

BRIDGING THE GAP

Supporting Child Health Technology Development as a Clinical-Industry Partnership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The above event held on April 27 brought together leading child health and industry experts to look at ways in which innovative technology can be developed to improve and advance healthcare for children and young people. Delegates included academics, clinicians, funding body representatives, industry partners, colleagues from the NHS and national regulatory bodies.

The morning session highlighted current issues in child healthcare technology development but also showcased examples of how new innovations and infrastructure can support and transform child healthcare delivery. Opportunities for securing funding were presented along with the existing NIHR Clinical Research Infrastructure available to academics, clinicians and industry partners. Talks were delivered by Mr Iain Hennessey (Alder Hey); Karen Livingstone (SBRI); Professor Heather Elphick (Sheffield Children's Hospital); Dr Raffaella Roncone (NIHR i4i); Dr Matthew Hallsworth (NOCRI) and Stan Karpenko (GiveVision).

The roundtable discussions in the afternoon presented the opportunity for stakeholders present to discuss 1) Innovating with the NHS; 2) Securing Funding and 3) Technology development in the NHS.

Key Messages from Roundtable Discussions:

- While health and care innovation has received significant policy support and investment, from both within the health system and from funding bodies such as SBRI, i4i & Innovate UK, support and policy change for technology development and innovation in paediatric medicine requires focus to improve the future of healthcare in the UK. It was felt that Technology Innovation Transforming Child Health (TITCH), alongside organisations like the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA), could play a key role in helping to streamline different sources of investment and influence national policy to enable children faster access to technology.
- Unlike pharmaceutical innovation, which is limited to a smaller collection of global companies, the medical technology field is diverse and mainly composed of SMEs. It was suggested more could be done by organisations like TITCH to align clinical unmet needs for children and young people using the NHS, with both innovative and proven healthcare technologies, working with organisations such as the Association of British Healthcare Industries and the NHSA.
- In summary the power of the tertiary teaching hospitals that form 'TITCH' mean that this forum can be used as a powerful and influential platform for conveying new ideas for enabling novel technology innovation and for promoting accelerated access to technology for children, in the UK and internationally.

Next Steps:

- The full write up of the day will be available to all attendees as well as wider stakeholders and will be launched in September 2017 by TITCH and the NHSA.
- In developing the report the key actions and activities for 2017 & 2018 will be agreed with TITCH and its members.
- Through this activity we aim to create a funding roadmap for technology innovation in paediatric medicine in the UK.
- Working collaboratively with other relevant organisations TITCH and NHSA will develop a strategy to enable a new influential voice to be heard by with national policymakers for paediatrics and child health.

If you would like to provide any more feedback on the issues discussed on the day please contact either Shirley Hannan Shirley.Hannan@thenhsa.co.uk or Nathaniel Mills Nathaniel.Mills@sth.nhs.uk.