

Enteric Event 'Mind the Gap' success

Enteric's first major event, 'Mind the Gap', took place on 20th April at the Royal College of Surgeons and was attended by around 85 delegates. Feedback received so far has been overwhelmingly positive, with praise for the excellence of speeches and presentations as well as choice of venue.



One thing all speakers were agreed on was the problem of facilitating the adoption and dissemination of new innovation and technology into the NHS, and the need to overcome existing barriers. The key to this was perceived to be improved communications and networking.

The two pilot HTC's, Devices for Dignity and Enteric, provided a good example of how this might be achieved by focusing on their work in establishing collaborative networks and partnerships. Half of D4D's projects involved industry partners and they had links with NHS Trusts and Universities nationally. Similarly, Enteric's clinical network and Technology Development Partnerships were a valuable resource for the development, evaluation and ultimate adoption of new medical technologies.



Professor Williams focused on the need for improved surgical research and innovation, linking this to the Royal College of Surgeons' key strategic aims of developing a trials culture for surgery, improving the evidence base and improving and evaluating outcomes for surgical interventions for dissemination in the healthcare environment.

Professor Campbell of NICE emphasised the importance of CE-marking and IP for new technologies, together with the submission of good clinical evidence. The Medical Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) played a central role in medical technology evaluation and assessment. In line with the overall theme of the event, the long-term aim of NICE was to boost adoption of novel technologies and to improve research.

George Leahy of the Department of Health referred to the UK's high profile as an international leader in biomedical research and innovation. The Department had introduced a package for long-term change in association with NICE, involving for instance the establishment of Academic Health Science Networks to bring together industry, academia, the scientific community and healthcare professionals.

The industry viewpoint was presented by Lee Edwards of Frankenman Inc., focusing on the need to protect existing products as well as developing innovative ideas such as APPEAR, a project involving close collaboration with Enteric.

About Enteric

Enteric, The Bowel Function Healthcare Technology Cooperative, is one of two pilot HTC's jointly funded by the Department of Health and the Technology Strategy Board with support from the Research Councils and the ABHI. We aim to become the national centre for facilitating innovative technology in the field of disorders of bowel function for the NHS and beyond.

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National Centre now open

Enteric is pleased to announce that it has now moved into the newly-completed National Centre for Bowel Research and Surgical Innovation at Whitechapel, along with Bowel and Cancer Research and Queen Mary, University of London's Academic Surgical Unit. The formal opening ceremony will take place at a later date.

Professor Charles Knowles – Inaugural Lecture 'The Accidental Neurophysiologist'

Professor Knowles' inaugural lecture took place in the Perrin Theatre on 19th March 2012, before an audience of family, friends and distinguished colleagues. It was introduced by Professor Simon Gaskell, Principal of Queen Mary College.

Professor Knowles highlighted his work as Deputy Clinical Director of Enteric, and the great strides made by this organisation in pioneering new treatments for patients with unexplained gastrointestinal symptoms.

New Collaboration with the NIHR Gastrointestinal Translational Research Network

The first joint meeting of the NIHR GI Translational Research Network hosted by NOCRI was held in Liverpool in March 2012. Attendees included representatives of all the GI-themed Biomedical Research Units, Enteric and several other interested parties.

As a direct result of discussions at this meeting, we invited members of the Nottingham and Liverpool BRUs to come to our 'Mind the Gap' event, where we were able to explore the possibilities of ideas for new technologies arising from within these centres. Two promising technology development projects are now being brought forward with Enteric's facilitation. Currently industry partnerships are being formed and funding applications are in progress.