

# Surgical MedTech Cooperative NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Edition 10

Welcome to the latest issue our quarterly newsletters. We are one of 11 national MICs funded by the National Institute for Health Research. Based in Leeds, we are a national network of clinicians, scientists, industry, patients and public working together to advance the care of patients with Colorectal, Vascular & HPB diseases. For more information on what we do, please contact [surgicalmic@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:surgicalmic@leeds.ac.uk)

## Centre for Responsive HealthTech Innovation

The University of Leeds, in partnership with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, have established a new Centre for Responsive HealthTech Innovation (CfRHI). The ambition for CfRHI is to create vibrant research and innovation ecosystem, drawing on existing strengths across the partner institutions and founded on the principles of value-based healthcare. The Centre will rally interdisciplinary collaborations across disciplines, career stages, and sectors, and streamline the pathway from discovery science to clinical adoption for maximum health and economic impact. It will be challenge-led, focusing on the most critical issues faced by the healthcare community, with the ability to respond rapidly to changing socio-economic needs.



## Brain Surgeon: Between Life & Death

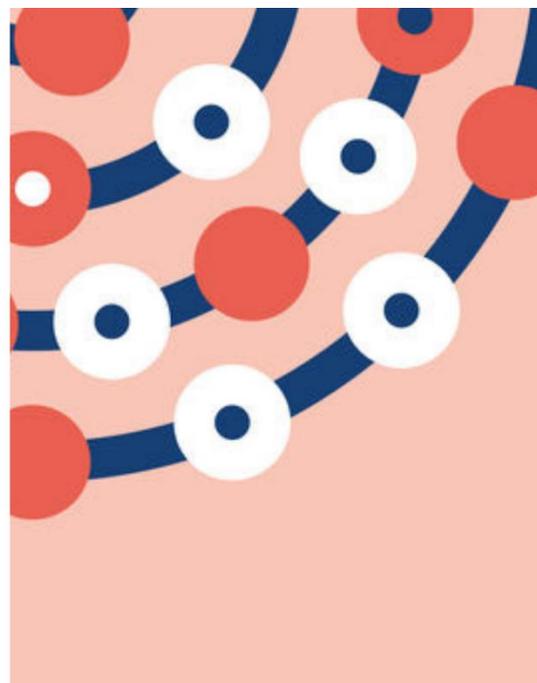
Watch our neurosurgery lead Mr Ryan Mathew who has a research interest in brain tumours perform awake brain surgery and explain surgery in lay terms as well as talk briefly about research in brain tumours.

# Rethinking MedTech Collaborations

## Virtual Northern MedTech Summit

28th January 2021 9.30am- 1.30pm

[www.superconnectseries.com/virtual-medtech-summit/](http://www.superconnectseries.com/virtual-medtech-summit/)



### Surgical MIC Virtual Northern MedTech Summit 2021:

The Virtual Northern MedTech Summit 2021 is an exciting initiative powered by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Surgical MedTech Co-operative, the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSa) and Empact Ventures. It aims to showcase and raise awareness of the North's position as a MedTech cluster for public and private sector organisations of all sizes while encouraging new collaborations to address the challenges in the healthcare sector today and tomorrow.

The event is open any individual, professional, academic, researchers, clinicians, tech startup, scale-up, SME, corporate, funder or patient who will be super connected by Empact Ventures to people, organisations and opportunities to address their challenges, needs and interests.

The event will be held virtually on 28th January 2021 at 9.30am - 1:30pm

Our collective goals of the summit are to:

- To showcase the North as a leading MedTech Cluster by raising awareness of its world-class infrastructure, support and networks available
- To foster new collaborations within and across the North and beyond
- To focus on building a stronger foundation in a post-COVID-19 world to future-proof the UK Healthcare System
- To create and stimulate new discussions around the challenges, trends and needs in today's new normal
- To bring new perspectives and approaches from other industries to the healthcare sector

To register for free for the summit visit; <http://bit.ly/rethinkingmedtech>. Once registered, the Empact Ventures team will make 3 free super connections after the day to potential partners, clients or funders according of your registered interests, needs and challenges

If you would like to find out more please visit <https://www.superconnectseries.com/virtual-medtech-summit/>

For enquiries please contact [hello@empact-ventures.com](mailto:hello@empact-ventures.com)

## BioTech firm moves to Leeds

Betalin Therapeutics Ltd first engaged with Dr Chris McKee (Representing the Surgical MIC) at Biomed Israel 2019 after being introduced by the Department of International Trade. Following this encounter a working group involving several institutions has been established, all working in collaboration to deliver this project including; The University of Leeds, Newcastle University, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and the Surgical MIC. In a show of confidence in our ability to deliver and support Betalin Therapeutics on their clinical journey they have recently announced that Nexus, the innovation hub at the University of Leeds, will be its new base of operations in the UK as it develops the next stage of its diabetes treatment and they will shortly be opening a laboratory facility to achieve this. Should the project be successful then this implantable insulin inducing Biologically derived med-device could provide a lasting cure for diabetic patients and revolutionise Islet based therapy treatments around the world. <https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2020/10/08/international-biotech-company-tackling-diabetes-chooses-leeds-hub-for-expansion>



## Robotic Probe for Semi-Autonomous Colonoscopies

Researchers at the University of Leeds in the UK have developed a robotic system that can assist a physician or nurse to perform a colonoscopy. The system uses magnets to guide a probe through the body, and its developers claim that the approach is easier for operators and less painful and uncomfortable for patients. The researchers hope that the system could make colonoscopies more widely available.



