

Subject: Working in partnership towards ending health inequity through research, policy impact, and public health improvement

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From: The NHTA

To: DIRECTOR-WOLFSON

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

May 2023 Newsletter

Working in partnership towards ending health inequity through research, policy impact, and public health improvement.

Over the last month the NHTA had the privilege of launching Health Equity North (HEN) - a virtual institute fighting health inequalities through research excellence and collaboration.

The Institute will be led by Hannah Davies as Executive Director. Hannah has led the NHTA's health inequality work since its inception and together with the Academic Directors, HEN will produce well evidenced approaches to addressing inequality.

Whilst this truly is an exciting new partnership, it comes off the back of some very sobering statistics. As part of the institution's launch, we co-authored the '[Health Equity North 2023 report](#)' which illustrates in detail exactly where those inequalities lie, and what we think policymakers need to do to level the playing field.

From living shorter lives, becoming unhealthy earlier in life and providing the highest amounts of unpaid care, the report truly shines a light on the inequities people in the North are facing now, compared to counterparts in other areas.

The NHTA has always been a champion of levelling up - and in the midst of a post-pandemic cost of living and healthcare crisis, we need support now more than ever for our report recommendations. Each and every one of us in the sector has the ability to support Health Equity North in our own way, and I urge our members to join with us to help create a more prosperous and healthy future for the most vulnerable in our communities.

You can find out more about Health Equity North, including how to get involved at www.healthequitynorth.co.uk. You can read more about the report findings in the update below.

Séamus

Dr Séamus O'Neill
Chief Executive of the Northern Health Science Alliance

Latest news and updates

Health Equity North - launch event success

On 19 April at NEXUS in Leeds, we launched Health Equity North (HEN). Almost 100 delegates made up of leading health and policy experts came together to learn more about Health Equity North, why it's needed and to discuss the key findings uncovered in our report.

Alongside the HEN Directors, speakers included Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, Anna Turley, Chair of the North East Child Poverty Commission, Lord Jim O'Neill, Chair of Northern Gritstone and the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, Anne Longfield, Chair of the Commission on Young Lives, and many more.

Our panels discussed in detail how children are impacted by inequities in the North of England and how we can collectively explore the economic impact of health inequalities and develop policy solutions.

[Read more](#)

Health Equity North report shines light on growing regional divide

The *Health Equity North: 2023*, published to coincide with the institute's launch event, provides a snapshot of the health issues facing the North and adds to a growing body of evidence highlighting the urgent need to address regional health inequalities to improve productivity in the North.

The new report has found a worrying pattern of lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and worse health and wellbeing in the North of England.

The institute's academic directors analysed the latest available data on health which exposed the worsening health divide between the North and the rest of England.

[Read the full report.](#)

Our international successes

The NHTA has overseen some incredibly successful international collaborations recently, in

partnership with organisations from across the globe.

Israel

Along with MedCity, we connected investors and innovators across regional borders through an investor-focused event held in London at The Crick. The *UK Life Sciences Investment Summit 2023* objective was to bring innovation agencies and investors together from across the UK to facilitate knowledge exchange and connectivity, highlighting the strengths of each region while addressing common challenges and opportunities. [Read more.](#)

NHSA hosts Israeli delegation

In April the NHSA played host to a delegation of Israeli companies from the 2023 cohort of the International HealthTech R&D and Pilot programme. The NHSA worked together with the Israeli Innovation Authority, the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Department for Business and Trade and law firm Addleshaw Goddard to deliver a detailed workshop on accessing the UK healthcare market. The 15 Israeli innovators travelled to the North for a 1 day workshop session in Leeds, followed by site visits to their NHSA member partners across the North.

The event was a huge success and prepared the companies to develop their project proposals ahead of their final application submission in June. The companies also met with research and innovation experts from Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, and Hull NHS Trusts, as well as the Innovation Agency AHSN for the North West Coast, AHSN for North East and North Cumbria and Yorkshire and Humber AHSN. They benefitted from the huge diversity of experience, receiving feedback on their products, business and route to market plans.

China

The NHSA and MedCity joined forces with TusPark UK to organise and deliver the UK-China Life Science and Healthcare Development Forum in a hybrid format (with an in-person audience in Beijing).

TusPark has been helping UK companies enter the Chinese market, and vice-versa, since it was set up in the UK in 2018. The UK division is an integral part of TusPark Holdings, China's largest technology ecosystem of over 300 presences in China, plus other international presences including in South East Asia.

This was one of the concluding international events in the NHSA's Research England Development (RED) funded project 'Delivering Increased Wealth and Improving Health; a Unified Place-Based Approach (2020-23)'. [Read more.](#)

Yorkshire and Humber – a northern partnership launches

Patients across the North of England will be among the first to experience a new initiative to help improve mental health, thanks to an innovative partnership that will accelerate solutions to mental health challenges that NHS Trusts face.

The Northern Innovation Accelerator for Mental Health (NIAMH), has launched its first phase in a partnership the NHTA, Rotherham, Doncaster & South Humber NHS Trust and the NIHR Clinical Research Network Yorkshire and Humber. The accelerator will bring together mental health expertise from within the NHS and academia and work in collaboration with innovators to develop and evaluate mental health solutions within the NHS. [Read more.](#)

The NHTA commit to supporting the Health and Life Sciences Pledge

Last month, health partners from across the North East and North Cumbria came together to mark the launch of the Health and Life Sciences Pledge.

