



## Welcome

### Issue 3: September 2014

Welcome to the latest edition of the AHSN NENC newsletter. I'd like to welcome back returning readers, and offer a warm welcome to first time readers, to our newsletter. We believe this is an important component of how we communicate with our stakeholders, inform you of our progress and seek feedback so that we can continuously improve.

As ever, there's a lot of activity taking place and, in terms of engagement and feedback, I'd like to encourage you to attend our upcoming Engagement event on 24th October 2014 at the Co. Durham Cricket Club for more details (see below to register!). We're delighted with the great news that the regional Patient Safety Collaboratives will be run through the AHSNs and this event will begin our public consultation on how we develop that initiative as well as showcasing some of the many projects we have under way already. I look forward to seeing you there.



*Séamus O'Neill*

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## PATIENT SAFETY COLLABORATIVE

A Patient Safety Collaborative (PSC) Programme has been commissioned by NHS England to enhance learning and improvement and spread best practice to improve patient safety. The national programme is being coordinated by NHS Improving Quality (NHSIQ) and will be led regionally by the 15 regional Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs).

The PSC Programme has three main strands: improvement capability, large-scale change and measurement and will tackle the leading causes of avoidable harm to patients. For more information on the Patient Safety Collaborative please [click here](#).

AHSN NENC is hosting the first of a series of engagement events to help shape the PSC programme for the North East and North Cumbria and our Stakeholder event on the **24th October 2014** is the first one of these.

If you have involvement in safety improvements, or lead on safety for a local health or social care organisation, you are

encouraged to attend the event where, as well as providing you with more information about the PSC and showcasing some existing projects, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to input to the content and approach for the regional PSC programme.

To register your attendance at the engagement event please e-mail [sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

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## PROJECTS UPDATE

Over £3m has been invested by the AHSN NENC to support a wide range of projects aimed at improving health outcomes for patients and facilitating the creation of jobs and wealth in the region.

Below is an update on a few of the projects and you can find more information on the full range of projects by visiting our website, [click here](#).

### FScan Agrees Worldwide License with Glide Pharma

Fscan Ltd, a Durham University spin-out which received funding from AHSN NENC to assist with business development activities, has signed a deal to enable the development of technology that could lead to major improvements in prostate cancer diagnosis.

A worldwide exclusive licensing agreement between FScan Ltd and Glide Pharma will see the Oxfordshire-based firm exploit its lanthanide technology, which uses light energy to measure the level of citrate in seminal fluid samples. To find out more click here.

### Cievert Team Expanding

AHSN NENC supported web-based patient management company, Cievert Ltd, to take on its first member of staff earlier this year and the company is now delighted to welcome a second new staff member this month. Initially developed by Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cievert was spun out commercially in 2011 and the company set up by former NHS radiographer, Chris Kennelly, who wanted to create innovative products for the health sector. Read more about this project by clicking here

The company has continued to thrive since its launch three years ago and has increased its turnover for the first quarter this year by over 900% compared with last year, benefitting up to 30,000 patients across the UK, and saving the NHS a projected £100,000.

Chris Kennelly, Managing Director, said: "With so much pressure on the NHS currently, I truly believe that this software can make a difference. It is a proven concept, having been piloted in the North East already. Now I aim to make sure that as many cancer patients as possible can benefit from the efficiencies that this software can bring to their treatment." Kennelly concluded: "I wouldn't have been able to get to this exciting stage without the support I have received from the AHSN NENC. They helped to lay the foundations for our future growth which looks very promising."

CaS-per is a web-based patient management system for radiotherapy and chemotherapy patients which manages the registration and referral process for all radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment. For more information visit Cievert's [website](#).

### EMVigR

Funding awarded by the Academic Health Science Network for North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC) has helped a local pre start-up SME to get on the shortlist for a prestigious funding opportunity. EMVigR, who used the funds to transfer their world leading academic rehabilitation video game technologies into a commercial teletherapy healthcare solution, have been shortlisted for the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI), a competition theme focusing on the challenges in improving diagnosis, self-management and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders. "The support of the AHSN NENC was an ideal platform on which to build a solid SBRI bid with a good chance of success", commented Professor Janet Eyre, Medical Director, EMVigR. Read more about this project by clicking here.

EMVigR's technology has the ability to deliver clinically proven rehabilitation within video games to patients in the home and can be embedded within off-the-shelf video gaming hardware and software allowing the delivery of a rehabilitation therapy more widely and at a fraction of the cost of any existing system. The key is the ability to allow existing gaming studios to easily transfer their video games into a safe and therapist managed intervention using EMVigR technology.

"With results of the SBRI competition known within the month and the video game industry ready to utilise our technologies,

the world's first large scale teletherapy delivery system can become a reality for the NHS, a world first", said Dr. Graham Morgan, Technical Director,EMVigR.

Joe Stevens, CEO of award winning Newcastle based gaming studio Whispering Gibbon, concluded, "We have seen first-hand the way games have revolutionised a wide range of industries so we are very excited by this project. The region is well known for its strength in both medical research and gaming, combining these two talented groups will undoubtedly have a positive impact on patient healthcare."

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## KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

### COLLABORATING FOR BETTER CARE PARTNERSHIP (CfBCP)

#### Regional variations in Quality Standards

The Partnership appointed an analyst who joined us in August to undertake some background research and analysis on regional variations in Quality Standards. Patient and organisational profiles should be completed by December- this will help to inform some of the detail in determining which Quality standards and guidance the Partnership looks at over the next few months.

