

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 – JANUARY 2011

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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.

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.

This newsletter is distributed by e-mail. To be added to or removed from the mailing list simply send e-mail to the address below indicating your wish. Paper copies of the newsletter are available for your research office, laboratory or coffee table. Again, simply contact the office with your request.

Oxygen Therapy A Breeze – O24U

The Regional Respiratory Centre in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust identified the need for an easily accessible regional specific information tool on oxygen therapy. This has resulted in the development of a new oxygen therapy information package called O24U designed for the busy healthcare professional.

HSC Innovations worked closely with Marion Doherty (Staff Nurse) and Dr Jacqui Gamble (Sister) in the Regional Respiratory Centre, based in Belfast City Hospital, in marketing the O24U package. As a result of this we have now secured the financial support of BOC Healthcare to assist in the dissemination of the O24U therapy information tool.



O24U CD

Dr. Joe MacMahon from the Regional Respiratory Centre said *“We believe that this will make the assessment, prescription, and supply, of oxygen therapy for COPD and other illnesses, much easier for healthcare professionals, and result in even greater quality of care to the patient and their carers. It includes very practical information on oxygen therapy. It is hoped the information resource will appeal to all users of varying expertise such as oxygen providers and respiratory nurse specialists.”*

O24U is now available through the trust intranet e-learning site and available by request on CD to those users outside the Trust. Belfast Trust users may visit [this link](#).

Dr David Brownlee from Health and Social Care Innovations said *“The team in the Regional Respiratory Centre developed a solution to an identified unmet clinical need. 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.”

If you would like to request the O24U therapy information tool on CD, then please contact Marion Doherty in the Regional Respiratory Centre, Belfast City Hospital – tel: 028 9032 9241 Ext: 2078 or e-mail: marion.doherty@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Caseload Analysis Technology Developed at Belfast Trust

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Yarra Software have recently signed a revenue sharing agreement in relation to a new clinical software tool, E-CAT (Electronic Caseload Analysis and Activity Tool). Other parties to the agreement include the University of Ulster and Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association (CPHVA).

The E-CAT product is a clinical tool developed by real-life district nursing professionals to meet the growing challenge of satisfying increasing demand with fewer resources. E-CAT provides nurses at all levels in the community with a statistical tool to measure clinical need and nursing performance, thereby allowing them to analyse need in relation to the skill and distribution of the workforce. The web based electronic tool has been regionally piloted in three community trusts in Northern Ireland and the University of Ulster carried out an independent evaluation in 2008 which confirmed the positive benefits of the tool.



E-CAT flyer

The product is currently commercially available for use within the District Nursing service across the NHS and will be further developed to provide support and functionality for additional professions and services. The E-CAT flyer can be downloaded from <http://www.hscinnovations.org/?p=491>.

The E-CAT clinical software tool is a result of five years collaboration between BHSCT, Yarra Software, University of Ulster and CPHVA.

For more information relating to E-CAT, please contact Mrs Gabby Tinsely, Services Manager, Social and Primary Care Service Group (Older People Services), BHSCT - e-mail: Gabby.Tinsley@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

New Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre at Antrim Hospital

A new Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre at Antrim Hospital, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, was officially opened on 4 October 2010 by Dr Norman Morrow, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer at the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety.

Dr Morrow said *"I am delighted to participate in the opening of this new facility today. Professor Scott and his team have made a major contribution to the delivery of Clinical Pharmacy Services in Northern Ireland and to the Department's Pharmaceutical Clinical Effectiveness Programme. This is a timely opportunity for me to pay tribute to their industry and innovative practice and record my thanks for all that you have done to date. I hope this new Centre will facilitate your work further and indeed provide advantage to the whole of the HSC"*.



Opening the Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre: (L-R) Dr Peter Flanagan, Medical Director, Northern Trust, Professor Mike Scott, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Northern Trust, Mr Sean Donaghy (standing at back), Chief Executive, Northern Trust, Dr Norman Morrow, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland

The relocated Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre will centralise pharmacy services in one place, providing a more effective, efficient service. The centre will be engaged in re-engineering medicines processes together with the integration of novel health care technologies to optimise medicines use. This will lead to innovative ways of providing safe effective and economic medicines utilisation that will be generalisable across the UK health sector and further afield. The new centre will also collaborate with academia and industry on R&D projects in these areas.

