

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3 – SEPTEMBER 2010

Highlights in this issue:

The results of the **Elevation Awards 2010** were announced in May, rewarding innovators in equipment, diagnostics and ICT. Full details of winners are included in this issue, plus word of media interest since the event. More on p2

The Northern Trust and Yarra Software agree to **share revenue** from sales of EPICS, a successful pharmacy ICT product developed collaboratively..... More on p3

Two **new funding opportunities** are available - £5m from the Technology Strategy Board for high-throughput genomics-based technologies; and The Health Innovation Challenge Fund (Wellcome Trust and the Department of Health) seeks to projects to stimulate the creation of innovative healthcare products, technologies and interventions in the area of monitoring of chronic illness in the home and remote settings. More on p6

In this issue:

NEWS	2
Innovative HSC Staff Win at Elevation Awards 2010.....	2
NHST and Yarra Software Share Revenue from Pharmacy Technology.....	3
Funding for Cardiac Imaging.....	4
Technologies Available for Licensing.....	5
Seek Collaborators Online.....	5
Projects in the News.....	5
New Information Sheets	5
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	6
£5m Funding For Genomics Technologies	6
Health Innovation Challenge Fund - Monitoring of Chronic Illness in the Home and Remote Settings.....	6
EVENTS.....	7
Autumn Workshop Series.....	7
ABOUT HSC INNOVATIONS	7
New Website	7

Innovative HSC Staff Win at Elevation Awards 2010

HSC Innovations officially unveiled the top innovators across the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts on Tuesday 25th May and rewarded them for coming up with a raft of exciting new ideas to improve patient care.

All 60,000 HSC employees – from domestic assistants to surgeons – were challenged in March to put forward innovative ideas to transform healthcare or lead to vital medical breakthroughs as part of Northern Ireland's first-ever Elevation Awards, organised by HSC Innovations.

A total of 12 finalists from across all five HSC trusts were chosen by an expert team of health and business specialists for the inaugural awards, which took place at Belfast's La Mon Hotel. From these, three entries made the top grade in the specialist categories.

Stephen Wallace, an Infection Control Information Officer at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, won top slot in the most competitive category, ICT Idea of the Year, for coming up with an innovative new way to help hospitals to keep tabs on cleaning and cut hospital-acquired infection rates.



Dr David Brownlee (left) from HSC Innovations and Dr Janice Bailie (right) from the Public Health Agency present Stephen Wallace from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust with the award for the most Innovative ICT Idea.

Technical Instructor at the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, John McAuley, took the winning prize in the Equipment of the Year category devising a new product for use in occupational therapy that could save therapists valuable time and enhance patient care.



Dr David Brownlee (left) from HSC Innovations and Professor Alistair Fee (right) present John McAuley from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust with the award for the most Innovative Equipment Idea.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust also took the lead in the Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals Idea of the Year category when Clinical Scientist, Dr Derek Fairley, accepted the winning award for developing a novel molecular diagnostic tool which could help in the global fight against bacterial meningitis and septicemia.

Dr David Brownlee, Innovation Adviser at HSC Innovations, said:

"Our congratulations go to each of the winners and all the finalists who were shortlisted for the first ever Elevation Awards. It's vital that we keep coming up with new, exciting and innovative ways to address unmet clinical needs, and to develop solutions that will ultimately improve patient care. HSC Innovations provides a platform along with our industry and clinical partners to identify, protect and develop ideas towards commercialisation and implementation."

The best overall entries from each of the five Trusts were also recognised, with Dr Philip Gardiner from the Western Trust, Patrick Maguire from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Rosemary Bird for South Eastern Trust all receiving accolades for their ideas. Stephen Wallace from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust also won again in this category, as did Dr Derek Fairley from the Belfast Trust for his submission.

