenge in Wales. Factors such as ethnicity, disability, age and deprivation can all influence health, even before people become unwell. For example, women born in the most disadvantaged areas of Wales live on average 17 fewer years in good health than those born in the most affluent areas.

When sections of society are overlooked, healthcare inequalities worsen. Lack of inclusivity can also seriously diminish trust in health and care systems, making future recruitment and engagement in research even more challenging.

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.

[2025 SEHTA International MedTech Expo & Conference](#) - 3 October 2025
[AI in the NHS 2025](#) - 14th October 2025

[Innovate UK ISP56 – Sensing Technologies for Health](#) - 7 October 2025

[The MedTech and Diagnostics Conference 2025](#) - 21 & 22 October 2025

[Driving the Future of Innovation - West Yorkshire's Health Tech Cluster](#) - 6 November 2025

[West Yorkshire HealthTech Launchpad Conference](#) - 6 & 7 November 2025

[HRC Brain Health Innovation Event](#) - 12 November 2025

[Surgical Workshop Sandpit day](#) – 14 November 2025

[NWSTC Shaping the Future of Surgery through Research: From Innovation to Delivery Day](#) - 14 November 2025

[Futures, Foresight and Horizon Scanning Conference 2025](#) - 19 & 20 November 2025

Manchester Health Series 2025/2026 - Companion Diagnostics, 3 December 2025
Nuclear Medicine, 26 March 2026

[UK Concussion Conference – Pathway Challenges and Innovation Opportunities](#) - 5 December 2025

[Soft Robotics for Healthcare 26](#) - 19-20 January 2026



HealthTech Funding Opportunities



The following are funding streams that are suitable for collaborative applications 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.

Health Technologies Connectivity Awards: round two – 02 October 2025

NIHR i4i FAST Funding – 02 October 2025

Take the Lead community grants – 13 October 2025

NIHR Mentoring Programme: Mentee cohort 3 2025 – 21 October 2025

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

NIHR Undergraduate Internship Programme Cohort 3 – 05 November 2025

Gap fund for early-stage development of new healthcare interventions – 12 November 2025

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

UKRI Developmental pathway funding scheme: stage one – 19 November 2025

NIHR Application Development Award for Health and Care Professionals – 4 February 2026

PBIAA Secondments – December 2026

