

Surgical MedTech Cooperative NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Edition 14

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, Neurosurgery & HPB diseases. For more information on what we do, please contact surgicalmic@leeds.ac.uk

Non-invasive, vagus nerve stimulation to reduce ileus after colorectal surgery: protocol for a feasibility trial with nested mechanistic studies

Ileus is a common and distressing condition characterised by gut dysfunction after surgery. While a number of interventions have aimed to curtail its impact on patients and healthcare systems, ileus is still an unmet challenge. Electrical stimulation of the vagus nerve is a promising new treatment due to its role in modulating the neuro-immune axis through a novel anti-inflammatory reflex. The protocol for a feasibility study of non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation (nVNS), and a programme of mechanistic and qualitative studies, is described. **Read more.....**



MIC Extension

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is considering the policy direction for any future investment in NIHR Medtech and In vitro diagnostics Co-operatives (MICs) beyond December 2022 when the existing contracts end. To ensure rapidly evolving strategies relating to the MedTech and IVD landscape can be considered by DHSC, it has been decided that the contracts for the NIHR MICs should be extended for a total of twelve months until 31 December 2023.

This additional extension will allow the NIHR MICs to complete delivery of their agreed objectives and additionally develop existing and new projects within the agreed themes.

First UK patients have liver cancer successfully treated using pioneering non-invasive ultrasound technology

The first UK patient has undergone a pioneering new treatment for liver cancer at St James's Hospital, Leeds as part of US-based HistoSonics' #HOPE4LIVER study.

The study is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of HistoSonics' platform technology which uses the novel science of histotripsy, a form of therapeutic focused ultrasound, to mechanically destroy targeted primary and metastatic liver tumours without the need for invasive incisions or needles entering the patient's body.

The first treatment using the new technology by HistoSonics was undertaken at a Florida hospital in February 2021 with a patient in Italy subsequently becoming the first in Europe. Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust is the first location in the UK to enrol patients in the #HOPE4LIVER study and is working in collaboration with Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to enrol patients in Leeds and Newcastle. It is hoped that following a successful trial this new method of treatment will become available more widely for eligible patients in the UK.

Dr Tze Min Wah, Senior Consultant Radiologist in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust who is leading the #HOPE4LIVER trial in Leeds, said "It is exciting to be given this opportunity to lead this pioneering trial using histotripsy to treat liver cancer. This is the first 'surgical' treatment of liver cancer that requires no needles or scalpels. In addition, this procedure also involves no radiation. There is a real potential to truly shift the paradigm of liver cancer treatment in the future with this innovative technology and further potential for translation into cancer treatment of other sites." **Read more.....**



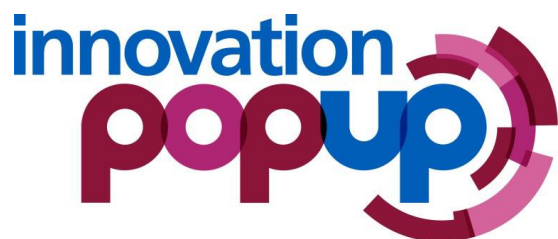
Super Connect for Good

We participated in the Super Connect for Good 2021 event by judging the MedTech stream the competition seeks to discover and super connect the best emerging tech startups and scale-ups creating positive social impact to enhance people's lives through technology.

They welcoming applications from Tech for Good startups & scale-ups from across the UK, Ireland and Europe: **Read more.....**

Innovation Pop Up

The Innovation Pop up is an exciting development at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Situated in a prime city centre location, the ground breaking Innovation Pop Up is located on the NHS 'side' of innovation in a heritage site. At the heart of the Leeds City Region healthtech industry and academic cluster, the Innovation Pop Up is perfectly situated for clinical entrepreneurs.



The Innovation Pop Up aims to:

- Develop the innovation culture in Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust ready for our new digital hospitals in 2026
- Centralise innovation activity at the Trust linking staff, partners and industry
- Support local economic recovery and promote the regional skills and talent agenda
- Scale in phases towards full site redevelopment in 2026.

[Read more.....](#)

Centre of HealthTech Innovation

On the 10th September the Centre for HealthTech Innovation (CfHI) held its launch event, this a strategic initiative between the University of Leeds, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and the local HealthTech community with the ambition of building a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem founded on the principles of value-based healthcare who aim to accelerate the development and adoption of new health technologies

It draws on the expertise of a community of around 150 scientists and clinical academics from across the University and the Trust and is part of a wide network of industrial, academic and clinical partners from the Leeds City Region.

Through collaboration, the Centre aims to help transform Leeds into a world-leader in connected, innovation-driven and challenge-led healthtech.

