



Health Tech & Life Sciences Innovator Summit

DELEGATE BROCHURE

23rd September 2026 | 14:00-18:30

No1 Birmingham Health Innovation Campus, B29 6TH

I OVERVIEW

The West Midlands offers excellent opportunities for innovators. It is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse health innovation ecosystems in the UK – home to 391 health innovation and life science companies that support more than 34,000 jobs and generate over £16 billion in annual turnover.

The Health Tech and Life Sciences Innovator Summit is designed to:

- Highlight the support opportunities available to innovators already in the West Midlands or looking to establish a presence in the region
- Set out how HIWM and its expert partners can support companies to develop and test their products and services ready for adoption and spread into the NHS.

Contacts on the day

Sarah Walsh, Communications Lead - 07500 221 448
Laura Simpson, Events Co-Ordinator - 07886 169 847

We are the health innovation experts

We identify, test and spread innovative technologies and ideas that can transform health and social care. We connect industry with the NHS and support clinical entrepreneurs to develop the commercial skills needed to turn great ideas into real benefits for patients, staff and the system.

Our local impact contributes to national progress, as part of the network of 15 Health Innovation Networks -tackling national challenges with local insight, and local issues with national expertise.



LOGISTICS

Venue details

No1 Birmingham Health Innovation Campus
2 Bournbrook Way, Birmingham, B29 6TH

Wifi

Network: Bruntwood Guest
Password: beourguest

Getting there

By road

BHIC is located on the A38 Aston Webb Boulevard, three miles south west of the centre of Birmingham. Please note, Birmingham has a Clean Air Zone in place. For more information, please visit the [Brum Breathes](#) website.

By rail

From Birmingham New Street station, connect to a local service to University station. Outside the station, turn left and follow Vincent Drive and New Fosse Way down to Birmingham Health Innovation Campus.

Parking

There is one open-air car park within the grounds of Birmingham Health Innovation Campus. There will be directional signage as you enter from the Queen Elizabeth Island. Bicycle storage and electric vehicle charging ports are available.

Catering

Refreshments and canapes will be provided. All dietary requirements outlined at the time of booking have been shared with catering providers.

Coat Rail

An unmanned coat rail will be positioned near the reception desk. We cannot take responsibility for any belongings left here.

Filming

We have commissioned a media production team to capture highlights of the event, as well as some short interviews with selected attendees. If you advised during the booking process you do not give photography consent, you will be given a blue lanyard, so the team can easily identify you.

Surgery Sessions

For those delegates who advised which type of surgery session they would like to book on to, you will find a card on your lanyard with details of time and who you will be speaking to. Forgot to book a surgery session? Please speak to a member of the team at the reception desk and we will try our best to accommodate your request.

AGENDA

ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING **14:00**

WELCOME ADDRESS **14:30**

Jonathan Pearson, Chair, Health Innovation West Midlands and the Health Innovation Network

KEYNOTE ADDRESS **14:35**

Preet Kaur Gill, Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston

INTRODUCTION TO HIWM **14:45**

Amanda Risino, Chief Executive, Health Innovation West Midlands

MARKETPLACE, NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS **15:00**

PANEL: FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT: HOW DO WE MAKE THE WEST MIDLANDS THE BEST PLACE TO INVENT, BUILD AND SCALE HEALTH INNOVATION? **15:30**

Chair: Jonathan Pearson

Panel:

- Ewa Truchanowicz, Consultant, Mercia Innovation Partners
- Alex Hamilton, Policy Manager – High Growth Clusters, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Professor Alex Richter, Director of the Clinical Immunology Service at the University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant Clinical Immunologist at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- Christopher George, Health Economics Policy Advisor, NHS Alliance

MARKETPLACE, NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS **16:15**

PANEL: NAVIGATING NHS COLLABORATION: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR INNOVATION AND ADOPTION **16:45**

Chair: Tim Robinson, Commercial Director, Health Innovation East Midlands

Panel:

- Claire Wickett, Senior PPIE Manager, Birmingham Health Partners and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre: Birmingham
- Richard Phillips, Executive Director of Policy and Partnerships, Association of British HealthTech Industries
- Gemma Badger, Senior Associate, Hill Dickinson
- Jeff Bousfield, Chief Executive Officer, Nonacus
- Jack Porter, Co-Director, NHS Innovation Accelerator

NETWORKING DRINKS, CANAPES AND MARKETPLACE **17:30**

EVENT CLOSE **18:30**

SPEAKERS

Jonathan Pearson, Chair, Health Innovation West Midlands and the Health Innovation Network

Jonathan was appointed Chair of Birmingham Health Partners in 2023, and became Chair of HIWM in 2025.

