

Health Innovation North

Turning Conversation
into Collaboration

WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2025
CLOTH HALL COURT, LEEDS



Health Innovation
North East and North Cumbria



HEALTH INNOVATION
North West Coast



Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber



Health Innovation
Manchester

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EVENT GUIDE

#HealthInnovationNorth



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the second **Health Innovation North Conference**, where we will explore cutting-edge solutions that improve population health and drive economic growth. This event provides an inspiring platform for healthcare professionals, innovators, and stakeholders to collaborate and shape a healthier future for our communities. The theme of the 2025 conference is **Innovation in a Time of Change**.

The four Northern Health Innovation Networks have once again come together to celebrate their collective impact. This year's programme showcases the combined strengths of the northern innovation ecosystem through a series of engaging presentations, interactive workshops, and thought-provoking panel sessions. Together, we will highlight health and care innovations that are being rapidly adopted as best practice across the NHS and the wider healthcare system.

Health Innovation North is a unique opportunity to discover pioneering solutions, exchange ideas with thought leaders, and connect with the growing health innovation community in the North of England.

On behalf of the four Northern Health Innovation Networks, we extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors—**Boehringer Ingelheim, Quantexa, First Databank UK Ltd, and Nexus, University of Leeds**—for their invaluable support.



Dr Nicola Hutchinson
Health Innovation North East
and North Cumbria



Richard Stubbs
Health Innovation Yorkshire
& Humber



Dr Phil Jennings
Health Innovation North
West Coast



**Professor Ben
Bridgewater**
Health Innovation Manchester

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
09:30	Arrival and registration	
10:00	Conference Welcome and Opening Address	Richard Stubbs, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber
10:10	Sponsor Welcome Boehringer Ingelheim	Anna Race, Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships
10:15	Keynote Address	Sir James Mackey, Chief Executive Officer, NHS England
10:40	Accelerating Transformation: Developing Effective NHS-Industry Partnerships Panel Discussion Chair: Laura Rooney, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Strategy Officer, Health Innovation Manchester	Fiona Edwards, Regional Director North East and Yorkshire, NHS England Mandy Ridyard, Business Advisor to the Mayor, West Yorkshire Combined Authority Anna Race, Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships, Boehringer Ingelheim Samantha Allen, Chief Executive, North East and North Cumbria ICB Helen Dent, Chief Executive Officer, BIVDA Steve Bates OBE, Executive Chair, Office for Life Sciences
11:25	Break	

Time	Session	Speakers
11:45	Beyond the Clinical: How Digital Technology is Reshaping the Future of Health Panel Discussion Chair: Laura Boyd, Director of Digital Partnerships, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber	Jacob West, Managing Director Healthcare & Life Sciences, Microsoft UK Imam Hoque, Co-Founder, Quantexa Dr Nisha Sharma, Consultant Radiologist and Director of the Breast Screening Programme for Leeds and Wakefield, The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Dawn Greaves, Associate Director of Digital Transformation, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
12:30	Patient Voice	Wendy Westoby, Patient Representative
12:45 AND 13:35	Lunch & Networking	
12:45 AND 13:35	Women's Health session Facilitated by: Louise Robson, Chair, Health Innovation North West Coast	Prof Shakila Thangaratinam, Dean of the Institute of Life Course & Medical Sciences Charlotte Lewis, Health and Technology Lawyer, Mills & Reeve Prof Dame Lesley Regan, Non-Executive Director, NHS Resolution Dr Natalie Kenny, Chief Executive Officer, BioGrad Carly Walter, Chief Executive Officer, MAGI
14:15	Networking Break	

Time	Session	Speakers
14:30	Afternoon Opening Remarks	Dr Phil Jennings, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North West Coast
14:40	Keynote Address	Tom Riordan, Second Permanent Secretary, Department of Health and Social Care
15:00	Innovator Showcase Chair: Tony Young, National Clinical Lead for Innovation, NHS England Innovators: Laura Earnshaw, founder, My Happy Mind Taz Aldawoud, Chief Executive Officer, Doc Abode Umar Naeem Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Abtrace Vladimir Gubala, Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder, PocDoc Julian Nesbitt, Founder, Dr Julian	Jack Porter, Co-Director, NHS Innovation Accelerator Dr Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria Dr Vladimir Gubala, Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder, PocDoc