Mr Sean Donaghy, the Trust Chief Executive was also present and he commented on the contribution that the team had made to improving clinical care in the Northern Trust and across Northern Ireland. He welcomed the creation of the centre to bring together the expertise of the team and looked forward to continued leadership for pharmacy and medicines management across Northern Ireland. Dr Flanagan, Trust Medical Director, also paid tribute to the work being done by the pharmacy team.

The opening followed on from a short seminar with presentations made by Dr David Brownlee from HSC Innovations, Dr Jill Mairs, Regional Procurement Pharmacist and Professor Mike Scott, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, NHSCT.

Following the opening, the centre provided demonstrations of some of the innovative medicines management related systems that have been developed at Antrim Hospital (NHSCT). These included:

- **EPICS (Electronic Pharmacist Intervention Clinical System)** – This is a pharmacist interventions system developed in conjunction with both the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast and Yarra Software Ltd, and is used to record pharmacist interventions based on a grading scale of 1 – 6 which relates to the degree of impact on improving patient care as a result of pharmacy action. See more in the previous newsletter or online at <http://www.hscinnovations.org/?p=210>.
- **Keyless Locker** – This initiative, developed by the Trust in conjunction with Hospital Metalcraft Ltd, was also displayed and the rationale for its development highlighted. The keyless locker system is a fob operated locker whereby patients can access their own medicines as required in line with Audit Commission recommendations. The lockers are also linked to a computerised system that monitors and records use by both patients and staff.



Examining the keyless locker: (L-R) Mrs Hazel Baird, Head of Governance and Patient Safety, Northern Trust, Mrs Dianne Gill, Deputy Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Northern Trust

Dr David Brownlee of HSC Innovations commented *“The Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre will become the essential cornerstone for future research and development in this very important area. It will provide that fundamental realisation for both academic and industry partners, that by working with a centre of clinical excellence such as this, it is much easier, much quicker and with a greater likelihood of success in developing new healthcare products”.*

To contact the centre: Pharmacy and Medicines Management Centre, 1st Floor, Beech House, Antrim Area Hospital Site, 45 Bush Road, Antrim, BT41 2RL; tel: 028 9442 4945.

NI Clinical Trial Capability Showcased

Invest Northern Ireland organised a clinical trial event at the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC) in Altnagelvin Hospital, Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSC) on 23 November 2010. The event provided an overview of the resources and services available to support clinical trials and to initiate discussion on how trusts and companies may work better together.

After an introduction by Ian Murphy (Managing Director, Client Group and Entrepreneurship at Invest NI), Barry Henderson (Business Development Manager, C-TRIC) gave an overview of C-TRIC and highlighted that C-TRIC is licensed to handle, process and store clinical materials and data.

There were four companies participating: Bio-Kinetic Europe Ltd, Medevol Ltd, Celerion Ltd, and O4 Research Ltd. Each company provided an overview of the clinical trial areas and phases they facilitate and how they currently engage with local trusts and the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN).

Dr Maurice O’Kane (Associate Medical Director – Research & Development, WHSC and Chief Executive, C-TRIC) spoke on the WHSC involvement with clinical trials and the practicalities of how the process works, in addition to highlighting research and clinical trial activity within WHSC and C-TRIC. Particular clinical trial resources highlighted included:

- in house clinical trial capability;
- support provided by clinical governance staff to assist with the governance and ethical approvals process;
- access to skilled research nursing staff; and
- access to skilled biomedical scientists.

This was followed by Paul Biagioni (NICRN) who gave an outline on the role of and support available from NICRN, its links with the UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) and how they can assist companies.

Dr David Brownlee (HSC Innovations) covered the suite of model agreements that are available from UKCRN to facilitate and speed up the process of enabling clinical trials, and Professor Danny McAuley (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust) provided an overview of the planned Clinical Research Facility in Belfast and highlighted areas for potential collaboration in clinical trials.

The event finished with a site tour of C-TRIC facilities.

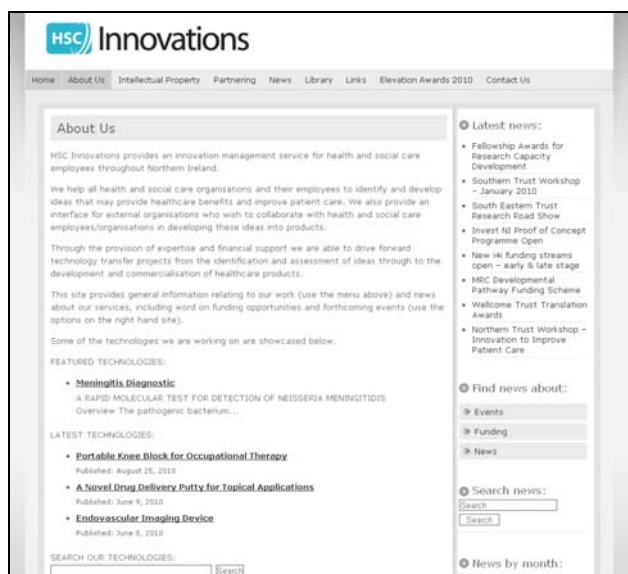
Further information is available as follows:

- Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC) – www.c-tric.com
- The presentations from the event can be found at http://lifesciences.investni.com/news_details.asp?id=158
- Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) – www.nicrn.hscni.net
- UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) – www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk
- The UKCRN suite of model clinical trial agreements, along with accompanying guidance are available at www.ukcrn.org/regulationgovernance/modelagreements

HSC Innovations Website

Most of the items included in this newsletter have previously been posted on the HSC Innovations website at www.hscinnovations.org. Therefore for the latest news from HSC Innovations, including funding opportunities, check the website regularly.

The website also provides general information about intellectual property and innovation in the Health and Social Care service.



The HSC Innovations website

New Academia, Business and Clinical Collaboration

HSC Innovations is a partner in a new academia, business and clinical (ABC) collaboration funded by InterTradelreland.

InterTradelreland and BioBusiness recently announced development of a collaborative network across Academia, Business and Clinicians (ABC) to yield ground breaking innovations in Irish healthcare. The ultimate objective is to improve treatments, diagnoses and quality of life for patients, but the programme also expects to lead to £13 million in business opportunities and will develop Ireland's capabilities as an innovation island.

HSC Innovations is one of the clinical partners who will work with BioBusiness as it delivers this InterTradelreland funded ABC collaborative network, advising and enabling stronger links into primarily clinical capability. HSC Innovations will assist in identifying clinical partners for collaborative projects that will lead to the creation of three new market or product development projects in the areas of personalised medicine and connected health, and HSC clinicians will also have the opportunity to be considered for inclusion in the clinical evaluation of all three commercial opportunities.

Other clinical partners include HSC R&D Division of the Public Health Agency, C-TRIC (Altnagelvin Hospital), and the Royal College of Surgeons. All nine universities in Ireland are also part of the collaborative network. Further information can be found on the InterTradelreland website [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Chairman's Awards 2010 (BHSC)

Staff in the Belfast HSC Trust are now being invited to submit entries to The Chairman's Awards 2010 to recognise the achievements of health and social care teams throughout the Trust. As in previous years the categories reflect the Trust's five corporate objectives:

- Safety and Quality
- Modernisation
- Partnerships
- Resources
- Our People

If you or your team is doing particularly good work in any of these areas, now's the time to tell everyone about it and have your efforts recognised.

Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive said, *"It is very important to recognise the good work done in our organisation and I look forward to joining the Chairman to see the work that staff have done in these challenging times"*.

Prizes include up to £10,000 to reinvest in the service area, plus high profile for the initiative - the final fifteen shortlisted entries will be presented on DVD at the Chairman's Awards ceremony in 2011.

Entries should be submitted by **Friday 28 January 2011**. Each entry should consist of a description of the initiative accompanied by an entry cover sheet.

Further information, including the entry cover sheet and shortlisting criteria, are available in the BHSC intranet at:

<http://intranet.belfasttrust.local/Pages/TheChairmansAwards2010.aspx>.

MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme

The Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS) is a new, rigorously-assessed, funding scheme set up by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to help strengthen the translation of fundamental research towards patient benefit. It does not fund discoveries of new causes or risk factors of disease, biomarkers, drug targets, biomaterials or research tools, but takes these as starting points and supports their application to improve healthcare and benefits for patients. The DPFS forms a key part of the MRC's Translational Research Strategy.

Key features:

- The objective of the Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme is to support the translation of fundamental basic and clinical research findings towards the clinic.
- Projects should target significant and unmet health needs.
- The DPFS will support the development of novel therapies, interventions and diagnostics, and the research tools used in the development of therapies, interventions or diagnostics.
- DPFS proposals will need to show a clear understanding of the evidence needed to advance a treatment into medical use and use this to define two to three clear milestones, depending on project complexity, in their project plans. These will help maximise success and enable the project to attract required downstream funding, whether from public or private sources, along the path to meet its clinical aims.
- The DPFS will support a significant proportion of high-risk high-payoff projects, especially in fields not being actively pursued in the private sector at present.
- The focus of the DPFS in diagnostics is to provide support for the development and technical validation of assays suitable for clinical application.
- It is envisaged that projects would normally seek initial funding in the range of £250k-750k. Depending on the nature of the research, this might be sufficient for one or two years work, or occasionally longer.
- Applications including partnerships with charities or industry are strongly encouraged where these add value to the project for example in terms of access to expertise, technologies, reagents or funding.