An experienced business leader, Jonathan brings extensive experience as a management consultant and a profound understanding of the health and life sciences sector. He has established and guided numerous healthcare enterprises, spearheaded significant growth, and led large-scale transformation and technology programmes.

Jonathan's contributions to the sector have earned him several prestigious accolades throughout his career. Notably, he was honoured with the Healthcare Deal of the Year award in 2014 by Acquisition International, recognised by the Management Consultancy Association in 2015 for thought leadership, and received the HSJ award for Analytic Provider of the Year in 2019. His exceptional leadership in the Sandwell ICP's COVID-19 vaccination programme was further acknowledged with the Local Government Association award in 2021.



Preet Kaur Gill, Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston

Elected in 2017, Preet Kaur Gill is the Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston and the UK's first female Sikh MP. Since 2024, Preet has served in the Government as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health Innovation and Safety and as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology and PPS to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

During her time in the opposition, Preet served as Shadow Minister for International Development, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, and Shadow Minister for Primary Care and Public Health.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Preet was a children's services manager in the city for over 20 years. She was also a Councillor and Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection at Sandwell Council. She has campaigned for regulation in the exempt sector, leasehold reform, fuel poverty, offensive weapons and fairness in data collection. She also called for making it a criminal offence to own 3D printed firearms templates, a measure which has now become law.



Amanda Risino, Chief Executive, Health Innovation West Midlands

Amanda Risino, MA, MEd, is the Chief Executive of Health Innovation West Midlands (HIWM) and an experienced NHS leader and clinician with more than 30 years across health, social care and system-wide innovation. She has a strong track record of transforming organisations, delivering national programmes and building high performing cultures that accelerate the adoption of innovation.

Before becoming CEO, Amanda served as Executive Director of Corporate Affairs, Strategy and Performance at HIWM, where she led major organisational transformation, governance reform and strategic development. She has also held national responsibility as Programme Director for Adoption and Spread across the AHSN Network.

Amanda started her NHS career as a physiotherapist before moving onto senior system roles across the North-West, where she helped elevate the organisation into one of England's top-performing AHSNs. She is committed to improving population health and reducing inequalities across the West Midlands.

**Dr Ewa Truchanowicz, Consultant, Mercia Innovation Partners**

Dr Ewa Truchanowicz is an experienced business leader and independent advisor with a track record of building successful enterprises. Her expertise spans digital and med-tech, building high-performing teams and creating networks of strategic support to help innovative companies succeed. She is a speaker at national and international events and a published academic with peer-reviewed papers, including in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) and New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM). Dr Ewa supports growing organisations and businesses as a Non-Executive Director (NED), advisor, and mentor for companies within accelerators, and is the Chair of the Advisory Board at the West Midlands Health Tech Cluster.

**Dr Alex Hamilton, Policy Manager – High Growth Clusters, West Midlands Combined Authority**

Dr Alex Hamilton is Policy Manager for High Growth Clusters at the West Midlands Combined Authority, where he leads work to strengthen the region's Health and Life Sciences ecosystem and support the growth of high-potential innovation clusters. Before joining the Combined Authority, he held senior policy and economic roles in HM Treasury and the New Zealand Treasury. Alex holds a PhD in Population Health from the University of Oxford and brings a perspective that combines economic development, public policy and health research to discussions on how the West Midlands can become a leading location for health and life sciences innovation.

**Professor Alex Richter, Director of the Clinical Immunology Service at the University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant Clinical Immunologist at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust**

Alex's work focuses on translating immunological discoveries into clinically useful diagnostics, with particular expertise in biomarker validation, laboratory implementation, and the integration of diagnostics into healthcare systems. She leads national and international efforts to develop and implement precision diagnostics in areas including haematological malignancy and immune-mediated disease. Her research emphasises designing diagnostics that are not only scientifically robust but also usable within real clinical pathways.



Christopher George, Health Economics Policy Advisor, NHS Alliance

Christopher George works at the intersection of healthcare, economics, and devolution. He advises senior NHS leaders on the opportunities and implications of the changing role of local government in England, as well as working with policy makers to improve their understanding of the NHS and their role in improving health outcomes. His work focuses on how improving population health can driver inclusive economic growth, address societal inequalities, and reduce demand on public services.

**Tim Robinson, Commercial Director, Health Innovation East Midlands**

Tim has over 25 years' experience of health and care innovation, both within the NHS and through working for suppliers of digital products and services. He has a particular passion for digital innovation, unlocking the potential for technology to transform outcomes for staff and patients and generate NHS efficiencies.