16:00	<p>Align & Accelerate: Working in Partnership to Drive Innovation Forward Panel discussion</p> <p>Chair: Richard Stubbs, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber</p>	<p>Prof Lucy Chappell, Chief Executive, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)</p> <p>Louise Shepherd CBE, North West Regional Director, NHS England</p> <p>Andrew Edmunds, Director of Innovation, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Rosalind Campion, Director, Office for Life Sciences</p> <p>Prof Ben Bridgewater, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Manchester</p>
16:45	Conference Close	<p>Dr Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria</p> <p>Prof Dean Fathers, Chair, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria</p>
16:55	Drinks reception	Nathan Berry, Head of Collaboration and Health Tech Lead

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Speaker Bios

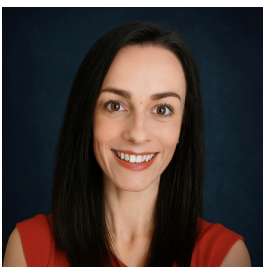
Welcome & Opening Address



Richard Stubbs, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Richard Stubbs is Chief Executive of Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber and Chair of the national Health Innovation Network. With more than two decades of experience in the healthcare sector undertaking senior roles with NHS England and NHS Global, Richard has an established track record of bringing together sectors and regions to accelerate the role that technology and life sciences can play in improving patient care, whilst also championing how increasing economic growth contributes to better population health outcomes for communities.

Sponsor Welcome



Anna Race, Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships, Boehringer Ingelheim

Anna Race is Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships at Boehringer Ingelheim UK & Ireland, with over 20 years' experience in life sciences. She leads strategic collaborations with the NHS, industry, and policy makers to co-create solutions that improve population health. Known for driving commercial growth, organisational transformation, and inclusive leadership, Anna has successfully led large teams through complex change. Her work was recently recognised at the 2025 HSJ Partnership Awards, highlighting her commitment to partnerships that deliver lasting value for patients and health systems.

Keynote Address



Sir James Mackey, Chief Executive Officer, NHS England

Sir James took up the post of Chief Executive Officer on 1 April 2025. Jim is a qualified accountant who joined the NHS in 1990. From September 2021 to March 2025, he was National Director of Elective Recovery at NHS England. From January 2024 to March 2025, Jim was Chief Executive of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Jim was also Chair of the NHS Customer Board for Procurement and Supply but stood down on taking up this post at NHS England. From 2003 to 2023, Jim was Chief Executive of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, during which time (2015 to 2017) he was Chief Executive of NHS Improvement on secondment. He was knighted in 2019 for services to healthcare.

Speaker Bios

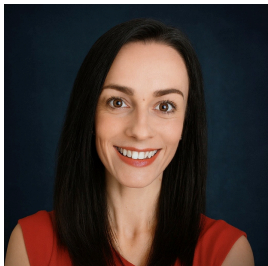
➤ Welcome & Opening Address



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Accelerating Transformation: Developing Effective NHS-Industry Partnerships Panel Discussion

This session will discuss how growing demand for healthcare services necessitates greater collaboration with industry to innovate and ensure services are efficient, integrated, and equipped to meet future needs. Driving growth and integration, requiring greater industry involvement to develop scalable solutions.



Facilitated by: Laura Rooney, Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Strategy Officer, Health Innovation Manchester

Laura Rooney is Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Strategy Officer at Health Innovation Manchester (HInM). Over the past eight years, she has played a central role in shaping HInM's regional and national profile in innovation, life sciences, and data-driven transformation. Laura works closely with the Chief Executive and Board to deliver HInM's strategic vision and foster collaboration across Greater Manchester's health and care system. With over 15 years in senior NHS roles, she brings deep expertise in strategic leadership, communications, and stakeholder engagement, and is passionate about inclusive, creative approaches to driving innovation and system change.



Fiona Edwards, Regional Director North East and Yorkshire, NHS England

Fiona took up the post of Regional Director on 1 April 2025. Her previous role was Chief Executive of Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care Board, where she led the system for over 5 years. Prior to that, Fiona was Chief Executive of Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and she has been a Chief Executive in the NHS for over 23 years.

