

TECHTALK

WITH HRC-DDR

VOLUME. 2
JUNE 2025

SUMMER EDITION

- Welcome to our summer newsletter. We hope you find the information helpful and informative.
- Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the team.



We hope you all
have a relaxing
summer break
and enjoy some
sunshine!



The vision of the NIHR HRC in Devices, Digital and Robotics is to be a national centre of excellence to support the safe, effective and efficient translation of new healthcare technologies into routine care for NHS patients and follow-on social care. We achieve this through delivering a coherent, integrated set of themes led by experts in their fields.

A MESSAGE FROM TOM...



With summer now on its way, the NIHR HRC-DDR recently celebrated its first birthday. For those of us who anticipated a busy and challenging first year, we were certainly not disappointed. We achieved considerable success as a co-applicant with UK-based MedTech SMEs in last year's NIHR i4i Connect scheme. These awards triggered intense periods of activity, particularly focused on our medical device usability testing capabilities.

Summative usability studies, conducted toward the end of product development, are complex to organise and deliver. Setting up, recruiting volunteers, and running advanced organ support simulations in a fully equipped intensive care bed space is no small feat—and represents a major achievement for our team.

Another project took full advantage of our simulated operating theatre, where we recreated a septic patient undergoing emergency abdominal surgery. Using the latest VitalsBridge system alongside a SimMan 3G, we were able to display fully controlled vital signs on actual clinical monitors, enhancing the realism of the environment.

Additional funding has enabled us to expand our family of high-fidelity phantom patients. New additions include neonatal simulators with accompanying cots and incubators. We're also excited to be working with the latest SimMan Critical Care from Laerdal, which incorporates an advanced lung simulator—broadening our capabilities in both usability and function testing.

We were especially pleased to welcome our new Health Economics Fellow (a real one—not simulated!) to the team. Understanding the true value of innovation in health and social care is key—not only to funding success but also to ensuring the sustainability and scalability of the technologies we help develop.

Finally, it was a privilege to be invited to take part in a podcast (technically, a vodcast) hosted by the specialist medical device communications company, Podymos. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting Claudia and her team and hope they enjoyed the visit as much as we did.



OUR TEAM



- Tom Clutton-Brock - NIHR HRC-DDR Director
- Olivia Brookes - HRC-DDR Programme Manager
- Amy Smith - Portfolio Manager
- Jeffrey Faint - Project Research Officer
- Charlotte Whitehouse - Project Research Officer
- Amrita Cheema - Project Support Officer

- Hannah Rooney - PPIE Manager
- Newton Chagoma - Health Economist
- Sian Dunning - MD-TEC Programme Manager
- Kulli Kuningas - Project Manager
- Lola Afelumo - Research Fellow
- Sandra Remsing - Project Research Officer



WELCOME ...



We would like to introduce the newest member of our team, Newton Chigoma. Newton has joined the HRC-DDR as of April 2025 and is a Research Fellow in Health Economics. Newton's work includes undertaking early-stage health economics modelling to inform the value proposition of emerging health technologies. He also contributes to technology-based evaluations as well as methodological research.

Newton holds a BSc in Statistics and Computing, MSc in Health Economics and is currently completing a PhD in health economics. He previously worked with non-profit organisations such as Malawi's National AIDS Commission and the Clinton Health Access Initiative across Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

UPCOMING ...

The HRC-DDR team are planning a series of webinars exploring the challenges of healthtech development and implementation.

Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming schedule. We will be starting the series from September 2025 running through to the end of the academic year.

If you have any topics you would like us to explore or would find interesting, please let us know!



PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

New HealthTech Public Advisory Group:

Our longstanding commitment to patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE), shines through our dedicated public engagement group, which has provided invaluable insights to researchers since 2018.

With the inception of the HRC PPIE Strategy (2024-2029), we are on a mission to strengthen partnership working with patients and expand our PPIE offer. Over the last few months, we have rebranded our public engagement group and are working to increase the inclusion of a wide range of diverse patient perspectives and experiences.

To achieve this, and in partnership with our public advisers, we have:

- Launched a recruitment campaign to encourage patients and carers from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences to join us.
- Co-produced an agreement to foster collaborative, committed and supportive partnership working with public advisers.
- Rebranded the group as the "HealthTech Public Advisory Group".
- Created a new logo.



Do you know
someone who would
like to join our PPI
Group?

JOIN
OUR
TEAM

Please contact
Hannah on:
07483 335 476
h.rooney@bham.ac.uk







Patient Advisors Needed!

Are you a patient or carer with an interest in health technology?

We're looking for people to join our Public Advisory Group. Health technology (such as medical devices and "apps"), is a growing and important part of patient care. Could you share your views and experiences to help us get it right for patients, including people from diverse backgrounds and communities?

If so, we'd love to hear from you!

-  **Ongoing role (1 - 4 years)**
-  **6 core meetings per year**
Meetings are 2 hours and 15 minutes (including a break)
-  **Online and in-person meetings**
In Birmingham
-  **Payment and travel expenses available**



HealthTech
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

To find out more, please contact:

Hannah Rooney

Patient and Public Involvement Manager

Tel: 07483 335476

Email: h.rooney@bham.ac.uk

Web: <https://www.hrc-devices.nihr.ac.uk>

REGULATION ROUND UP



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency



New MORE Guidance on implementing the changing data requirements for medical device reporting

The MHRA have published new guidance to help medical device manufacturers prepare for changes to reporting requirements for serious safety incidents and field safety corrective actions in Great Britain.

