

Patient Inspired Innovation

Welcome to issue 9 of the NIHR Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative newsletter.

In this edition, find out more about the COVID-19 pandemic and how the NIHR is responding to this emergency and our newly appointed Honorary Director.

About us

The MIC is one of eleven national Medtech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operatives (MICs) funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).



The MIC works with patients, carers, academics, clinicians and industry to develop new medical devices, healthcare technologies and technology-dependent interventions to improve treatment and quality of life for patients with brain injuries.

Get Involved!

The MIC has developed a volunteer register for patients, carers and whoever has an interest in the advancement of healthcare technologies. For more information on the Register for Healthcare Involvement and Technology Evaluation (RHITE), please visit our website:
<http://www.brainmic.nihr.ac.uk/rhite>

Important:

To unsubscribe from RHITE and this newsletter please send an email to: involve@brainmic.org

NIHR's response to the coronavirus pandemic

“The world faces an unprecedented challenge in our effort to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 and it is vital we harness our research capabilities to the fullest extent to limit the outbreak and protect life.”

**Professor Chris Whitty,
Chief Medical Officer and NIHR Co-Lead**

The NIHR has moved rapidly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and is working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and partners across the health and care system to **fund and deliver world-class COVID-19 research.**

New and existing studies are assessed through a single, national prioritisation process to ensure the best research can be funded and delivered efficiently across the healthcare system, to prevent duplication of effort and ensure that the resources and capacity of the healthcare system are not exceeded.

New COVID-19 research projects that don't yet have funding are being assessed by a joint UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and NIHR Rapid Response Panel, with **six studies funded to date** and a **rolling call now in place.**

A second body assesses COVID-19 research projects that already have funding in place (from the NIHR, public sector, industry or charities) and prioritises key studies for support by the NIHR Clinical Research Network and delivery by the health and care system.

Over 20 studies have already been nationally prioritised, spanning topics such as vaccine development, antiviral treatments and COVID-19 in pregnancy. The UK's Chief Medical Officers have highlighted **three of these studies as particularly key for tackling COVID-19.**

...to be continued in the next pages!

A change in the Brain Injury MIC leadership:

Prof Peter Hutchinson is the new Honorary Director of the Brain Injury MIC



Prof Peter Hutchinson

We are delighted to communicate that Professor Peter Hutchinson, formerly Multi-Modality Monitoring Theme Lead, is now the new Honorary Director of the MIC.

Professor Hutchinson is taking over the leadership of the MIC Programme from Professor John Pickard, who will continue to strategically advise the Brain Injury MIC as a member of the Advisory Board.

Professor John Pickard was awarded last December a CBE, Commander of the British Empire, an award that recognises the outstanding achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people across the United Kingdom.



Prof John Pickard

The CBE is the highest ranking Order of the British Empire award, followed by the Officer (OBE) and Member (MBE), and Professor Pickard received the CBE award for his services to neurosciences, neurosurgery and research for patients with complex neurological disorders.

The award recognises the outstanding contribution Professor Pickard has made at the University of Cambridge on advancing the care of patients with acute brain injury, hydrocephalus and prolonged disorders of consciousness through functional brain imaging, studies of pathophysiology and new treatments; as well as focusing on health, economic and ethical aspects. [Click here to see the full list of Awards for 2020.](#)

Professor Hutchinson BSc (Hons), MBBS, PhD (Cantab), FRCS (Surg Neurol) is Professor of Neurosurgery, NIHR Research Professor and Head of the Division of Academic Neurosurgery within the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge. He is Director of Clinical Studies at Robinson College, Cambridge. He holds an Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon post at Addenbrooke's Hospital with a sub-specialist interest in the management of neurotrauma, specifically head and traumatic brain injury. He has a research interest in acute brain injury, utilising multimodality monitoring technology (measurement of pressure, oxygenation and chemistry) to increase the understanding of the pathophysiology of brain injury, and in the investigation and treatment of concussion.

Professor Hutchinson has co-authored over 450 publications (including NEJM, Lancet and Brain) and been lead applicant in over £12m of grants (including MRC and NIHR). He is joint editor of the book "Head Injury – A Multidisciplinary Approach" and the Oxford Textbook of Neurological Surgery, the first edition of which is currently in preparation.

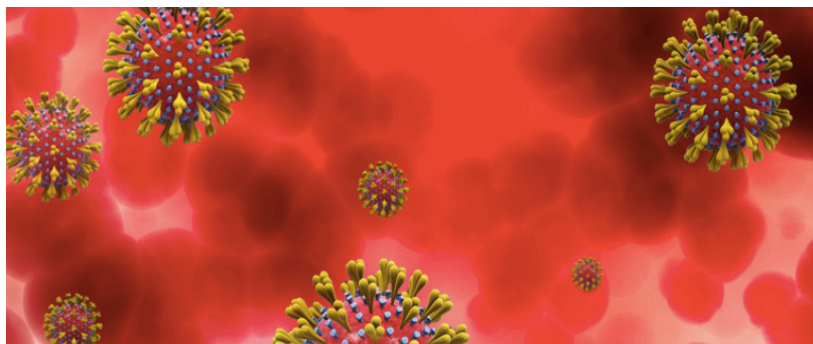
Professor Hutchinson, has been appointed recently as the Director of Clinical Research at the Royal College of Surgeons of England while he is also Chair of the Academic Committee of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, Director of the Research Fund of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies, Treasurer of the International Neurotrauma Society, Neurosurgical Representative on the NICE head guidelines development group and Chief Medical Officer for the Formula One British Grand Prix.