A graduate of the NHS management scheme, he has worked across NHS service improvement in strategic positions and currently is the Commercial Director for Health Innovation East Midlands (HIEM), which operates as the innovation arm of the region's NHS and care system.

Tim is a member of HIEMs strategic Executive Team and represents the organisation on a number of management and advisory boards and NHS enterprises.

He also contributes his expertise to the national Health Innovation Network (the collaboration of England's 15 HINs) and is a former chair of the Network's commercial director forum.

**Richard Phillips, Executive Director of Policy and Partnerships, Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI)**

Richard joined ABHI in June 2015 with over 20 years' experience in the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries.

Richard holds a first degree in Sports Science from Brighton Polytechnic and a Master's in Health Economics Research and Management from Keele University. He served for 10 years as a member of the Technology Appraisal Advisory Committee of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and was a Non-Executive Director at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham for seven years.

Richard holds numerous advisory roles on behalf the industry including for Health Innovation West Midlands, MedConnect North, the West Yorkshire HealthTech Launchpad and the National Institute for Health and Care Research. He Chairs Manchester Foundation Trust's Commercial Research Delivery Centre's Industry Advisory Board and is former Chair of both the Small Business Research Initiative Healthcare Programme Board and the South West Academic Health Sciences Network. Richard is a longstanding member of the Institute of Healthcare Management.



Claire Wickett, Senior PPIE Manager, Birmingham Health Partners and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre: Birmingham

Claire works with multiple health and care research organisations across the West Midlands. She co-develops and delivers Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) strategies to ensure patients and the public have meaningful and rewarding involvement in research. She focuses on tackling issues around diversity, inclusion and under representation in PPIE, developing communications and collaborative approaches to promote PPIE and its impact, supporting PPIE training, and working with researchers to innovate and improve PPIE delivery.

**Gemma Badger, Senior Associate, Hill Dickinson**

Gemma is a senior associate in Hill Dickinson's healthcare commercial team. She is a specialist in healthcare commercial law, advising NHS organisations, independent sector providers and medtech companies at every stage of their development. Gemma's work covers commercial agreements, regulatory issues, data protection and intellectual property, with a focus on supporting healthtech start-ups and scale-ups. She also leads on healthcare partnerships, working with accelerator programmes nationwide to connect innovation with patient care.

**Jeff Bousfield, Chief Executive Officer, Nonacus**

Jeff Bousfield is a life sciences and technology leader with experience across finance, operations and growth, from GSK to senior roles in scale-up businesses. As CEO of Nonacus, he is focused on bringing accurate, non-invasive cancer testing closer to patients and giving people faster, clearer answers when cancer is suspected. This includes expanding access to at-home diagnostics that can help improve cancer pathways while making better use of NHS capacity.

**Jack Porter, Co-Director, NHS Innovation Accelerator**

Jack is Co-Director of the NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA), where he leads system engagement and works closely with partners across Integrated Care Systems, NHS England, and the Health Innovation Network to scale high-impact solutions developed by NIA Fellows.

He began his career in finance with the Roche Group, gaining experience across Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals in both Europe and North America. Jack later transitioned into digital health, where he led commercial strategies for several health tech start-ups—from early-stage ventures to successful exits—including HealthUnlocked, a former NIA Fellow and the world's largest social network for health.

Before joining the NIA, Jack held a leadership role at Novartis Biome, overseeing national initiatives such as the rollout of patient management technologies and at-home testing solutions.

Jack brings a wealth of cross-sector experience and is passionate about accelerating innovation that improves outcomes for patients and the health system.



MARKET PLACE

Health Innovation West Midlands

Working as part of a national Network of 15, Health Innovation West Midlands (HIWM) leads and catalyses collaboration between academia, health and care providers, commissioners and citizens to support the continuous improvement of our region's health and wealth. Working with innovators from the region, HIWM specialises in sectors including MedTech, Precision Medicine, Genomics and Patient Safety and over 700 sites in the West Midlands have already benefitted from innovations including GPs, care homes and trusts.



Health Innovation
WEST MIDLANDS



Grow Digital Health Midlands

Grow Digital Health Midlands is a collaborative accelerator programme delivered by Health Innovation West Midlands and Health Innovation East Midlands, designed to help innovative UK technology companies develop, scale and adopt high-potential digital health solutions across the NHS and care sector. Building on the success of a long-running digital health accelerator programme, it provides tailored support including expert business coaching, access to specialist advisers, opportunities to engage with NHS decision-makers, and support to accelerate adoption within health and care systems.



