

# PROSPECTUS 2015-16



*Better Connected Research*

# Introduction

Welcome to the new NHS Research & Development North West (NHS R&D NW) prospectus for 2015-16. This year we are building on our key themes of enabling **Connections**, developing **Collaborations**, delivering **Capacity** and building **Communities**.

Underpinning these themes is the aspiration of NHS R&D NW to:

- Work alongside Universities, NHS organisations, business and third sector to make the region the location of choice to undertake high quality research
- To be nationally and internationally recognised and acknowledged for its research strengths
- Be renowned for its high calibre R&D workforce infrastructure delivering quality research.

The team continues to work with the regional agendas of our key stakeholders, Health Education North West, the North West Coast Academic Health Science Network (NWCASHN) and Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network (GMAHSN) and also has an independent entrepreneurial field of development that works with new and existing partners in health research.



- The team provides strategic support to build research, development and innovation capacity throughout the full range of NHS organisations in the region, including those which hitherto have not fully recognised their potential contribution they and their workforces can make to the research, development and innovation (RD&I) agenda
- We help make and support connections across the boundaries of organisations and existing networks that would ordinarily not have been made
- We work collaboratively to facilitate the generation of innovative ideas and research questions across multiple networks
- We engage strategically with the NHS, higher education institutions, local business, third sector and health and social care across the region to ensure that RD&I remains central to the agendas of new and emergent NHS organisations and related networks
- We host and support the North West People in Research Forum and champion the Patient and Public Involvement in Research agenda across the region and nationally

- We explore new and creative ideas/ skills for learning and communicating RD&I and share these with the health research community.

In 2015-2016 we are continuing to deliver our established programmes such as the Releasing Potential and the highly acclaimed Catalyst as well as delivering a new creative learning programme that will look at how we communicate research and key health messages. Also, following on from last year's outstanding success we will be delivering our 2nd Regional Research & Development Conference – *Let's Talk Research* – 17th & 18th September 2015.

The NHS R&D NW team continues to maintain its excellence in all that it does and is looking forward to working and co-creating with the R&D community over the coming year.



# Enabling Connections

**Social media** in health research can change the traditional one-to-one dialogue to one-to-many and many-to-many dialogues between researchers-clinicians, researcher-patients and researchers-public at a phenomenal speed. This fundamental change in how people in the health research ecosystem interact with each other opens up the possibilities for many novel applications of social media in health research.

However, knowledge, confidence, time and access can restrict researchers from using the full potential

of social media. Therefore in 2015/16 NHS R&D NW will be running a series of workshops, webinars and twitter chats to support the research community to develop and expand their skills and knowledge in the utilisation of social media in health research.

See our website for details: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/the-releasing-potential-programme/rd-managers-programme/social-media-workshops](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/the-releasing-potential-programme/rd-managers-programme/social-media-workshops)



**Creative Communications** is all about selecting a set of ideas around co-creation, communication and creativity, and using an organic approach, a series of workshops and learning tools to explore how the R&D community can communicate their work and key research messages in novel and engaging ways. In 2015 NHS R&D NW plans to deliver a comprehensive creative programme delivering a range of events including film making with ipads and iphones and learning to make comic strip and short animated films. Full details of all events are listed on our website: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk)

The team is also working alongside students from the University of Salford to make a series of podcasts by interviewing regional R&D leaders about their personal research and their influence on R&D across the North West. These films will be complete in Spring/Summer 2015.

Finally NHS R&D NW is compiling a digital archive of 10 years of their work. This work, funded by the Health Education North West Forerunner Fund via the NW Health Care Libraries Unit scheme, is in partnership with North West Commissioning Support Unit and is being curated and narrated by local creative writer Chanje Kunde. The archive will be complete by the Autumn of 2015.





# Developing Collaborations

It is not uncommon for people to not know that others with similar or complementary interests exist. Often people are not even aware of work being undertaken by colleagues in the same university, building or corridor.

**The Catalyst Programme** was established in recognition of the vast clinical and academic expertise in health research in the region but the lack of effective networking amongst those with that expertise.

The Catalyst Programme 2015 will work with a number of partners to:

- Identify research questions of importance to policy makers, commissioners, service providers, clinicians, patients and the public
- Create new, exciting and innovative collaborations to develop research funding

- Improve links between the NHS and other organisations across the EU and with Universities to facilitate research and support changes in practice
- Contribute to economic agendas of the region and EU regional partners, through the attraction of additional research and development funding
- Give colleagues in the region and the EU an idea of strengths and potential gaps in research in the region.

Full details of past, present and future catalyst events are available on our website: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/catalyst-programme](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/catalyst-programme)

If you would like to run a Catalyst event for your organization or research community then please get in touch.

**EU Horizon 2020** – NHS R&D NW continues to promote and connect researchers with partners across Europe in anticipation of Horizon 2020 calls.