During her career Fiona has held leadership roles within the private, voluntary, and not-for-profit sectors: she has been the national Chair of Cruse Bereavement Care and a national supported housing organisation, which provided both services and housing to the most vulnerable and excluded people in society.

Fiona has been a Trustee of the NHS Confederation and was appointed as Chair of Advice Now (the foundation for public legal education).



Mandy Ridyard, Business Advisor to the Mayor, West Yorkshire Combined Authority

With a background in chemistry and manufacturing, Mandy co-led the buyout of aerospace firm Produmax in 1997. Under her leadership, Produmax became a global expert in flight assemblies, exporting 70% of turnover and winning multiple national awards. Mandy chairs the West Yorkshire Business Board and advises Mayor Tracy Brabin on business. She also leads Space Hub Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Innovation Network, driving regional strategy and innovation. Passionate about skills, inclusivity, and women in engineering, Mandy is a champion for manufacturing, productivity, and the future of the region.



Anna Race, Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships, Boehringer Ingelheim

Anna Race is Director of Health System Engagement and Partnerships at Boehringer Ingelheim UK & Ireland, with over 20 years' experience in life sciences. She leads strategic collaborations with the NHS, industry, and policy makers to co-create solutions that improve population health. Known for driving commercial growth, organisational transformation, and inclusive leadership, Anna has successfully led large teams through complex change. Her work was recently recognised at the 2025 HSJ Partnership Awards, highlighting her commitment to partnerships that deliver lasting value for patients and health systems.



Samantha Allen, Chief Executive, North East and North Cumbria ICB

Sam is an experienced NHS Chief Executive and joined the North East and North Cumbria to set up the ICB in January 2022. In addition to her NHS career, which spans nearly 30 years, Sam is also the National Director for Management and Leadership at NHS England and Chair of the Health and Care Women Leaders Network for NHS Confederation.



Helen Dent, Chief Executive Officer, BIVDA

Helen is the CEO at BIVDA, appointed in March 2024.

Helen comes from a procurement background and has held roles at NHS PASA in pharmaceutical purchasing and childhood vaccines, as well as pharmacy and diagnostics procurement for Surrey and Sussex Confederation, and National Contracts Manager for laboratory goods at NHSBT.

Helen worked for 11 years in a number of roles across the UK and Europe at Abbott, leading supplier management and contract provision for managed services.

She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, has an MSC in Strategic Procurement from the University of Glamorgan Business School, and an LLM in Public Procurement Law and Policy from the University of Nottingham, School of Law.



Steve Bates OBE, Executive Chair, Office for Life Sciences

Industry leader Steve Bates OBE been appointed as Executive Chair of the Office for Life Sciences, the cross-Government unit that champions research, innovation and the use of technology to transform health and grow the economy across the UK.



Beyond the Clinical: How Digital Technology is Reshaping the Future of Health Panel Discussion

This panel will discuss how digital technology has the potential to transform healthcare. The integration of AI, telemedicine and other digital tools has the capability to improve clinical outcome, empower patients and streamline hospital appointments but it comes with its challenges.



Facilitated by: Laura Boyd, Director of Digital Partnerships, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Laura is Director of Digital Partnerships at Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, working across three Integrated Care Boards to optimise data infrastructure and improve health outcomes. Previously, she led cardiovascular innovation at UCLPartners, including the award-winning Proactive Care Frameworks and smart data tool CVD ACTION. She also directed the NHS Innovation Accelerator, supporting high-impact innovations across the NHS. Laura began her career at Cancer Research UK and NHS England, focusing on early cancer diagnosis and tobacco control. Passionate about equitable access to care, she champions innovation that reduces health inequalities and supports the NHS workforce.



Jacob West, Managing Director Healthcare & Life Sciences, Microsoft UK

Jacob leads Microsoft's UK healthcare and local government business. A former adviser to two UK Prime Ministers, Jacob has worked in public services locally, nationally and internationally, in the UK and overseas. Jacob was the Harkness Fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health and is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London's Public Policy Institute.



Imam Hoque, Co-Founder, Quantexa

Imam has over 37 years in IT and holds a master's in AI, specialising in data-driven decision intelligence and graph analytics. As Founder and CTO of BAE Systems Detica NetReveal, he built a global team tackling financial crime. He pioneered big data and entity resolution, saving billions in tax evasion and fraud, and implemented the UK's NCA Intelligence system. Imam helped establish global Insurance Fraud Bureaus and now supports organisations in adopting AI for efficiency and growth. His work spans government and financial sectors, fighting organised crime, corruption, and money laundering.