Professor Bernie Hannigan Director of R&D for Health and Social Care said:

"The ideas put forward were really great. They demonstrate a huge range of skills and talent so we know that innovation to benefit patients is really possible all across the trusts. I hope that these new awards will encourage even more of our brilliant staff to take up the innovation challenge. I congratulate

everybody on what they have achieved already. Now let's keep the ideas flowing and use them to transform the services we deliver for our community."



Dr David Brownlee (left) from HSC Innovations and Pat McCartan (right), Chairman of the Belfast Trust, present Dr Derek Fairley from the Belfast Trust with the award for the most Innovative Diagnostics and Pharmaceutical Idea.

HSC Innovations has published a booklet showcasing winners of the Elevation Awards 2010. A PDF version is available on the new website at <http://www.hscinnovations.org/?p=245>. A limited number of paper copies are being circulated to senior personnel in the HSC trusts. [Contact us](#) if you require some paper copies.



The Elevation Awards 2010 Winners Booklet Front Cover

NHSCT and Yarra Software Share Revenue from Pharmacy Technology

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) and Yarra Software have recently signed a revenue sharing agreement in relation to a new 'clinical intervention' software, EPICS, (Electronic Pharmacist Intervention Clinical System) which was developed in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy at Queens University of Belfast.

In hospitals it is the job of the clinical pharmacists to ensure the safe and effective use of medicines. The medicine may not be having the required effect, the patients may be taking too much or too little, there may be adverse side effects or two medicines may interact adversely. If pharmacists discover problems with a patient's treatment they carry out a 'clinical intervention' to ensure that the therapy will be effective and free from adverse effects.

"Traditionally, pharmacists have recorded their clinical interventions using site-specific paper-based systems. However, although they share some common attributes, the recording forms have never been standardised among healthcare Trusts," said Peter Beagon, Senior Pharmacist, NHSCT.

The pharmacy staff at Antrim Area Hospital have automated the entire process of clinical intervention with the new bespoke EPICS software application. Now, pharmacists carry their pocket PCs loaded with the software so they can quickly and easily record their clinical interventions on a continuous basis and the software automatically generates monthly reports. In addition the latest enhancement will enable these interventions to be incorporated into the Trust Incident Reporting system thereby facilitating detailed analysis and subsequent learning from key medication-related incidents.

Professor James McElnay, Pro-Vice Chancellor and a member of the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University said, *"In developing the new system, we have put patient wellbeing and safety at the heart of clinical pharmacy services within the hospital. EPICS is undoubtedly a major technological advance in providing optimal patient care."*

Professor Mike Scott, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, NHSCT, said, *"We want patients to make the best recovery they can and making sure their drug regime is effective is paramount to us. This new system allows us to minimise the risk of avoidable harm to patients and also maximise the benefits of their drug therapy."*

The software is a result of six years collaboration between the Trust and Yarra Software and is a world's first; it is attracting attention from as far away as Saudi Arabia, Germany and Sweden. Michael Martin, Business Development Director at Yarra Software said *"EPICS shows public-private partnerships can work and deliver significant returns*

both in terms of patient benefits and financial efficiency.”

Dr David Brownlee from Health and Social Care Innovations said “The collaboration between industry and health demonstrates the value of working with the clinical base in developing new product and technology opportunities for healthcare. These products can help to secure real improvements in healthcare practices locally (HSC), nationally (NHS) and globally.”

A summary of the technology is available online at <http://technologies.hscinnovations.org>.



*At the signing of the EPICs agreement
From left, seated, Mr Michael Martin, Yarra Software;
and Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive NHSCT.
From left, standing: Professor Mike Scott, NHSCT;
Professor James McElroy, Pro-Vice Chancellor,
Queen’s University of Belfast; Dr David Brownlee,
HSC Innovations; Dr Peter Flanagan, Medical
Director NHSCT; Mr Peter Beagon, Senior Clinical
Pharmacist NHSCT; and Dr Des Rooney, Director of
Research and Development, NHSCT.*

Funding for Cardiac Imaging

HSC Innovations has awarded funding through its Technology Development Fund for technology development and prototype production of an endovascular imaging device, a new way of imaging blood vessels and the heart.

