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Latest Updates from HIWM



West Midlands Recognised as a Top Three City of Innovation

The West Midlands has been recognised as one of the top three European regions for innovation at the European Innovation Council European Capital of Innovation Awards!

HIWM Chief Officer, [Tim Jones](#), said *"This recognition will come as no surprise to those of us working in the region. We have a great health innovation ecosystem partnering across academia, industry and the NHS to support innovators develop, test and implement their innovations here.*

We are delighted to be working in such an innovative part of the country and to support the continuous

[Read more](#)



New Inclusive Health Programme

We are excited to announce the launch of the Inclusive Health Programme!

HIWM has partnered with [Initiative for Social Entrepreneurs](#) and [Living Well UK](#) to introduce our newly designed social enterprise programme, Inclusive Health.

The programme leverages the potential of social enterprises to tackle health inequalities and seeks to drive innovation and generate a positive impact within the community and the West Midlands region.

We are looking for creative solutions in the health, social care, and well-being sectors, that can create a social impact and have the potential to be scaled up to truly innovate the sector.

Deadline: 6th December 2024

[Find out more and apply](#)



Embracing Innovation in Healthcare: The Impact of Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS)

Helen Hunt, Assistant Programme Manager at Health Innovation West Midlands

In the evolving landscape of healthcare, integrating innovative technologies is paramount and can support the NHS in addressing pressing challenges such as, improving access to care, waiting times and staffing capacity, while streamlining operational efficiency.

One area of care making significant strides in revolutionising the diagnostic pathway is ultrasound technology. By enhancing diagnostic capabilities, ultrasounds are improving patient outcomes and overall quality of care. Traditionally, ultrasound scans required patients to wait for appointments in radiology, delaying crucial treatment — particularly important when treating children with haemophilia at risk of joint bleeds.

[Continue reading](#)

Innovation Ecosystem Programme Report

The Innovation Ecosystem Programme report outlines how to transform healthcare through better innovation adoption. With recommendations spanning national priority-setting, standardised processes, workforce development and best practice sharing, the report aims to support the NHS to deliver the best new treatments to patients and be a global leader in healthcare innovation while supporting UK economic growth.



[Read the report](#)



Congratulations to South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust for winning the Trust of the Year Award at the HSJ Awards!

The HIWM Team Out and About



University Hospitals Birmingham Freedom to Speak Up Conference

The theme of the conference was 'Every Voice Matters' and aimed to highlight the importance of speaking up for staff wellbeing and patient care.

HIWM's [Helen Hunt](#) and Fran Ives discussed How to use Appreciative Inquiry and Human Factors: Strategies and methods to support being the most effective leader, and were part of the roundtable 'Techniques for Mitigation and Prevention'.

Innovation Awards

[Judith Stewart](#) and Reena Sidhu attended the prestigious Innovation Awards as guests of Birmingham City University and West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster (WMHTC) respectively. It was an inspiring event honouring innovators across the region.

Well done to STEAMhouse for your nomination in the 'Technology Innovation Champion of the Year' category and to WMHTC and West Midlands Innovation Accelerator as the 'Innovation Thought Leader - Business of the Year' - and congratulations to the Innovation Accelerator for your win in that category!

Edwin Ladd





HIWM team members including [Judith Stewart](#) and [Karen Stevenson](#) attended the Innovation Showcase and heard about innovations now being rolled out in the NHS thanks to HIN support.

Here is Karen testing out a VR headset that will support people dealing with depression.

ASCOM

Some of the team visited Ascom's cutting-edge Innovation Suite right here in the West Midlands!

[Louise Whitehead](#), of Ascom said, *"It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Health Innovation West Midlands and the West Midlands Growth Company to our Ascom UK Innovation Hub for the day. Together, we explored how Ascom's digital solutions can not only enhance patient outcomes but also drive critical efficiency savings across healthcare settings."*



West Midlands Cancer Alliance Stakeholder Day

HIWM's [Helen Hunt](#) attended the West Midlands Cancer Alliance Stakeholder Day.

Helen said, *"Supporting the Innovation World Café table was particularly rewarding, gathering first hand insights into the innovations our colleagues need most. I am motivated and ready to take action!"*



At the Social Economy Showcase [Reena Sidhu](#) explained how health tech innovation is about making impact on wellbeing and health.

Later in the week, HIWM's [Judith Stewart](#) and Reena Sidhu were delighted to present the Excellence in Health Impact Award to The Delicate Mind at the Social Economy Awards.

The Awards celebrate the fantastic work carried out by social enterprises supporting the growth of the Social Economy. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!



Opportunities and Events from Our Stakeholders



NIHR Pre-Application Support

Planning an application for an NIHR personal fellowship?

Would your application be strengthened by protected time, additional training and support to develop your work in a vibrant network of researchers, providing a nurturing and supportive environment?

NIHR ARC West Midlands are offering
Pre-Application Support funding to do just that.

See our website for further information:
<https://www.arc-wm.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-pre-application-support-funding/>

NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund

The NIHR Applied Research Collaboration West Midlands is excited to announce its Pre-Application Support Fund.

The fund will provide extra support to individuals to enhance their chances of making a successful application to an NIHR career development scheme in the future. This complements the national [NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund](#).

The ARC West Midlands Pre-Application Support Fund is now open and will close on **Monday 4th December 2024**.

Eligibility

You must be able to undertake and complete your award by 31st March 2025.

- regulated healthcare professionals (nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, pharmacists and healthcare scientists)
- social work and public health professionals
- researchers in methodology
- researchers based in local authority settings

Priority will be given to those at the early stages of an academic career, and to those working in the region.