Dr Nisha Sharma, Consultant Radiologist and Director of the Breast Screening Programme for Leeds and Wakefield, The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Nisha Sharma is Director of the breast screening programme for Leeds and Wakefield and a consultant breast radiologist.

She is active in research and audit and is recognised as a national and international speaker. She developed the UK breast screening guidelines on how to manage high risk lesions. She is also involved in a number of trials looking to minimise over treatment and also support risk adapted screening. She is actively involved in studies involving artificial intelligence. She sits on a large number of committees and is audit lead for the British Society of Radiology.



Dawn Greaves, Associate Director of Digital Transformation, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Dawn is the Associate Director of Digital Transformation at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. Responsible for the development and delivery of the Trust Digital, Data and Technology Strategy and driving forward the transformation agenda. Previous to this role, Dawn was responsible for overseeing the delivery of the West Yorkshire Digital Strategy in collaboration with all the health and social care organisations across the West Yorkshire footprint. Having worked in the NHS for over 33 years, Dawn has a wealth of experience in digital leadership and transformation. Passionate about how digital solutions can transform the lives of the people we serve.



Patient Voice



Wendy Westoby, Patient Representative

Wendy Westoby is a stroke survivor, polio survivor, and passionate patient advocate based in Greater Manchester. After experiencing a stroke in 2009 and living with Post Polio Syndrome, she became a Stroke Ambassador and AF Heart Hero, conducting over 2,500 AF tests to help prevent strokes. Wendy has contributed to national research projects on stroke recovery, oral health, and blood pressure technology, and regularly supports physiotherapy education. Her lived experience has shaped impactful patient involvement in innovation and research. Wendy's dedication has been recognised through awards and published contributions, empowering stroke survivors and improving care across the UK.

➤ Women's Health Empowering Wellness

Featuring a panel of experts in the field of Women's Health, we will discuss how increased access to health information will allow women to take an active, self-aware role in managing their health promoting proactive health choices, and ensuring women receive tailored care throughout their lives.



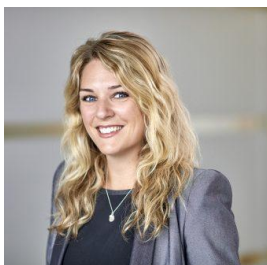
Facilitated by: Louise Robson, Chair, Health Innovation North West Coast

Louise is Chair of Health Innovation North West Coast, bringing over 38 years of NHS experience, including 26 on NHS boards. She has held senior executive roles at top-rated trusts, including Stockport and Newcastle, and led national provider collaboration across the North of England. Louise has advised on policy, chaired pharmacy and spin-out companies, and contributed to the Office for Life Sciences' Industrial Strategy. A clinician by background, she's passionate about system improvement, innovation, and collaboration, with a career spanning NHS England, the Department of Health, and commissioning for over 750,000 people



Professor Shakila Thangaratinam, Dean of the Institute of Life Course & Medical Sciences

Professor Shakila Thangaratinam is Executive Dean at the Institute of Life Course and Medical Sciences and a global leader in women's health research. A Consultant Obstetrician and NIHR Senior Investigator, she has secured over £70M in research funding and led collaborations across 40+ countries. Her work has shaped national and global guidelines on pregnancy, diabetes, and epilepsy. She founded multiple research centres and networks, mentors future clinical researchers, and champions patient involvement through groups like Katie's Team and Equal Voices Alliance. Shakila's leadership spans academia, the NHS, and international health policy.



Charlotte Lewis, Health and Technology Lawyer, Mills & Reeve

An award winning commercial and technology lawyer specialising in the health and care sector, Charlotte advises health and care organisations on legal, commercial and strategic issues relating to commissioning, contracting and collaborating.

Having established Mills & Reeve's women's health team, Charlotte champions health equity and works with organisations who are passionate about closing the gender health gap.

Charlotte is an advocate for innovation and transformation in the sector and in addition to her legal role at Mills & Reeve she is co-vice chair of techUK's Health and Social Care Council.