The new implementation guide for Manufacturers Online Reporting Environment (MORE) clarifies the changing data requirements and timelines for compliance, before the new post-market surveillance regulations for medical devices comes into effect on **16 June 2025**.

Key Dates:

- **Early June:** Release of an updated schema and guidance for Manufacturer Incident Reports (MIRs) and Field Safety Corrective Actions (FSCAs), for the upcoming GB reporting requirements.
- **16 June:** The new GB MIR and FSCA schema will be available in the MORE system.
- **16 October:** The latest date that manufacturers must start using the new GB schema to report incidents to MORE [via API (application programming interface) or post eXtensible Markup Language (XML) routes]

Reports for Northern Ireland may continue to be reported to the MHRA using the existing MIR 7.2.1 after 16 June 2025.

MORE INFORMATION



TEAM SUCCESS

Podymos Podcast - Why medical device usability testing matters: Expert insights from Professor Clutton-Brock



The team recently had the privilege of hosting Claudia Holy, from the Podymos team to record a podcast with our very own Tom; exploring the topic of usability testing and the need for usability testing within medical device research and development.

It was an exciting opportunity for the team to be involved in and there were some great areas of discussion and thoughts moving forwards within the area of usability.



[Check out the podcast now!](#)


National Institute for Health and Care Research


Enhancing Intraoperative Blood Pressure Management with DS Aware™
Intelligent Software and Data Analytics



“

The NIHR HealthTech Research Centre has played a pivotal role in our product's evolution from concept to regulatory approval.

”

Mark Leaning
CEO and Founder of Directed Systems

[CLICK HERE](#)

NIHR Case Study

The HRC-DDRs successful collaboration with Mark Leaning and his company, Directed Systems, saw the progression of their technology from initial concept to being commercially available in the US. HDA Assist (the technology) provides real-time insights to help anaesthetists diagnose and treat hypotension during surgery, aiming to reduce cardiovascular instability.

The HRC-DDR have recently completed a summative usability assessment of the technology, generating evidence to be used to support CE and UKCA marking. Prior to this we delivered a clinical investigation using the technology in real operations and the HRC-DDR supported Directed Systems in their role as study sponsor. To read the case study, click on the link on the left hand side!


National Institute for Health and Care Research



STORY

Supporting industry to evaluate medical devices and save costs

NIHR researchers developed mechanisms to support industry to better evaluate medical devices. This saves costs compared to the usual study evaluations conducted in clinical trials units.



TEAM SUCCESS

Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum



Olivia & Hannah attended the Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum in March, Europe's first conference supporting scientists from marginalised and underrepresented backgrounds. Hosted at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, this was a groundbreaking new event that brought together students, researchers, professionals, and organisations from across the life sciences to celebrate diversity, amplify underrepresented voices, and shape a more inclusive scientific future. The HRC's presence provided opportunities for networking and initial discussions with budding innovators in the fields of digital technology, data and research inclusion.

Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Prepare for Hospital Visits with the Little Journey App

The team have recently completed a collaborative project working with Little Journey Ltd and Birmingham Children's Hospital, exploring the use of a bespoke app designed to Help Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Prepare for Hospital Visits.

To evaluate the app's ease of use and acceptability, parents and their children who have a diagnosis of ASD, aged 3-12 years old, were recruited to take part in a formative usability study. The participants completed several tasks and a semi-structured interview to share their feedback.

Initial feedback from both child and parent participants was overwhelmingly positive. To read the full story and conclusions of our Little Journey collaboration, check out our website now!

New Case Study



CLICK HERE 



TEAM SUCCESS

University Hospitals Birmingham Research Showcase 2025

The HRC-DDR team were the winners of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site Research Showcase 2025!

The team recently attended University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) research showcase, celebrating international clinical trials day, 2025. The HRC-DDR had a presence at both the Queen Elizabeth and Heartlands Hospital showcasing how the HRC-DDR supports the development of health technologies, supporting partners through the innovation ecosystem.

The team presented their most recent collaborative projects including an innovative pulse oximeter, an app designed to support children with autism when visiting hospital and a device to detect potential side-effects post cardiac surgery prior to symptom presentation.

The event provided a great opportunity to network amongst colleagues and patients raising awareness of research within the UHB community. Our PPIE members were also involved within the event and shared their experiences of how to become involved within research and their contribution to research delivery.

Overall, the exhibition was a fantastic opportunity, and we look forward to attending next year.



PROMOTIONAL EVENTS



RAS MedTech Event

The West Midlands Robotics and Autonomous Systems Cluster is hosting a special event at **Birmingham Medical School** on **Thursday 26th June 2025** focussed for clinicians, innovators and investors looking to develop and adopt robotics technologies in the medical sector.

At this **free event**, delegates will hear from key players in the field and learn about the role of robotics and autonomous systems in the future of healthcare and the manufacturing innovations required to ensure we get there.

[Click here for event details!](#)

HRC-DDR



NIHR CRF Network conference

The Conference supports clinical research teams across BRCs and CRFs, focusing on complex, early-phase trials and translational research.

Dates: 14th and 15th July

Venue: The ICC Birmingham

[Click here for event details!](#)

HRC-DDR



West Midlands Life Sciences Week

West Midlands Life Sciences Week 2025 is a programme designed to bring together professionals, researchers, and businesses shaping the future of life sciences. This week-long initiative explores the latest advancements, medical breakthroughs, and innovative technologies.

Dates: 15th-19th September

Location: Multiple locations around Birmingham.

HRC-DDR

TALK TO US

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@DDRHRC

SCAN ME