Watch the **launch event**



Surgical Robotics: Towards Measurable Patient Benefits & Widespread Adoption

The UK-RAS Network have released a revised paper on surgical robotics, the paper summarises the latest achievements in the sector and offers a measured view about the future of surgical robotics in the UK. **Read more**



I4I Funding Seminars

The Research and Design Service (RDS) held online seminars. The seminars provide deep insights into the aspects of i4i project development and highlight which organisations to consult during the design process.

Interested in applying for i4i funding, you can watch the seminars by clicking the links below.

[Introduction to translational research and NIHR's i4i funding stream](#)

[i4i Session 1: Patient & public involvement and stakeholders](#)



SolidWorks 3D CAD software

ABGI UK, are offering qualifying NIHR users up to three full suites of SolidWorks 3D CAD software, completely free for 12-months.

To help our members test the waters of digital manufacturing and evidence the benefits for themselves, ABGI is offering:

- up to three free 12-month subscriptions to the entire SolidWorks 3D CAD suite, as well as
- user support
- access to the SolidWorks user community

This industry-leading 3D CAD software can manage all aspects of the design and manufacturing process from initial design, to costing, testing, proof-of-concept, direct 3D printing/manufacturing output, technical documentation and marketing materials.

To qualify for this offer, your company:

- should be designing and manufacturing physical products, and;
- shouldn't be a current Solidworks licence holder.

To find out more about how you take advantage of this offer, and to kickstart your own digital transformation journey, talk to ABGI today.

Contact Georgina Andrew on 0131 656 0810 or email georgina.andrew@abgi-uk.com



[PPI MedTech Review Service](#)

Are you developing a new medical technology or device that will be used at any point along the surgical pathway (pre-surgical, during surgery or post-surgery)? Do you need patient and public involvement input (PPI) for your grant funding application? Or you just want to find out whether your technology or device is acceptable to non-clinical end-users?

The Surgical MIC can set up and facilitate focus groups or you can present your medical technology or device at our patient and public involvement committee meetings.

This service is available to academics, healthcare professionals, start-ups, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and any other organization involved in the development of MedTech.

Email surgicalmic@leeds.ac.uk to discuss further.

Read more.....



[Surgical MIC App](#)

Our mic app is now available to download. The main purpose of this app is to facilitate surgical medical technology collaborations by linking individuals and companies with appropriate collaborators. We have also included a list of technologies that are required by surgeons in the NHS.

The collaborator component of the app will be updated on a regular basis, whilst the rest of the app will be updated on a monthly basis.

Read more.....



[Surgical MIC Toolkit](#)

Our ability to support your technology is largely dependent on your stage on the translational pathway. Our objectives are to shorten the translational pathway for those solutions where it is possible, and to provide a real time example of the steps and questions that are important for medical technology development and the factors that are important for the NHS.

This toolkit should help you understand how the Surgical MIC can work with you and the outputs you can expect at each stage of your translational journey. **Read more.....**



Upcoming Events

Wounds Research Industry Master Class

Call for expression of interest

Health Innovation Exchange: Opportunities for Immersive Technology in health

Online 2nd November 2021

Green Surgery -Conference

Online 4th November 2021

NIHR SME consultation

Ambassadors Bloomsbury Hotel, 5th November 2021

Innovation Champions event: How to win grant funding

Online 4th November 2021

AHSN - Innovation Surgery

Online 23rd November 2021 Email info@yhahsn.com to register

NHS Long Term Plan 2022 Conference

The Studio, Manchester, 1st March 2022,

Med-Tech Innovation Expo 2022

NEC Birmingham 8th June 2022

Hosted by:

NIHR | Surgical MedTech
Co-operative

BU
Bournemouth
University

In Partnership with:

OVHcloud
Startup Program

Powered by:

EMPACT
VENTURES
THE STARTUP SUPER CONNECTORS

The North-South MedTech Summit

AI - MedTech - HealthTech
Surgery 4.0 - Big Data - Robotics - IoT - AR/VR

Friday 26th November 2021

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Join our virtual event hosting 40+ speakers, exhibitors and partners

Each registered attendee will receive 3 free super connections to potential partners, clients or funders

Register here:

www.northsouthmedtechsummit.org

#NorthSouthMedTechSummit

Funding Collaborations

[Surgical MedTech Co-operative Funding Competition 2021/22](#)

[Biomedical catalyst 2021 round two: feasibility and primer awards:](#)

Deadline 1st December 2021

[Invention for Innovation - Product Development Awards Call 23](#)

Deadline 8th December 2021

[Innovate UK smart grants: October 2021](#)

Deadline: 5th January 2022

[NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(HS&DR Programme\)](#)

Deadline 11th January 2022

[Health Services and Delivery Research Programme \(standard researcher-led\)](#)

Deadline 11th January 2022

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

Deadline – no time limits

[Innovator Awards](#)

Deadline - No time limits

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

Deadline – 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

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

Programme Manager: Vee Mapunde

Project Manager: Roxane Dumitrache

Project Manager: Sheila Boyes

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