Support

Each award includes (up to a maximum of £18,000)

- buy out of time on current salary
- patient and public involvement and engagement costs
- conference and training costs
- supervisor costs
- a training needs analysis
- sign-posting to an extended supervisory team and mentorship
- sign-posting to institutional resources, including inclusive staff networks
- bespoke training and supervision as needed required
- pitch-to-peer sessions
- critical appraisal of fellowship applications and mock interview preparation

[Find out more and apply](#)

NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Product Development Awards

Supporting the development of
innovative medical technologies to
bring benefits to patients

NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Product Development Awards (PDA) Call 29 Stage 1

Deadline: 5th December 2024

The i4i PDA supports collaborative research and development of medical devices, in vitro diagnostic devices and high-impact patient-focused digital health technologies for use in the NHS or social care systems.

PDA are researcher-led and support early product development and real-world evaluation. The expected focus of a project funded by PDA is one or more of the following:

- Real-world evaluations to accelerate the development and uptake of innovative products, which already have demonstrated safety and efficacy

Find out more and apply

A promotional banner for a town hall event. The left side has a teal background with white text. The right side shows a person's hands on a laptop displaying a video conference, with a desk, pen, and cup of pens in the background. The Birmingham Health Partners logo is in the top right.

BHP Town Hall
Reducing Bureaucracy in Clinical Trials

Join Professors Pam Kearns and Lorraine Harper and the BHP team to hear about our programme of work, ask questions, and contribute your ideas

Monday 9 December | 2.30pm | online
Register at birminghamhealthpartners.co.uk/events

Birmingham Health Partners
Collaboration. Innovation. Application.

Birmingham Health Partners Town Hall – Reducing Bureaucracy in Clinical Trials

Monday 9 December 2024: 2.30-3.30pm, online.

BHP's Reducing Bureaucracy in Clinical Trials programme launched in November 2023 with the aim of establishing Birmingham a leader in delivering cutting-edge clinical research more efficiently.

Join Professors Pamela Kearns and Lorraine Harper, and the BHP team to hear about their programme of work, ask questions, and contribute your ideas.

[Register](#)

A banner for the NHS Genomics Healthcare Summit. It features a blue background with a DNA double helix and a network of nodes. The NHS England logo is in the top right.

NHS
GENOMICS
HEALTHCARE
SUMMIT

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2024
THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II CENTRE, LONDON

NHS
England

NHS Genomics Healthcare Summit

The NHS Genomics Healthcare Summit is a face-to-face event for NHS leaders, policymakers, industry partners, staff and other stakeholders across the breadth of the genomics ecosystem in the England, including colleagues in the NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs and NHS Genomic Medicine Service Alliances.

It brings together a wide-cross section of healthcare leaders and experts across the whole of the NHS, alongside academia, charities and patient groups, providing a space to explore the latest advances in genomic medicine and science and its application in clinical care as well as plans to advance genomics-enabled healthcare for the benefit of NHS patients. It also provides a key opportunity for networking, knowledge-sharing, collaboration and the development of innovative solutions.

If you have any questions, please email england.genomics@nhs.net.

[Register](#)



ABHI US Accelerator Programme – applications open for 2025

Deadline: 10th January 2025

The ABHI US Accelerator programme has been instrumental in helping over 150 UK health tech companies successfully enter and expand in the US market. Applications are now open for the 2025 programme.

Join the briefing webinar on 3rd December: [Sign up](#)

[Find out more and apply](#)



The Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund

The Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund

The Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund (LSIMF) is now open for applications!

Deadline: 31st March 2025

UK registered businesses can apply for funding for life science manufacturing capital investment projects which help increase UK health resilience.

LSIMF will provide up to £520 million in capital grants for investment in the manufacture of human medicines and medical technology (including diagnostics, and MedTech products).

[Find out more and apply](#)



**Precision Health
Technologies Accelerator**
Empowering Health Innovation

Precision Healthcare Technology Accelerator Makerspace

The Precision Healthcare Technology Accelerator (PHTA) is the flagship business innovation facility of the Birmingham Health Innovation Campus at Selly Oak, which is being delivered in partnership with Bruntwood SciTech. The PHTA will provide approximately 70,000 square feet of state-of-the-art incubation and collaboration space to support the start-up and scaling-up of health and life sciences businesses. The PHTA will support the commercialisation of cutting-edge health technologies and therapies by providing access to expertise, resources, and infrastructure to enable the translation of healthcare innovations, including phase I to III clinical trials and real-world evaluation.

create innovative electronic, electromechanical or mechanical products. In the context of health technologies, makerspaces can accelerate development by providing a flexible environment for rapid prototyping, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and offering cost-effective access to advanced equipment. This environment encourages experimentation and skill development, enabling innovators to refine their ideas quickly before subsequent mass manufacturing in an ISO 13485 compliant facility.

The makerspace will open in two Phases, the first Phase will install standard equipment found in most makerspaces such as 3D printers, basic machining and some electronic assembly and test equipment. The second Phase will focus more on the specific needs for health technology innovation. Some further details on Phase 1 and Phase 2 can be found in the attached powerpoint slides if you require them. We would be grateful if you could fill out this survey to share your thoughts on our current thinking of what would go into Phase 2 and Phase 1 and highlight any equipment or facilities that you think would benefit those working in the health technology space. The survey is anonymous and should take no longer than 7 minutes to complete.

[Take the survey](#)

Events Calendar

Health Innovation West Midlands Events

Below you will find a list of events being hosted or supported by HIWM. Simply click on the event box to book your place today. If you have a general enquiry about our events calendar, please get in touch with Communications@healthinnovationwm.org.



virtual Polypharmacy Workshops

Various dates in 2025
Online



West Midlands Medicines and the Environment Network

Thursday 6 February 2025
12pm - 1pm
Online



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