The idea for the endovascular imaging device was Dr David McEneaney’s, Consultant Cardiologist, Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT). HSC Innovations then worked with Dr McEneaney in assessing the potential of the idea, which addressed a significant unmet clinical need and would have a compelling advantage in enhancing success during the surgical removal of implanted cardiac devices. Based on forward-looking ultrasound, the device may also find application in the arenas of cardiac catheterization, peripheral vascular disease and gastroenterology. HSC Innovations has filed an international patent application on the technology idea.

Dr David McEneaney said, “Every year an increasing number of cardiac devices including pacemakers and defibrillators are implanted. These devices consist of pulse generators that are implanted under the skin and leads which pass through the blood vessels into the heart.”

There are rare occasions, usually in the case of malfunction or infection, when it is necessary to remove these cardiac devices. This carries a significant risk of complications due to damage to the blood vessels or heart.

Dr McEneaney continued, “Removal of pacemaker leads is a technically challenging procedure which even in the most experienced centres carries a significant risk of serious complications. This device will improve the safety of lead removal and will have other applications in related areas including interventional cardiology.”

Dr Peter Sharpe, Associate Medical Director Research and Development, SHSCT, is delighted that this technology idea from the Southern Trust has received technology development funding from HSC Innovations. “The Cardiology Unit in the Trust has always been actively involved in research and development, particularly in the area of clinical trials and often on a European and world-wide basis. It is extremely encouraging that Dr McEneaney is using his expertise and innovative skills to develop this potential device which could substantially improve safety for patients in the removal of cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators.”

Dr David Brownlee, Innovation Advisor at HSC Innovations, commented; “This funding will help in developing Dr McEneaney’s idea into a prototype, which can then be used to demonstrate the benefits of such a device to potential partners. This technology is available for licensing, strategic partnership and/or potential investment to enable further development and rapid commercialisation.”



Dr Peter Sharpe, Associate Medical Director for Research and Development at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Dr David Brownlee, Innovation Advisor at HSC Innovations, Dr David McEneaney, Consultant Cardiologist, Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

Technologies Available for Licensing

HSC Innovations is actively developing a range of healthcare technologies on behalf of the five Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts and seeks partners to build commercial successes from those technologies. Opportunities include diagnostics, biomarkers and medical devices. In many cases patent protection is in place or being obtained, making the offerings particularly valuable.

The service has now announced publication online of information about technologies that are currently available for licensing. The first non-confidential summaries are now available at <http://technologies.hscinnovations.org> (easily found from the main website at www.hscinnovations.org), including a novel diagnostic for meningitis and a gel for treating wounds. More propositions will be added as further technologies become available. In each case contact details are provided so that further information can be obtained. Details can be browsed or searched and an RSS feed is available.

HSC Innovations is in regular contact with companies that are potential partners in the development of technologies originating in the HSC trusts. This site is becoming a useful tool to draw attention to technologies and capabilities within the HSC trusts.

Seek Collaborators Online

In addition to the publication of technology offerings online at <http://technologies.hscinnovations.org>, it is possible to post details of collaborative research and development opportunities.

Let's say you are about to embark on a programme of research but need one or more partners to contribute certain expertise to the project. Perhaps you need more sites for a trial. Why not advertise on the site in the same way? We are about to add a category for such collaborative research and development opportunities. Similarly, if you have a bank of samples that you wish to make available, why not offer the bank online?

To have your research and development opportunity posted online, simply send a summary of the opportunity to HSC Innovations.

Projects in the News

Since Dr Derek Fairley from the Belfast Trust won the award for most Innovative Diagnostics and Pharmaceutical Idea at the Elevation Awards 2010, the diagnostic developed by his team has been the subject of much media interest, thanks to the assistance of the media offices in the trust and Queen's University, a partner in the research.