Professor Dame Lesley Regan, Non-Executive Director, NHS Resolution

Professor Dame Lesley Regan is Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Imperial College and England's first Women's Health Ambassador. A global authority in women's health, she chaired the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and served as Honorary Secretary of FIGO. She leads Wellbeing of Women, promoting research and education across the life course. Her ambassador role supports the Women's Health Strategy, tackling access, disparities, and taboos. Lesley has authored best-selling books on pregnancy and miscarriage, empowering women with vital health information and advocating for improved care and wellbeing.



Dr Natalie Kenny, Chief Executive Officer, BioGrad

Dr Natalie Kenny is the founder and CEO of BioGrad, a company transforming the landscape of science and healthcare across the UK. Since founding BioGrad ten years ago, Dr Kenny has led its expansion, creating jobs and providing opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to thrive in the fields of scientific research, healthcare, and education. With a deep passion for science and a commitment to inclusivity, Dr Kenny has built a dynamic organisation that is advancing medicine, clinical research, biobanking, and laboratory services. BioGrad is not only a leader in science and education but also a company committed to creating opportunities for people through providing Skills Bootcamps that help with employment in the science sector.



Carly Walter, Chief Executive Officer, MAGI

Carly Walter is a women's health and neurodivergent wellbeing specialist with 20 years' experience in holistic therapy and a background in social psychology. She is the founder of MAGI, an AI wellbeing platform co-designed with neurodivergent women to support mental, emotional and hormonal health. Shaped by lived experience of ADHD, PMDD and chronic illness, Carly's work reflects the gaps in systems that often overlook complexity. Through her practice, Wellbeing Reimagined, she offers coaching, mentoring and strategic support for women navigating leadership, neurodivergence and life transitions. Her mission is to create lasting change through inclusive, evidence-led, human-centred design.

➤ Afternoon Opening Remarks



Dr Phil Jennings, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North West Coast

Dr Phil Jennings is the Chief Executive of Health Innovation North West Coast. He also continues to practise as a GP and has a specialist interest in cardiology.

Phil's previous roles include the Primary Care Lead for the Cheshire and Merseyside Cardiac Network; Chairman of NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and deputy medical director at NHS England and NHS Improvement North West.

➤ Keynote Address



Tom Riordan, Second Permanent Secretary, Department of Health & Social Care

Tom Riordan joined the Department of Health and Social Care as Second Permanent Secretary in September 2024, where he has led on Adult Social care and the 10 Year Health Plan, among other government priorities. Prior to this appointment, he was the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council for 14 years, during which time he led the regeneration of Leeds city centre and modernised services to improve children's services and pioneer the Home First adult social care programme.

Tom undertook a secondment to NHS Test and Trace in 2020. His earlier career included his role as Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward between 2005 and 2010, and earlier roles in the Department for Environment.

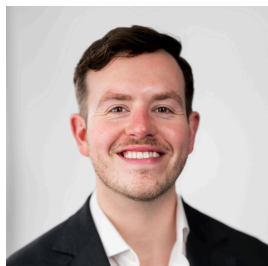
➤ Innovator Showcase

This session will highlight the exceptional individuals and their innovations that are being scaled within the NHS to improve patient care and address key healthcare challenges. These innovators are selected through a rigorous, competitive process and are supported to spread their proven, impactful innovations across the country.



Facilitated by: Professor Tony Young, National Clinical Lead for Innovation, NHS England

Professor Tony Young is a practising NHS consultant urological surgeon, Associate Medical Director, and Director of Medical Innovation at Anglia Ruskin University. He founded four Med-Tech start-ups and became the NHS's first National Clinical Lead for Innovation in 2014. Tony founded the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, now the world's largest of its kind. Awarded an OBE in 2019, he leads national programmes including the Innovation Accelerator, SBRI Healthcare, and the Innovation and Technology Payment. His work spans health, social care, public health, and life sciences, driving innovation, economic growth, and improved patient outcomes across the NHS.



Jack Porter, Co-Director, NHS Innovation Accelerator

Jack is Co-Director of the NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA), where he leads system engagement and works closely with partners across Integrated Care Systems, NHS England, and the Health Innovation Network to scale high-impact solutions developed by NIA Fellows.