## Advanced Surgical Technology Incubator

The NIHR Incubator for Advanced Surgical Technology was launched (April 2020) after a proposal submitted by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSE).

The Incubator has been created to develop a vibrant, multi-disciplinary, advanced surgical technologies research community to realise the rapidly increasing potential of assistive, robotic and minimally-invasive surgery for the NHS.

For more information about the Advanced Surgical Technology Incubator please contact: [uclh.asti.admin@nhs.net](mailto:uclh.asti.admin@nhs.net)



### **Tomorrows Leaders Education Workshop**

This year NIHR is joining forces with the National Research Collaborative Meeting (NRCM) to run a series of webinars, as well as the Tomorrow's Leaders Educational Workshop 2020. The aim of the workshop is to equip the next generations of surgeons with the skills and tools needed to recruit to and lead NIHR Portfolio studies. It is scheduled to run over two consecutive Friday mornings:

- Friday 4 December 2020, 9am - 12.15pm
- Friday 11 December 2020, 9am - 12.15pm

The programme is a mixture of interactive sessions in small 'rooms' and plenary lectures and will be delivered via Zoom



## [NIHR Short Placement Awards Research Collaborations \(SPARC\)](#) round 7 now launched

Application period **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 1pm**

### **What does the SPARC award include?**

The NIHR SPARC offers awards of up to £5,000 per individual and allows NIHR Academy Members (PhD or early career post-doctoral researchers) supported by NIHR Infrastructure and NIHR Schools an opportunity to spend time in other parts of the NIHR; to network, train in a specific skill or collaborate with other researchers/specialists. The scheme is designed to optimise and enhance the individuals' experience as well as their CVs and careers.

Applicants are encouraged to explore and maximise the wide range of facilities, expertise and opportunities available to them across the NIHR for their personal and professional development, and develop a placement that is bespoke to their individual training needs, background, skills/experiences, as well as their proposed career trajectory.

Further information on the NIHR SPARC scheme; including the guidance notes and application form can be found [here](#).

### **What's new for Round 7?**

**Industry/Commercial Sector** - We are encouraging potential applicants to consider planning and undertaking placements in other parts of the NIHR that have developed partnerships and collaborations with industry partners. In embedding themselves within already established NIHR-Industry partnerships the aim would be to develop skills and gain experience of what is needed to have a successful working relationship with industry (including the life-sciences, med-tech, SMEs and food industry).

### **Possibility of undertaking virtual SPARC placements**

In light of the current situation and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are encouraging prospective applicants to explore the possibility of undertaking some or all of their placement virtually, as well as the possibility of undertaking suitable available training online that meets the applicant's individual training, personal and professional needs.

### **How do NIHR Academy members apply?**

Potential applicants can access the application form and NIHR SPARC Round 7 Guidance Notes on the [NIHR website](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

### Wounds Research Industry Master Class

Call for expression of interest

### Medical Tech Conference

Online 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### AIMDay Grow MedTech Diagnostics

Online 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### NHS Long Term Plan Conference 2021

The Studio, Manchester 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### MedTech Innovation Expo 2021

NEC Birmingham 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain & Ireland (ACPGBI) 32nd Annual Meeting

Harrogate Conference Centre, Harrogate 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### UGI Congress 2021

Belfast 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Surgical MIC National Meeting**

**Date: November 2021 - TBC**

**Bournemouth**

**Registration via Eventbrite opening soon**

## Funding Collaborations

[Robotics for a more resilient future Feasibility strand](#)

**Closing date 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

[EME Evaluation Programme Researcher-Led](#)

**Closing date 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

[EME Novel Strategies & Interventions to Reduce Overtreatment](#)

**Closing date 1st December 2020**

[Bowel Cancer UK – Call for proposals](#)

**Closing Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

[I4I Product Development Awards Call 21](#)

**Closing Date 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

[BHF New Horizon Grant](#)

**Closing Date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

[Grow MedTech - Proof of Market](#)

**Closing Date 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

[Pancreatic Cancer Scotland – Pump Priming Research Grants](#)

**Closing date – no time limits**

Talk to us if you would like academic or clinical input, patient and public involvement or some support with project coordination and management. Please allow sufficient time for this.

## Core team

Clinical Director: Professor David Jayne<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Deputy Director: Mr Aaron Quyn

Vascular Theme Led: Professor Julian Scott

Hepatobiliary Theme Lead: Professor Giles Toogood

Scientific Director/ Nanotechnology Theme Lead: Professor Steve Evans

Robotics Lead: Professor Pietro Valdastrì

Engineering Lead: Dr Peter Culmer<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Biosensing Lead: Professor Paul Millner<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Programme Manager: Vee Mapunde<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Project Manager: Sheila Boyes

<http://surgicalmic.nihr.ac.uk/> Follow us