The rapid diagnostic for *Neisseria meningitidis*, the major worldwide cause of invasive bacterial meningitis and septicaemia, has received attention

from local and national media. In addition to broadcast television and radio interviews on local BBC, UTV and RTE channels, newspapers picked up the story, including: [Belfast Telegraph](#), [Irish Times](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Sky News](#) and others.

The coverage has resulted in expressions of interest in the technology from around the world.

Another inventor making the news is John McAuley, technical instructor in the Elliot Dynes centre, Belfast Trust. John's portable knee block, which the award for most Innovative Equipment Idea at the Elevation Awards 2010, was featured in the August issue of Occupational Therapy News, the national magazine for occupational therapists, with a circulation of about 29,000 copies. Enquiries have been received as a direct result of the article.

New Information Sheets

Since the previous newsletter HSC Innovations has published two new information sheets aiming to help staff understand confidentiality agreements and intellectual property.

Confidential Disclosure Agreement Template: A Guide

This document introduces the need for confidentiality agreements and explains what such an agreement is. It goes on to introduce the template used by HSC Innovations and clarifies the main terms.

Guidance for Managing Intellectual Property in Research

This booklet is aimed at all members of staff in HSC organisations who are engaged on research projects, and managers of those employees. The objective is to provide information about intellectual property and how HSC Innovations can support those personnel so that intellectual property can be identified, managed and exploited effectively. The document covers:

- IP Dos And Don'ts
- What is Intellectual Property and What are Intellectual Property Rights?
- What is the HSC Policy on Intellectual Property?
- What steps should be taken if Intellectual Property has been Generated?
- Things to Consider Before a Research Project Begins
- Material Transfer
- Working with Universities and Companies
- Confidentiality and Publication

Both these new information sheets are available on the Library page of the new HSC Innovations website at http://www.hscinnovations.org/?page_id=173.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

£5m Funding For Genomics Technologies

The Technology Strategy Board has announced that it is to invest up to £5 million in innovative research and development projects using genomics-based technologies. This initiative seeks to highlight the opportunities created by the decrease in cost, and increase in speed, in high-throughput sequencing technology.

Opening in October, the competition is designed to encourage consortia to work together to exploit advances in genomics technologies. The Technology Strategy Board is seeking to support projects which utilise genomics technologies and techniques, in particular those using high-throughput sequencing for genome analysis, to enable the development of new products and processes.

The ability to access genomic information quickly and cheaply provides opportunities for advances in many areas including; increasing our understanding of healthy and diseased states; improving livestock and crop species by selective breeding; developing novel therapeutics, vaccines and antimicrobials; and refining new or existing enzymatic processes. These impact both human and animal health, the sustainable production of food and the identification or production of novel bio-based products.

The competition opens on 12th October 2010 and expressions of interest in applying for funding must be submitted by **18th November 2010**. The deadline for the receipt of full applications is 19th January 2011. All projects must be led by businesses, but HSC Trusts may be collaborative partners.

Further information is available on the website of the Technology Strategy Board at www.innovateuk.org.

Health Innovation Challenge Fund - Monitoring of Chronic Illness in the Home and Remote Settings

The Health Innovation Challenge Fund is a five-year parallel funding partnership between the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Health to stimulate the creation of innovative healthcare products, technologies and interventions, and facilitate their development for the benefit of patients in the NHS and beyond.

Priorities of the programme are:

- encourage innovative products for patient benefit
- improve the uptake of new technological advances into patient management pathways

- integrate the clinical, research, informatics and product development communities

The third theme for HICF is **monitoring of chronic illness in the home and remote settings**.