He began his career in finance with the Roche Group, gaining experience across Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals in both Europe and North America. Jack later transitioned into digital health, where he led commercial strategies for several health tech start-ups—from early-stage ventures to successful exits—including HealthUnlocked, a former NIA Fellow and the world's largest social network for health.

Before joining the NIA, Jack held a leadership role at Novartis Biome, overseeing national initiatives such as the rollout of patient management technologies and at-home testing solutions.



Dr Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria

Dr Nicola Hutchinson is CEO of Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria and was part of the original team that secured accreditation for the Academic Health Science Network, back in 2013. With a PhD in Chemistry from Durham University, Nicola has fulfilled several innovation roles across the NHS and industry, driving co-created solutions to improve patient care and economic growth. She advises the North East and North Cumbria ICB in relation to innovation and serves as a Trustee of the Percy Hedley Foundation. Nicola is passionate about innovation and its associated impact, honouring her late brother, Steven through her work.



Dr Vladimir Gubala, Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder, PocDoc

Vlad has a background in organic, synthetic chemistry with over 20 years experience in the personalised diagnostics field. After completing his PhD in 2006, he worked at the University of Florida, later joining the world of point-of-care diagnostics at the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute. Throughout his research career, Vlad has published more than 50 research articles and has been cited more than 2000 times.



Laura Earnshaw, Founder, My Happy Mind

Laura Earnshaw is founder of [myHappyMind](https://myhappymind.org.uk/), an award-winning, NHS-backed curriculum for primary schools and nurseries that teaches children lifelong habits to have good self-esteem, resilience and ultimately good mental health. Laura tells us about her first light bulb moment, which was when her child started school, her dreams of getting into every primary school across the country and her top three pieces of advice for innovators. Before Laura started myHappyMind, she was the global head of talent and development for AstraZeneca, responsible for teaching senior leaders about resilience and wellbeing.



Taz Aldawoud, Chief Executive Officer, Doc Abode

Dr Taz Aldawoud is a GP and the founding Chief Executive Officer of Doc Abode, a nationally recognised digital health company transforming urgent and community care. With over 20 years' clinical experience, he combines frontline expertise with a strong track record in digital innovation. An NHS Innovation Accelerator Fellow and National Fellows' Representative, Taz works with Integrated Care Systems nationwide to increase capacity, efficiency and patient outcomes through dynamic workforce coordination, supporting the NHS to deliver care closer to home.



Umar Naeem Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Abtrace

Umar is CEO of Abtrace, an Artificial Intelligence digital health start-up based in London. It has raised more than £4m in venture and grant funding, partnering with more than 85 GP practices, covering one million patients. He is an NHS doctor trained at the University of Cambridge and UCL with over 10 years NHS clinical experience spanning Tropical Medicine, A&E and now Anaesthesia. His other experience ranges from frontline humanitarian work in Sierra Leone during Ebola crisis to clinical research at AP-HP, Paris and health policy work at the WHO, Geneva. Umar is a mentor on the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme and trustee on the board of international charity EMERGENCY UK.



Julian Nesbitt, Founder, Dr Julian

Dr Julian Nesbitt is an NHS GP and Founder/CEO of Dr-Julian Medical Group, a leading digital mental health platform. He launched the company to improve access, reduce waiting times, and empower patients with personalised care. The platform has delivered over 220,000 therapy sessions and supported more than 1 million via its licensed technology, now used across NHS trusts, national services, and charities. With over 350 clinicians, Dr-Julian powers services like Practitioner Health and SAMH's digital front door. Julian is passionate about scalable, tech-enabled mental health care that meets diverse population needs.

➤ Align & Accelerate: Working in Partnership to Drive Innovation Forward Panel Discussion

In light of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan and the Life Sciences Sector Plan, this session will explore how a strengthened partnership between the NHS and life sciences industry will build a more cohesive ecosystem, stimulate economic growth, accelerate health innovation and ultimately a more efficient, sustainable, and resilient health service that is better equipped for the future.



Facilitated by: Richard Stubbs, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Richard Stubbs is Chief Executive of Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber and Chair of the national Health Innovation Network. With more than two decades of experience in the healthcare sector undertaking senior roles with NHS England and NHS Global, Richard has an established track record of bringing together sectors and regions to accelerate the role that technology and life sciences can play in improving patient care, whilst also championing how increasing economic growth contributes to better population health outcomes for communities.