Cogniss

Cogniss is the world's first no-code ecosystem for creating patient-facing and consumer-facing digital health. Its unique point-and-click interface empowers healthcare experts and organisations to build highly customised apps, at a fraction of the time and cost than traditional code-based development. The platform addresses the complex challenges related to compliance, interoperability and distribution, offering innovators a seamless pathway from ideation to commercialisation.



West Midlands Secure Data Environment (SDE)

The West Midlands Secure Data Environment (SDE) provides a secure, trusted service for accessing health and care data to support research, innovation and service improvement. Designed to protect patient privacy while maintaining robust information governance, the SDE enables approved researchers and analysts to access and analyse data within a highly secure environment.

The West Midlands SDE supports a wide range of research and innovation projects, helping organisations generate insights that can improve patient outcomes, inform decision-making and drive advancements in health and care.



Hill Dickinson

The Hill Dickinson team combines deep health and technology sector knowledge with practical, forward-thinking advice for software-driven and medical devices businesses of all sizes, including clinical innovators, startups, SMEs, public sector organisations and established multi-nationals. We provide legal advice across the entire lifecycle – from regulatory compliance, protecting and exploiting intellectual property through to securing funding and commercialisation, giving you an edge in competitive markets.

Hill Dickinson



Association of British HealthTech Industries

Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI) supports the HealthTech community to provide products and services that help people live healthier lives. As the voice of the industry, we show the value of health technology and overcome barriers to people benefitting from it now and in the future. Members include leading multinational companies through to small and medium sized enterprises. We represent the HealthTech industry to key stakeholders, such as governments, healthcare systems and regulators.

HealthTech plays a key role in supporting delivery of healthcare and is a significant contributor to the UK's economic growth. HealthTech is the largest employer in the broader Life Sciences sector, employing 196,000 people in 4,360 companies, with a combined turnover of £48bn. ABHI's 400 members account for approximately 80% of the sector by value.

ABHI



West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster

Medilink Midlands connects businesses, innovators, academia, healthcare and industry across the life sciences and medtech ecosystem, creating opportunities to collaborate, innovate and grow. Through the West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster (WMHTC), delivered by Medilink Midlands, we are helping shape the future of health technology in the West Midlands by bringing together industry, the NHS, academia, local government and the investment community. The Cluster is strengthening the region's innovation ecosystem, creating opportunities for innovation, investment and sustainable growth, while raising the profile of the West Midlands as a leading destination for health technology. A key focus is developing the skills and talent needed for the sector's future, strengthening links between education and industry and creating opportunities for the next generation.



Precision Health Technologies Accelerator

The University of Birmingham's Precision Health Technologies Accelerator (PHTA) supports life sciences companies, start-ups, spin-outs and research teams to accelerate innovation from concept to clinical application. Located within Birmingham Health Innovation Campus, PHTA offers flexible laboratory space, specialist facilities, access to real-world data and opportunities for collaboration within a thriving life sciences ecosystem. As the campus's anchor resident, PHTA is also developing the Midlands' first commercial near-patient biomanufacturing facilities, enabling the manufacture of advanced therapies, biologics and vaccines.



National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides independent, evidence-based guidance that helps improve health and social care across England. By evaluating medicines, medical technologies, diagnostics and digital innovations, NICE supports the adoption of effective solutions that deliver better outcomes and value for money. Through its partnership with the West Midlands Health Innovation Network, NICE helps innovators, commissioners and healthcare providers navigate evidence requirements and adoption pathways to bring proven innovations into practice.

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence



| SURGERY SESSIONS

Below you will find details of the 15 minute one-to-one surgery sessions available throughout the day. If you'd like to book a session and haven't done so already, please speak to a member of the team on the registration desk. Click on the logos to visit each organisation's website.



Innovator Support

Book a one-to-one session with our innovation experts to discuss your project, explore available support, and identify the next steps to accelerate development and adoption.



Grant Funding Applications

Receive tailored advice on identifying funding opportunities, strengthening grant applications, and improving your chances of success.

Real-World Validation

Discuss how to generate and use real-world evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness, impact, and value of your innovation.



Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Learn how to meaningfully involve patients, carers, and the public in the design, development, and evaluation of your innovation.



Ideation to Commercialisation

Explore the journey from concept to market, including product development, market readiness, business planning, and commercial strategy.



Regulations

Gain guidance on navigating the regulatory landscape, including compliance requirements, approvals, and pathways for health technologies.