

Northern NIHR Biomedical Research Centres – Showcasing Biomedical Research Expertise across the North

6 March 2018, Citylabs 1.0, Manchester

The Life Sciences sector is the UK's most successful industrial sector (£64bn pa turnover). The UK's science base is very strong – more productive than the US (2X) and Germany (3X)¹. Health innovation is one of the four prime capabilities of the North identified by the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review². The NHS is a unique selling point for the UK. It has a key role to play in health innovation, specifically through the development of new diagnostic tests, medicines and devices. It could also help industry to evaluate and test products, and facilitate adoption at scale.

Health research in the UK is facilitated by funding from the NIHR, the research arm of the NHS. The North is home to infrastructure including:

- NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs: Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield)
- NIHR Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs: Leeds, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield)
- NIHR Med Tech and In Vitro Diagnostic Cooperatives (Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield)
- The North is home to the only Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) outside of the South East (based in Manchester)

The NIHR's commitment, through its infrastructure funding schemes, is a marker of the international excellence of the North's research capabilities across its research intensive universities and NHS trusts.

BRCs fund specific biomedical research programmes and connect world-leading researchers based at a university and NHS trust. This collaborative approach enables BRCs to “conduct translational research to transform scientific breakthroughs into life-saving treatments for patients”³. In-line with their overall goals to improve health through biomedical research, key deliverables for the BRCs are the development of new strategic partnerships with industry and investment in the next generation of biomedical researchers.

This event will highlight how the four Northern NIHR BRCs have key strengths in:

- Ageing and Long-Term Conditions (incl. dementia, hearing health, liver disease and neuromuscular disease)
- Cancer (advanced radiotherapy, prevention and early detection, and precision medicine)
- Musculoskeletal Diseases (incl. inflammatory arthritis, osteoarthritis and connective tissue diseases)
- Inflammatory Conditions (incl. respiratory, dermatology and skin and oral disease)
- Translational Neuroscience (neuroinflammation, cerebrovascular neurology and neurodegeneration)

The Northern NIHR BRCs have identified an opportunity to leverage new collaborations through this showcase event to demonstrate our experimental medicine research capabilities and commitment to working with industry. This event is being sponsored by the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA). The NHSA provides one access point to the health science ecosystem in the North of England creating a simple way for organisations to access our resources and expertise. Further information can be found at www.thenhsa.co.uk.

¹ The Association of UK University Hospitals. Life Sciences Strategy briefing for AUKUK CEOs and R&D Directors

² Powerhouse 2050: Transforming the North

³ <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-are-managed/our-structure/infrastructure/biomedical-research-centres.htm>

AGENDA

Northern NIHR Biomedical Research Centres' Industry Showcase

9.45 – 10.15	Registration, Coffee and Networking		
10.15 – 10.25	Welcome and Aims of the Day		Dr Hakim Yadi, OBE
10.25 – 10.40	NIHR Infrastructure across England		Dr Matthew Hallsworth
10.40 – 11.20	Summary of Northern BRC Research Strengths		Professors Avan Sayer; Ian Bruce; Paul Emery; Dame Pamela Shaw
11.20 – 11.45	Coffee, Networking and Exhibition Areas		
11.45 – 12.05	Medical Technology Innovation		Professor John Fisher, Leeds BRC
12.05 – 12.25	Experimental Medicine and Industry links – an example from the NIHR Manchester BRC Respiratory Theme		Professor Jorgen Vestbo, Manchester BRC
12.25 – 12.45	Accelerating drug discovery in neurodegeneration: models, machine learning and virtual bio-techs		Dr Richard Mead, Sheffield BRC
12.45 – 13.05	Translational Research in Rheumatoid Arthritis at the NIHR Newcastle BRC		Dr Arthur Pratt, Newcastle BRC
13.05 – 14.05	Lunch, Networking and Exhibition Areas		
14.05 – 14.35	Panel Discussion 1:	Precision Medicine & Biomarker Discovery	Chair: James Peach, Medicines Discovery Catapult
14.35 – 15.05	Panel Discussion 2:	Access to the Patient Population (PPIE, Cohorts, Informatics)	Chair: Dr Lynne Corner, Newcastle University
15.05 – 15.20	Coffee, Networking and Exhibition Areas		
15.20 – 15.40	Innovate UK <i>This session will highlight case studies of previous successful academic/industry partnerships</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunities and opportunities for collaboration • Access to other infrastructure 		Dr Elaine Evans, Innovate UK
15.40 – 16.00	Recap and Open Floor: Inviting reflections, thoughts, ideas and insights from the audience members		Dr Hakim Yadi, OBE