Examples of proposals likely to be supported:

- Validating an association between a fundamental discovery and a disease process (target validation).

- Developing candidate therapeutic entities – from drug discovery up to early evaluation in humans.
- Developing candidate diagnostics or medical devices – from prototype design up to early evaluation in humans.

Outline applications must be submitted via the Electronic Application and Assessment (EAA) system using the DPFS outline application form. The next deadline for outline applications is **Tuesday 8th March 2011 (4pm)**.

Proposals will be assessed by a two-step process. A brief outline proposal will be reviewed by an expert panel. Successful outline applicants will be invited to submit a full application, which will undergo a further round of more detailed review.

Further information is available on the MRC website at http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Grants/D_PFS/Specification/MRC004553. Alternatively [contact HSC Innovations](#) for advice. This information was summarised from the MRC website.

New i4i Funding Streams Open – Early & Late Stage

The new National Institute for Health Research Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme was launched on 25th October 2010 and now consists of two funding streams – for early and late stage product development – to simplify the application process. The new i4i programme aspires to advance the translation of healthcare technologies for increased patient benefit through guided progression of innovative medical technologies.

i4i Early-stage product development awards

1-3 year investigation involving collaboration between industry, academic or clinical researchers to carry out feasibility or pilot studies to support the further development of an innovative new technology or intervention to address an existing or emerging healthcare need. The study must be informed by evidence already obtained through prior basic research investigations. Through robust R&D, prototype products should emerge. The barriers to commercial implementation need to be identified and these should inform the development of a credible business plan and appropriate management team.

i4i Late-stage product development awards

A detailed investigation of 1-3 years involving collaboration between industry, academic or clinical researchers that builds on the results of a completed assessment of the feasibility or pilot study. This will provide further evidence of the capability to deliver improved healthcare outcomes and commercial opportunity, delivering an advanced prototype along with plans for commercial and intellectual property

exploitation. The barriers to commercial implementation need to be identified and these should inform the development of a credible business plan and appropriate management team.

Key points include:

- Individual awards are for a period of 1-3 years. The amount of funding awarded is determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted. Applicants should cost their projects to the appropriate amount.
- Funding can be awarded to an NHS organisation, Academic or Higher Education Institution or industry. Small early stage companies are particularly welcome.
- Assessment criteria include: relevance to the NHS, strength of the research and management teams, strength of business plan, evidence of potential patient benefit, health economic case and quality of proposal.

Both streams were open for applications this autumn and further calls are anticipated in the new year.

The National Institute for Health Research page where more information can be found (and from which this summary was produced) is at <http://www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/i4i/default.cfm>.

Invest NI Proof of Concept Programme

Invest Northern Ireland recently announced that it was entertaining applications for a small number of Proof of Concept projects in autumn 2010. The Proof of Concept programme supports the pre-commercialisation of leading-edge technologies

emerging from Northern Ireland's research organisations. Up to £100,000 is available through the programme to assist technology development and commercialisation in a fifteen month project.

The recent call provided only a short window of opportunity, which has now closed. However, the programme is expected to announce further calls in the new financial year so researchers should consider keep this opportunity in mind.

Further information is on the [Invest NI website](http://bit.ly/eFeGEh) at <http://bit.ly/eFeGEh>.

Other Opportunities

As HSC Innovations becomes aware of sources of funding for research and development activities, particularly technology translation projects, we post details of the opportunities on our website at www.hscinnovations.org. We shall continue to include such information in this newsletter, but sometimes the newsletter will not be circulated in time. Important opportunities that have expired recently include:

- Fellowship Awards for Research Capacity Development
- Wellcome Trust Translation Awards
- Invest Northern Ireland Proof of Concept (see above)

Therefore for the most recent live opportunities for funding of technology development projects check the website at www.hscinnovations.org.

EVENTS

Workshop Series in HSC Trusts

A series of workshops being delivered by HSC Innovations this winter focuses 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 19th January 2011, Craigavon Hospital, Southern Trust. Contact the Southern Trust Research Office to request a place.

A date in the Northern Trust is expected shortly.

Further information about these and other events is posted on the website at www.hscinnovations.org.