Key requirements of this call are:

- Stand-alone Devices vs. 'End-to-End Solutions': HICF is looking for a demonstrable overall solution that provides a complete monitoring solution rather than isolated devices or technologies that address only part of the problem.
- Multidisciplinary approach: The collaboration between academia, clinicians and industry is strongly encouraged for this theme in order to maximise the chances of success.
- Delivery timescale: The HICF is targeting opportunities that can deliver a healthcare outcome within a timescale of around 3-5 years from the date of the funding decision. For example, eligible proposals could be at the stage where:
 - A 'working prototype' is confidently expected to be ready for small scale, proof-of-principle, pilot studies by year 3 or;
 - The technology is at an advanced stage of development and requires formal clinical trialling.
- Business case: Applicants should provide a clear business case on why their 'remote monitoring solution' will overcome the issues relating to compliance by patients, technical challenges and adoption by professionals.
- Out of scope: The HICF is NOT considering the following for Theme 3:
 - Acute condition monitoring solutions
 - Monitoring that is routinely performed on an in-patient basis or within a hospital environment by a doctor or other healthcare professional
 - Screening technologies that increase clinical workload but cannot realistically be integrated into clinical practice

HSC Trusts are eligible to apply to this fund or may be a collaborator in an application led by partner.

Full funding is available. The closing date for preliminary applications is **1st October 2010**. Full information is on the Wellcome Trust website at www.wellcome.ac.uk or [here](#).

EVENTS

Autumn Workshop Series

A series of workshops delivered by HSC Innovations this autumn will focus on 'Innovation to Improve Patient Care'.

Each workshop will introduce the value of technological innovation in health and social care, including intellectual property and patents. HSC Innovations will describe how knowledge emerging from research and practice can be protected and commercialised to improve patient care.

Topics will include:

- What is intellectual property?
- What is the value of intellectual property?
- Policy on intellectual property

- Intellectual property in practice
- What to do if you have an idea
- Support available from HSC Innovations

There will be case studies from Northern Ireland HSC and beyond.

The following date has already been set:

- Wednesday 17th November, Antrim Hospital, Northern Trust. Contact the Northern Trust Research Office to request a place.

Further dates are anticipated in the other trusts. Watch the HSC Innovations website - www.hscinnovations.org - for further details.

ABOUT HSC INNOVATIONS

HSC Innovations is the intellectual property management service for all Health and Social Care organisations in Northern Ireland. It was launched by ministers in October 2007 and is responsible for helping all HSC bodies to identify, protect, develop and exploit the intellectual assets emerging from clinical practice and programmes of research.

The service is hosted in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and works with all trust research offices to advise researchers on effective management and exploitation of intellectual property.

To date there has been no charge for the services provided by HSC Innovations because the service receives funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Invest Northern Ireland and HSC R&D in the Public Health Agency.

Please contact any member of the HSC Innovations team for an introduction to intellectual property or with any questions about intellectual property management in HSC bodies.

Contact us:

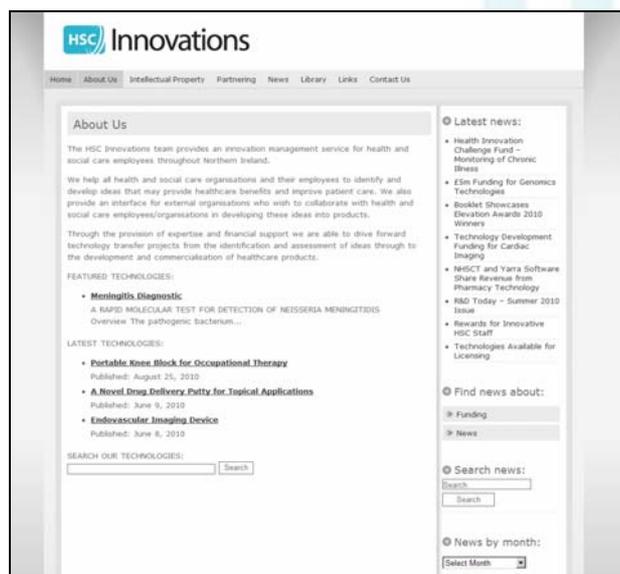
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Paper copies of the newsletter are available for your research office, laboratory or coffee table. Again, simply contact the office with your request.

New Website

Need information about intellectual property and news about funding for innovation in the Health and Care Service? Check out the new HSC Innovations website: www.hscinnovations.org



The new HSC Innovations website

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