

About us

One of eight national Healthcare Technology Co-operatives (HTCs) funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the NIHR Enteric HTC at Barts Health NHS Trust aims to be the premier centre for facilitating innovative technology in bowel and gastrointestinal disorders for the NHS and beyond.

We are based in the National Centre for Bowel Research and Surgical Innovation (NCBRSI) and are building on the success of the pilot HTC, enteric.

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NIHR Enteric HTC Core Team

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ENTERIC HACKDAY 2014:

New frontiers in GI healthcare technology development

The event took place on 8 October 2014 at the Royal Society of Medicine and was well attended. NIHR Enteric HTC received very positive feedback on the quality of the presentations and the venue. There was a good mix of delegates from industry and clinicians and other organisations including patients.

Speakers addressed a number of topics and in particular focussed on unmet clinical needs and the challenges presented within the area of GI disease, with particular reference to patient benefit and cost savings.

One specific area of need highlighted was the long-term care sector, where problems of the GI tract and bowel function were of major concern in an increasing elderly population and linked to social acceptability.

Clinicians sought better diagnosis tools and treatments, alongside a better understanding of complex and often interlinked conditions. Industry representatives would like to see improved communication with clinicians in order to develop new relevant medical technology, to meet perceived unmet needs and improve the process from prototype to marketing.

The innovative Open Space workshop in the afternoon proved popular, allowing plenty of time for networking and free discussion between delegates from all categories. Delegates were encouraged to mix and match conversations, to discover and exchange new ideas and opportunities for collaboration. A number of points emerged from the different discussions, many of which related to patients' concerns, including those in the elderly care sector. There was a call for better understanding between academics, clinicians and industry, in order to improve collaboration and address unmet needs. Discussions should focus not just on the present but on what might be needed in five years' time, with an emphasis on problems involved in accessing funding, adoption and commissioning. The importance of patient safety was recognised, as relevant new technology was more likely to achieve adoption into the NHS.



NEW GRANT WON TO WORK ON SURGICAL SAFETY **NIHR Enteric HTC to work with commercial partners on new project**

Our recent funding application for £260,000 to Barts Charity for two years has been successful. This fantastic news means that we can now start work on our exciting project, Digital Smoke Subtraction, which will improve the safety of keyhole surgery.

Abdominal keyhole surgery is becoming more and more popular. It offers many benefits to patients such as smaller wounds, less pain and a quicker recovery. However, because the surgeon cannot manipulate the tissues directly with their hands, having a clear video picture from which to operate becomes crucial.

Smoke is one factor that obscures the view in keyhole surgery. It is created when tissues are cut and sealed with an electric scalpel. The smoke then lingers inside the abdomen. The poor view increases the risk of accidental injury and slows down the operation. Ways to remove the smoke are inadequate and are not in widespread use.

Preliminary work by one of our commercial partners, who are experts in video processing, showed that smoke can be digitally removed from the video picture in real-time. The system uses existing technology found in satellite image processing systems and live television video graphics (e.g. Match of the Day). It works by using pixels from previous video frames to fill in the pixels covered by the smoke. Thus the smoke is digitally subtracted from the video picture, leaving a clearer picture for the surgeon to operate with.

We are delighted that UK experts in operating theatre lighting and video broadcast specialists have teamed up with NIHR Enteric HTC on this important project. This funding will allow us to refine the technology and test it out in theatre.

June Rogers

June is retiring from her position as Team Director for the charity PromoCon and also from the NIHR Enteric HTC Steering Committee. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her contribution to our work.



Sue Taylor

Sue is also retiring from her position as administrator here at NIHR Enteric HTC. She is looking forward to spending more time painting and participating in theatre productions. She will be missed and we wish her all the best.



Antonio Quadrucchi

Antonio is moving on from his role as Business Manager at NIHR Enteric HTC. He made a great contribution to the organisation's success from its first days as a pilot

