

### 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.

### Contact us

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### Working with Industry: NIHR Digestive Diseases Showcase

The National Institute for Health Research held an event in Nottingham in June to launch its strategy for advancing collaborative research in the field of Gastrointestinal disorders. The event was attended by representatives from national Biomedical Research Units and by Professor Charles Knowles on behalf of NIHR Enteric HTC.

Professor Knowles gave a well-received presentation on the application of technology in faecal incontinence.

During the conference, NIHR Enteric HTC was commended by Mark Samuels, Managing Director of the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI), for providing one of four case studies used within a new NIHR GI brochure entitled *Advancing Collaborative Research in Gastrointestinal & Related Disorders*. The GI brochure containing the NIHR Enteric HTC case study which highlighted the CONFIDeNT study is available from the NOCRI microsite at the following link:

<http://www.nocri.nihr.ac.uk/resources/resources>

A joint presentation on a novel device for therapeutic paracentesis between Professor Guru Aithal of Nottingham University and Bob Urie, Chairman of Mediplus, clearly exemplified the role of NIHR Enteric HTC in facilitating focussed partnerships between clinicians and industry, leading to the granting of CE Mark and development of an IP-protected medical device.

### CONFIDeNT

NIHR Enteric HTC is pleased to report that the CONFIDeNT study is at an advanced stage, with 202 patients recruited so far in 14 centres nationwide.

### SMART

For the SMART project, concerning a procedure and instrumentation to prevent stoma herniation, a total of 53 patients have been randomised with a target of 116.

NIHR Enteric HTC exists to bring new techniques and technologies for the treatment and management of disorders of the GI tract and 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
- You have identified a new or expanded use for an existing technology
- You have an idea that promises to improve treatments or management
- You have a device or diagnostic system in development.

### NIHR Enteric HTC Core Team

*Clinical Co-Directors:*

Professor Norman Williams  
Professor Charles Knowles

*Director of Technology:*

Dr Michael Grahn

*Business Development Manager:*

Antonio Quadrucci

*Administrator:*

Sue Taylor

### Bowel & Cancer Research – Marathon Fundraising Success

Deborah Gilbert, Chief Executive of the Bowel & Cancer Research charity, recently reported that funds raised from the London Marathon reached an impressive total of £41,762. The charity thanked those from NCBRSI who took part and those who supported them. The money raised will enable B&CR to fund almost entirely one of their small grants.

It is hoped that the charity will take part in the Marathon again in 2014. The charity intends to build on this success in coming years.



### Research: The GEKO™ Trial for the Treatment of Faecal Incontinence

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals 

#### *Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust*



Faecal incontinence (FI) is a socially disabling condition that affects between 1-15% of adults. It is likely that 1-2% of adults experience regular FI which impacts on quality of life with associated high healthcare utilisation and job absenteeism. Current treatments such as neuromodulation are effective but tend to be costly or invasive. An alternative has been proposed, namely the GEKO™ device, produced by Firstkind Ltd.

**geko™**

**firstkind**  
living science

The benefits of this treatment are potentially far-reaching for FI patients. The GEKO™ device is non-invasive and if proved to be successful could lead to reduced morbidity. It can be patient administered, allowing a reduction in the number of hospital appointments. It would be the first fully ambulatory treatment modality for FI patients, allowing them to continue their normal daily activities whilst receiving treatment.

The GEKO™ device is a unique way of delivering stimulation to the posterior tibial nerve via a transcutaneous route. The GEKO™ study will allow clinicians to identify whether the device has the potential to improve the symptoms and quality of life of patients suffering from FI. The study has been awarded a grant from the Bowel Disease Research Foundation and obtained NIHR Portfolio status.

40 patients in total will be recruited for a multi-centre trial led by Kathryn Gill, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at the Sandwell. Eight centres are already open, with 29 patients so far. Clinicians will assess patients' outcomes using bowel diaries, symptom severity scores and quality of life questionnaires, two weeks prior to and after 12 treatments (over 6 weeks) of either 1 or 4 hour duration.

### New Research Fellow appointed

NIHR Enteric HTC is pleased to announce that Ms Kathryn Lynes has been appointed by the Royal College of Surgeons to their David Johnston Research Fellowship. She will be based at NCBRSI and will be working on the research programme on sphincter preservation in rectal surgery and APPEAR.