Professor Lucy Chappell, Chief Executive, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

Professor Lucy Chappell is Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health and Social Care and CEO of the NIHR. She has overall responsibility for DHSC research and development and for supporting the department's analysis. Lucy is also Professor of Obstetrics at King's College London, Honorary Consultant Obstetrician at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and President of the Blair Bell Research Society. She is a former NIHR Senior Investigator and NIHR Research Professor, and was previously a member of the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Clinical Evaluation and Trials Board. Her research investigates prediction and prevention of adverse pregnancy outcomes, particularly in women with conditions such as hypertension, using a range of methodologies.



Louise Shepherd CBE, North West Regional Director, NHS England

Louise Shepherd CBE is Regional Director for NHS England in the North West, overseeing healthcare for over seven million people. She supports NHS trusts, assures three Integrated Care Systems, and manages commissioning for primary care, specialised services, health and justice, and armed forces. Previously Chief Executive at Alder Hey, she led its transformation into Europe's only Children's Health Park. Louise has also held leadership roles at Liverpool Women's Hospital and Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, following her early career at KPMG. Chair of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the National Children's Transformation Programme, Louise was awarded a CBE in 2017.



Andrew Edmunds, Director of Innovation, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Andrew Edmunds is Director of Innovation for Northumbria Healthcare, responsible for leading the trust's drive on innovation projects, and approach to innovation as a whole. This includes being Northumbria's lead on standalone projects such as the regional Medicines Manufacturing Centre, Great North Healthcare Alliance, and neighbourhood health developments. Prior to joining Northumbria, Andrew worked in a range of roles in central Government, including in the Cabinet Office during the Coalition government, and later in the Secretary of State for Health's private office. In 2017-18 he worked with Lord Carter to review the operational productivity of mental health and community health services before moving back to the North East.



Rosalind Campion, Director, Office for Life Sciences

Rosalind has led the Government's Office for Life Sciences for four years, driving collaboration across government, the NHS, academia and industry to improve patient outcomes and economic growth. She led the UK's Life Sciences Sector Plan, aiming to make the UK a global leader by 2035. A former solicitor and senior diplomat, she held leadership roles in the Cabinet Office, Home Office, and Department for International Trade, and led UK science and tech teams in Washington DC and Tokyo. Rosalind is a champion of biomedical research and innovation, working closely with the Academy of Medical Sciences and health system partners



Professor Ben Bridgewater, Chief Executive, Health Innovation Manchester

Ben Bridgewater is Chief Executive of Health Innovation Manchester (HInM), a place-based innovation organisation with a vision to be world-leading in improving the lives of local people, transforming care and boosting the economy through innovation. Under his leadership since 2018, HInM has built robust partnerships across local government, NHS, academia and industry that deliver for GM's 3m population – focused on integrated governance, integrated capabilities, digital, industry partnerships and innovation method. As a former leading cardiac surgeon and previously a director at DXC Technology, he brings significant expertise in clinical informatics, governance and outcomes transparency, innovation and digital transformation.

➤ Conference Close



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Dr Nicola Hutchinson is CEO of Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria and was part of the original team that secured accreditation for the Academic Health Science Network, back in 2013. With a PhD in Chemistry from Durham University, Nicola has fulfilled several innovation roles across the NHS and industry, driving co-created solutions to improve patient care and economic growth. She advises the North East and North Cumbria ICB in relation to innovation and serves as a Trustee of the Percy Hedley Foundation. Nicola is passionate about innovation and its associated impact, honouring her late brother, Steven through her work.



Professor Dean Fathers, Chair, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria

Professor Dean Fathers is an experienced health leader with extensive board and chair roles across Primary Care, Mental Health and Acute Trusts, a Strategic Health Authority, NHS Providers, and the NHS Confederation. He brings additional private and third sector experience supporting health and social care organisations in the UK and internationally. An Honorary Professor of Health and Care Leadership at the University of Nottingham and Visiting Chair at the University of Lincoln, Dean has over 25 years' experience in strategic change consultancy worldwide. He is Chair of HI NENC, and also serves as a Non-Executive Director and Trustee.

➤ Drinks Reception – Sponsored by Nexus

Opened by: Nathan Berry, Head of Collaboration and Health Tech Lead

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