The Health and Life Sciences Pledge, which is led by the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC), brings together the regional health and life sciences ecosystem to:

- collectively address challenges within the sector
- gain recognition for our exemplary infrastructure and assets nationally and internationally
- identify opportunities and attract investment to the region
- celebrate our collective success in the health and social care innovation arena.

Our very own Helen Cole, Industry Partnerships Manager, is pictured receiving the NHTA's certificate for joining the Pledge. [Read more.](#)

An overview of news stories and updates from some of our member institutions and partners.

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

[Preventing cancer relapse with a genetic test](#)

Scientists have found a new way to predict which myeloma patients will benefit the most from a treatment often used to help keep the blood cancer from coming back after a stem cell transplant. [Read more](#)

[Leeds partners with Ukrainian university on traumatic injury research](#)

Ukrainian civilians who suffer traumatic injuries in the country's conflict with Russia are the focus of new collaborative research by the University of Leeds and Bukovinian State Medical University. [Read more.](#)

[Mind Management Skills for Life programme shown to be effective treatment for occupational burnout in NHS nurses](#)

The results of an important trial into the issue of occupational burnout amongst NHS staff have been published by Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust. [Read more](#)

[Modified Botox gives long-term pain relief after nerve injury without side effects](#)

A team of scientists from the University of Sheffield have discovered a single injection of the elongated Botox could relieve pain for months without risk of paralysis or addiction. [Read more](#)

[Zebrafish model of senescence for rapid testing](#)

Researchers from the University of Sheffield's Healthy Lifespan Institute have discovered a new model that offers a solution to studying senescence. [Read more](#)

[University of York Professor receives prestigious OBE.](#)

Professor Kate Pickett, Professor of Epidemiology for the University of York's Department of Health Sciences, received an OBE from the Princess Royal in recognition of her recent work around health inequalities.

NORTH EAST

[Bright Ideas celebrated as annual awards return](#)

The Bright Ideas in Health Awards returned for the first face-to-face ceremony since before the pandemic. [Read more](#)

[New research shows why some children may be slower to learn words](#)

A new study has revealed why some children may be slower to learn words than others. [Read more](#)

[New research shows procrastination is bad for our health](#)

A new study involving hundreds of university students has shown that procrastination can lead to poor health over time.

[Read more](#)

[Discussing safer sleep for babies](#)

Durham University has marked Sleep Safer Week by hearing from infant sleep expert Professor Helen Ball.

[Read more](#)

NORTH WEST

[New service to identify killer gene - podcast](#)

The Innovation Agency NW have launched a podcast about a new service in Cheshire and Merseyside to identify a genetic condition which causes abnormally high levels of cholesterol. [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

[Using data to reduce health inequalities - podcast](#)

The Innovation Agency is working with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to help people at increased risk because of the combination of suffering a respiratory or cardiovascular condition and living in a cold home. [Read more.](#)

[New research takes step towards laser printed medical electronics](#)

Researchers have taken a major step towards 3D laser-printed materials that could be used in surgical procedures to implant or repair medical devices. [Read more.](#)

[Lancaster University chosen as UK Outreach Hub for sports and exercise science](#)

Lancaster was among ten institutions judged to be within the top 10 out of 24 competitive submissions to the British Association of Sports and Exercise Sciences (BASES). [Read more](#)

[Ability to afford dementia social care impacted by cost of living crisis](#)

The first academic evidence of how the cost of living crisis is impacting people with dementia has been published by the University of Liverpool. [Read more](#)

[Severe bowel condition on the rise in the UK](#)

Experts have raised concerns about the number of people suffering with undiagnosed microscopic colitis.

[Read more](#)

[Flagship Liverpool birth cohort study opens for recruitment](#)

A major birth cohort study tracing the lives of 10,000 Liverpool families to enable researchers, clinicians and policymakers to understand more about complex health issues has now opened. [Read more](#)

[Disturbed sleep may partially explain Long COVID breathlessness](#)

A major UK study led by the University of Manchester has discovered that the disturbed sleep patterns in patients hospitalised with COVID-19 was likely to be a driver of breathlessness. [Read more](#)

[World-first 'super peptide' technology bio-hacks the skin's natural repair process](#)

Scientists at skincare brand No7 and The University of Manchester, have announced the creation of a new 'super peptide' blend proven to bio-hack the skin's natural repair process. [Read more](#)

[Parents encouraged to respond to birth survey to help understand perinatal mental health](#)

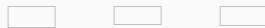
Researchers from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) are calling for fathers and other non-birth parents to contribute to a study assessing mental health support. [Read more](#)

Events

- [Meet & Match Future Medicine](#) - 11 - 12 May, online event
- [LOC in the Lakes 2023](#) - 16 May, Carlisle
- [NHS Research & Development Forum 2023](#) - 21-23 May, Newcastle upon Tyne
- [Pints of Science by University of Liverpool](#) - 22 - 24 May, Liverpool
- [ISTRC 2023, AGE Research Group](#) - 5 - 6 October, Newcastle upon Tyne

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