By negotiating formal agreements with different regions, an official platform is provided for health researchers from both regions to work together more freely and to take part in study tours and joint events such as the Catalyst programme.

The North West region has a formal agreement with Catalonia in Spain and potential for further agreements with Tuscany and Finland in 2015.

[www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/eu-collaboration-and-funding-for-health-research](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/eu-collaboration-and-funding-for-health-research)





# Delivering Capacity

The Releasing Potential programme is now in its 4th year and is recognized as a leading programme in building the R&D capacity throughout the full range of NHS organisations across the region.

In 2015/16 the Releasing Potential Programme will:

- Continue to Support NHS based early career researchers in professional and personal development
- Explore the development of an R&I Lens for the NHS Health and Care Leadership Model
- Extend the reach of the Releasing Potential Programme to make it more accessible by increasing the utilisation of social media and ICT
- Coordinate the HEE internship programme 2016.

All courses and events for the Releasing Potential Programme are listed on our website: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/the-releasing-potential-programme](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/the-releasing-potential-programme)

## Let's Talk Research regional R&D conference

Following on from the great success of our first conference last year, The NHS Research & Development North West Annual Conference – Let's Talk Research will take place on 17th and 18th September 2015, Macron Stadium, Bolton (Reebok Stadium).

The conference is for anyone interested or working in R&D in health but focuses on the NHS research community and research and innovation within health and social care.

The Let's Talk Research programme aims to promote the sharing of clinically focused research and:

- Explore best practice in supporting cultures of research and innovation in clinical team
- Explore innovative approaches to conducting and communicating research

- Develop your research skills and expertise
- Increase your understanding of the NHS research and innovation agendas
- Extend your research and innovation networks.

Full details are available on our website: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/lets-talk-research](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/work/lets-talk-research)



# Building Communities

The idea that learning involves a deepening process of participation in a community of practice has gained significant ground in recent years. Communities of practice have also become an important focus within organisational development and have considerable value when thinking about working with groups.

**A community of practice (CoP)** is a group of people who share a skill and/or a profession with a common interest in a particular area with the goal of gaining

knowledge related to their field. It is through the process of sharing information and experiences with the group that the members learn from each other, and have an opportunity to develop themselves personally and professionally (Communities of Practice, Wenger 1998).

Communities of practice can be physical with people meeting face to face or virtual by means of internet discussion groups and twitter chats for example.



NHS R&D NW hopes to enable and facilitate communities of practice within its stakeholder groups such as the early career researchers and Catalyst members to orchestrate an organisational movement (such as a health research movement) not that dissimilar from a social movement. Social movement researchers have explored the conditions under which new (movement) organisations emerge and how they gain sufficient mass and momentum to survive and flourish (McAdam & Scott, 2002).

In 2015/16 The NHS R&D NW team will be exploring the best way to create the right environment for a social movement to flourish within the regional R&D community by working with national and international experts, Julian Stodd, Etienne Wenger and Margaret Wheatley through a series of local workshops.

Attendance at the workshops will be by invitation only but the outputs will be shared and available on our website from Autumn 2015 onwards.



# North West People in Research Forum

**The North West People in Research Forum** supports public involvement and engagement in health and social care research in the North West of England by:

- Supporting members of the public who are, or wish to become, involved as partners in research
  - Supporting researchers to involve and engage the public in all stages of research
  - Forming links between the public and researchers
- Sharing information about how to involve and engage the public in research through:
    - The NWPiR Forum's website, newsletters and social media
    - Publicising and developing training for researchers and the public
    - Hosting and co-hosting events
    - Collecting and publicising examples of good practice



- Developing a network of expertise in public involvement and engagement in research
- Individual and organisational membership is free. You can become a member via the website or by contacting us directly.



Email: [nwpirf@researchnorthwest.nhs.uk](mailto:nwpirf@researchnorthwest.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @nwpirf

Website: [www.northwestpeopleinresearchforum.org](http://www.northwestpeopleinresearchforum.org)



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# Summary of Upcoming Events

## Spring 2015

- Early career researcher workshops
- Post-Doctoral network meetings
- Power in your pocket workshops
- R&I lens workshops
- Dementia Research: implementation in Practice

## Summer 2015

- Creative learning workshops (Comic strip and animation)
- Film making workshops
- Building communities of practice workshops;
  1. Julian Stodd
  2. Etienne Wenger
  3. Meg Wheatley

## Autumn 2015

- Let's Talk Research annual conference – 17th & 18th September 2015, Macron Stadium
- Early career researcher workshops
- Creative learning workshops

Full details of all our events are available on our website: [www.research.northwest.nhs.uk](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk)

NHS R&D NW is committed to co-creation working with integrity, humility and optimism for the greater good of the health research community ensuring an integral and altruistic approach.

If you would like to work alongside NHS R&D NW or commission us to deliver a bespoke project then please don't hesitate to contact any member of the team.



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[www.research.northwest.nhs.uk](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @NHSNWRD

LinkedIn: NHS R&D North West



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