

November  
2008

# Bowel Function Healthcare Technology Co-operative News

## About BFHTC

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 for the NHS and beyond in the field of disorders of bowel function.

## Contact us

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## Looking back on the year

Professor Norman Williams

The BFHTC will be one year old next January. Since the beginning of this year we have achieved much in establishing ourselves and building networks both within and between our stakeholder groups. Projects that we set up in the spring are now becoming established, obtaining funding and are beginning to produce tangible results. Work is well underway to build a comprehensive clinical network designed to facilitate the evaluation and trial of new interventional therapies. Work has started on developing the framework by which patients, technology users and carers will be enabled to make a meaningful and sustained contribution to technology development.

Much remains to be done, and we look forward to working with you in developing our vision for the BFHTC to become the prime UK centre for the improvement of bowel function through innovative techniques and technologies.



LOTTERY FUNDED

## Lottery Funding for Patient Consultation Project

Tech4All, a joint project initiated by the BFHTC

and the charity Bowel & Cancer Research, has obtained a Big Lottery Fund grant to develop a major initiative to determine how patients and carers can best be included as active partners in the development and evaluation of new medical technologies. Working with Social Geographers from Queen Mary University, London and Durham University we will focus on Asian women in East London and Isolated groups in rural County Durham as examples of patients and carer groups that are currently excluded from influencing healthcare technology development.

## BFHTC Sponsors Study Day for Colorectal Nurse Specialists

*Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, Mile  
End, London*

A one-day survey of the latest techniques and technologies for the management of slow transit constipation, rectal evacuatory disorders and faecal incontinence. Sessions include sacral & percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation, biofeedback & conservative management and conventional and new surgical procedures.

**To book a place contact the  
Colorectal Development Unit**

## BFHTC Core Team

*Clinical Director:*  
Professor Norman  
Williams

*Deputy Clinical  
Director:*  
Mr Charles Knowles

*Director of  
Operations:*  
Dr Michael Grahm

*Administrative  
Assistant:*  
Ms Gemma Mittoo

Hosted by Barts &  
The London NHS  
Trust, BFHTC is part  
of the NIHR i4i  
programme and is  
supported by the  
Technology Strategy  
Board, EPSRC, MRC  
and the ABHI



## Development Funding for C. difficile Test

Detect Difficile, a project led by Professor Steve Bustin, has obtained funding from the Heptagon Fund to enable it to produce a demonstration version of a kit to identify and characterise the infective bacterium C. difficile. The test is intended to be suitable for screening patients scheduled for bowel surgery before they enter hospital. This will enable patients carrying the infection to be managed appropriately from the outset, so protecting other vulnerable patients from possible cross-infection. The test, based on real-time PCR technology, uses mainly standard reagents and is both rapid and inexpensive.

## Full house at Medical Innovations Forum

Together with D4D, our sister HTC, we hosted a packed round table discussion on the theme of what HTC's can do for the medical device industry at the Medical Innovations Forum at Harrogate on 21<sup>st</sup> October. The lively discussion centered around issues such as the difficulties caused by classical controlled trial models for evaluating medical devices and the need for an extensive independent network for clinical trials and evaluation of new devices. Tackling both these gaps in the current landscape is a priority for the HTC's.

## ColoQuest – a new web forum for colorectal nurses

Hosted on the BFHTC website, ColoQuest acts as an open forum where those involved in the management of colorectal disorders can exchange news, views and information.

Register at:

<http://coloquest.bowelfunctionHTC.org.uk>

## Make the Most of the BFHTC

The cooperative cannot exist without input from its members. We exist to bring new techniques and technologies for the treatment and management of disorders of bowel function into general use. To do this we need your involvement. Contact us if you:

- Have a need that is not currently met by existing devices or practices
- Have identified a new or expanded use for an existing technology
- Have an idea that promises to improve treatments or management
- Have a device or diagnostic system in development