...more about the pandemic:

Information for the patients and public on COVID-19 research

The NIHR has published information on COVID-19 research for patients and the public on the [Be Part of Research website](#).

On this page you can find out more about the role of research in COVID-19. So far, over 30,000 participants are taking part in a range of NIHR supported COVID-19 research studies across the UK.



To keep updated with the latest information, the UK Government has launched a GOV.UK Corona virus Information service on WhatsApp. To use the free GOV.UK Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, simply add 07860 064422 in your phone contacts and then message the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message to get started.

Who can take part in research into COVID-19?

The priority at the moment is for people in hospital, intensive care units and higher risk patients in the community who are being cared for in relation to COVID-19 to have the opportunity to take part. For everyone else, there are many other important ways that you can help the national effort to fight COVID-19, including following vital NHS and Public Health England advice on preventing the spread of COVID-19, taking care of yourself and others, and volunteering for the NHS or local community efforts. There might also be COVID-19 studies that you can take part in online, as well as opportunities to get involved in planning and designing non-covid-19 research.



A website to find out everything you need to know about COVID-19!

Check this website out!

The NIHR is also supporting a new website by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) called **Coronavirus: the science explained**, which lays out the evidence and the facts about the virus, the disease, the epidemic and its control. Topics are divided in four main themes and you will find out about the course of infection and disease, how the virus spreads through the populations and who is at risk and why, the latest progress made in diagnostic tests, treatments and vaccines and all about the control measures such as quarantine and social distancing.

Visit the page: <https://coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/>

A new initiative for patients and the public:

The NIHR launches new Centre for Engagement and Dissemination

The NIHR has launched a new Centre for Engagement and Dissemination that brings together its activities in patient and public involvement, engagement and participation with its strengths in research dissemination. The NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination will further enhance the strong collaborative culture already established in engaging with patients, service users, carers and the public across the NIHR, providing coordination and thought leadership across the health and care system. The new Centre will focus on four key areas of activity:

- Learning and capacity development for public and patient contributors, public contribution leads, researchers and evidence users
- Building and stimulating an evidence user community
- Producing accessible and audience-targeted evidence resources and sharing them across a broad stakeholder community
- Running a series of innovation projects to harness the best engagement and dissemination ideas coming from the community.

You can get in touch with the new Centre on: ced@nihr.ac.uk



The Centre will be led by the new NIHR Director for Public Voice, Jeremy Taylor OBE.



As NIHR Director for Public Voice, Jeremy champions all patient and public involvement, engagement activity and dissemination activity for the NIHR. Jeremy is a former researcher, civil servant and charity leader. From 2009 to 2019, he was Chief Executive of the charity coalition National Voices, where he championed the vital contribution of patients and the public to decisions in health. Jeremy said: “There has never been a more important time for health and care research to be shaped by what matters to people and to be translated into action that improves and sustains health and care. I am delighted to be joining the NIHR to lead the new Centre and this vital work”.

To coincide with the launch of the new Centre, the NIHR has also established a new website - NIHR Evidence. NIHR Evidence presents high quality summaries of findings from health and care research, making research informative, accessible, relevant and ready for use for all.

Explore NIHR Evidence at www.evidence.nihr.ac.uk and on Twitter at [@NIHRevidence](https://twitter.com/NIHRevidence).

Important announcements from the Brain Injury MIC:

New funding opportunity to fight the pandemic: the COVID-19 Challenge

Funding call open!

Recognising the current situation and in line with NIHR guidelines, we are inviting expressions of interests for potential solutions designed to address issues and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are keen to catalyse solutions using all available means, including expert advice; promoting feasibility and pilot studies; informatics and methodology; supporting grant applications; and public engagement. Where appropriate limited funding support will be considered.

In line with our focus on brain injury, solutions which are more amenable to brain injury may need to be prioritised.

For more information please send an email to info@brainmic.org or visit the link below:

<https://www.brainmic.nihr.ac.uk/brain-injury-mic-covid-19-challenge>

BITT Tank event is postponed!

Deferred!

Unfortunately, due to the escalating nature of the COVID-19 virus we have made the difficult decision to postpone this event to later in the year.

An update will be provided in our next newsletter.

If you need more info, please, contact the Brain Injury MIC at info@brainmic.org

...Stay tuned for our next newsletter and activities

We wish you all to stay well and healthy!

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