#### Master Class success

Following the success of our inaugural Master Class on 28th May, Professor Jeremy Grimshaw, international expert in knowledge translation, returned to Newcastle on 1st September to lead the second Master Class on behalf of the Partnership: 'Using implementation Science to transform patient care'. Delegates selected one of two interactive parallel workshops focusing in COPD or End of Life Care for the frail elderly. The aim of the day was to facilitate participants' use of implementation science theory and tools to address clinical variation and raise standards of care; and, enable participants to explore their organisational capability with respect to the skills, knowledge, and resources required to address clinical variation and raise standards of care. The session was well attended and we've received very positive feedback as delegates found it extremely useful to work through the application of the 'Knowledge to Action cycle' to the themed workshop scenarios with colleagues from a range of organisations and disciplines.

#### Date for your Diary

**23rd October 2014, 9.00am-3.00pm -Master Class: 'Getting new ideas into practice: normalising the implementation of complex interventions across the Healthcare system'**, will be held on 23rd October 2014, 9.00am-3.00pm, in Newcastle (venue to be confirmed).

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Carl May, Professor of Healthcare Innovation at Southampton University, will be a plenary speaker at the third in our series of Master Classes, "**Getting new ideas into practice: normalising the implementation of complex interventions across the Healthcare system**". The Master Class will be led by Dr Tracy Finch and colleagues from the Institute of Health and Society at Newcastle University.

This Master Class will present and a set of conceptual tools and explanatory models (Normalization Process Theory, or NPT) intended to support the work of implementation and evaluation. Interactive sessions will provide opportunity to apply the tools to a variety of work settings.

This Master Class is aimed at anybody with a key role in practically implementing and integrating some form of innovation, within or across organisations and organisational boundaries.

#### The CfBCP's e-bulletin (Issue 2) is now available

In order to keep partners and stakeholders updated with our progress and enable them to access a suite of on-line resources, such as presentations and video footage from the Master Classes, we produce regular E-bulletins. In issue 2, you can access the You Tube footage from the first Master Class, along with materials from the day. Issue 2 is available on-line here: [Collaborating for Better Care Partnership E-bulletin \(Issue 2\)](#)

For further information on the Collaborating for Better Care Partnership and the work programme, please contact Sue Shilling, Project Manager [Sue.Shilling@ntw.nhs.uk](mailto:Sue.Shilling@ntw.nhs.uk)

To sign up for the Master Class or e-bulletin, please contact [katherine@yellowbrickroadltd.co.uk](mailto:katherine@yellowbrickroadltd.co.uk).

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## PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

### Preventing Falls and Injury

*“Almost everyone will know someone who's fallen, but for some people the consequences can be severe with both physical & psychological effects. This course was developed in collaboration with older people to ensure that it is easily accessible, relevant and very practical, with the aim of empowering older people by increasing awareness of falls and the strategies to prevent them.”* Dr James Frith, NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine (Pictured Below)

The aim of this innovative course is to explore why people fall, discover practical methods to reduce the risk of falling and recognise when to seek expert help.

The course is so important because every day in the UK, almost 10,000 people aged over 65 will fall down. The personal costs are staggering, with falls resulting in injury, broken bones, fear of falling and social isolation. The course will allow people to;

- Learn more about why falls are just so important
- Discover ways of assessing and reducing the risk of falling
- Recognise when to seek help
- Explore how to prevent falls and injury



Through this interactive course, people will learn with experts through inspirational video case studies and tutorials. The course will explore the personal and wider consequences of falls, revealing facts, uncovering myths and discovering more practical advice on falls prevention, drawing upon the experience of world leading clinicians and researchers at Newcastle University and the NIHR BRC and the award winning and innovative Falls and Syncope Service at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. For further information please [click here](#).

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## INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND WEALTH CREATION PROGRAMME

### Bright Ideas in Health Awards 2015

The Bright Ideas in Health Awards is an annual competition organised by NHS Innovations North in conjunction with the AHSN NENC.

Further to yet another successful competition in 2014, we are delighted to announce that next year's award ceremony will be held at the **Hilton Newcastle Gateshead Hotel on Thursday 21st May 2015** so make sure you save the date!

For more information about the Awards please contact [sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### The North of England EU Health Partnership (NEEHP)

NEEHP is currently calling for project ideas that fall under the Third EU Health Programme. In line with stakeholders' priorities for 2014/15 the focus is on the following four individual topics, namely:

- Innovation to prevent and manage chronic diseases
- Early diagnosis and screening of chronic diseases
- Professional reintegration of people with chronic disease
- Adherence, frailty, integrated care and multi-chronic conditions

For more information about the funding call please [click here](#) or to discuss the opportunity please contact [Nicola.Wilson@neehp.eu](mailto:Nicola.Wilson@neehp.eu) or Kirstie Clegg ([Kirstie.Clegg@neehp.eu](mailto:Kirstie.Clegg@neehp.eu)). The deadline for submission is 25 September 2014.

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## EVENTS

### Stakeholder Event

You are invited to join us at our next Stakeholder event, to be held at the **County Durham Cricket Club at 9.00am on Friday 24th October 2014**, to hear about the progress being made within the AHSN NENC.

There will be an opportunity to meet many of the funded project Leaders, learn how the AHSN NENC is working with partners to improve health standards and create wealth in the region and to network with other Stakeholders.

To register your attendance at the event please e-mail [sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

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If you have any feedback or would like to submit an article for our future newsletters please email:  
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