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## Swing while you're winning - SWAY PEN

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust's Medical Physics Department, who were winners of the Innovative Device category in the Medipex Innovation Competition 2005, have been using their prize money to help further develop SWAYPEN, an innovative and user-friendly method for measuring postural sway.

The device has the potential to be used in rehabilitation centres, GP surgeries and patients' own homes, and amongst other applications is being used for patients using Tai Chi as a resource for rehabilitation, by comparing their results before and after rehab, which is a good objective measure to demonstrate that they are improving.

Dr Paul Bacon of the Trust's Medical Physics Department said:

"The Prize money from the award has been used for buying more pens for further prototype R&D, and the buying of two new laptops to extend usage in the Trust's Physiotherapy Department and at the Northern General. This will allow us to extend the usage of the Sway Pen and gain more valuable clinical experience with it."

## Exclusive preview - second Yorkshire & Humber NHS Innovation Competition

**Medipex is pleased to announce that the second Yorkshire & Humber NHS Innovation Competition will be launched in October 2005.**

The first competition was launched last year, attracting an excellent response, this - and the feedback from the awards ceremony convinced us to repeat the competition again this year. Last year's event received 136 high quality entries from 45 NHS Trusts across the region, with the awards evening at the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds attended by 100 NHS staff, including CEO's and front line personnel.

A major benefit of running this type of regional competition has been to demonstrate the advantages of innovation to large parts of the NHS in Yorkshire and Humber, resulting in increased awareness amongst staff about Medipex and what we do, significantly boosting membership from NHS trusts.

Speaking about the event, Mark Hawley, IP lead at Barnsley Hospital said:

"I think initiatives like the Medipex Innovation Competition help capture people's imaginations. The competition this year was incredibly successful, especially in terms of entrants - which just shows what level of innovation there is in the NHS."

The awards will have two categories of entry: Innovative Technology or Device and Innovative Service Improvement. Prize money will be awarded for first, second, third and highly commended entrants.

The awards ceremony for the winners will be held at the National Railway Museum in York in early March 2006.



### Key dates:-

Launch date	October 31st 2005
Competition closing date	January 13th 2006
Awards Ceremony	March 1st 2006 York Railway Museum



## Mental health recovery - going for goal!

**The REACT (Recreational Enterprise Assisting Client Training) Football Training Academy, which recently won the Medipex award for innovative service delivery, at the 2005 Medipex NHS Innovation competition, has received high level praise by the DOH's lead director for Mental Health.**

On a visit to the Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust, recently awarded two star status by the Healthcare Commission, Professor Louis Appleby, said he was impressed by the

project and described it as the first of its kind he had ever seen.

The scheme is a 40 week training programme, which has been specially designed to meet the needs of people with mental health problems. REACT are using their £1000 prize money to support infrastructure and marketing of the project.

The REACT team are now aiming to repeat their success at the national NHS Innovations Final to take place in October 2005.

## Membership – paving the way for Innovation!

The number of Trusts and PCT's taking up membership of Medipex has been steadily increasing throughout the year. Membership now stands at 26 with a further five Trusts currently going through the induction process.

**AGM 2005:** We are looking forward to welcoming representatives of all member trusts to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 27th September 2005. This will afford an opportunity to meet with other members and hear something of the work Medipex has undertaken on behalf of its members over the past 12 months. An IP Lead and an inventor will talk about their experiences of working with Medipex and our Chief Executive, Richard Clark, will present the Annual Report highlighting the company's achievements.

A full list of member trusts is available on the Medipex Website.

**Medipex has recently launched the e-commerce website: [nhs-ennovations.com](http://nhs-ennovations.com) which is available for members to sell software, training materials and guidance on best practise and similar materials that are suitable for wider dissemination.**

The site has a range of areas relating to innovative products and service delivery, including an IDEAS section where selected projects from three NHS Innovation Hubs (Medipex, TrusTECH and NHS innovations north) looking for commercial partners can be found.

This section also provides a direct link to the national nhs-innovations website where all the ideas from all the Hubs can be located and searched.



**You can access the nhs-ennovations website at: [www.nhs-ennovations.com](http://www.nhs-ennovations.com)**

## IP collaboration and innovation

**Professor Mark Hawley is the R&D Director and Head of Medical Physics & Clinical Engineering Department at Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.**

*Mark also sits on the board of Medipex, and in this article highlights how collaboration between the NHS and Industry can further innovation.*

Sitting on the board of Medipex is a two way process, it's taught me a lot about how commerce and industry work and about the types of things that make projects commercially viable; also my

presence on the board, and regular contact with NHS staff, helps Medipex see the NHS perspective and what is new and up and coming within it.

Clearly Medipex can help a lot with commercialisation and also helping to promote innovation, this is important as we tend to get involved in research projects that are about new technologies, sometimes including companies from the very beginning; one of the things I find Medipex is very good at is advising on the process of dealing with commercial companies when we are doing work with them.

One such project came about after we had a grant agreed from the DoH to develop a speech controlled home control system for disabled people.

This is allowing us to collaborate with three companies, one of whom is an assistive technology company who has a world wide market - Toby Churchill Ltd, the second is a speech technology company based in Sheffield called Xovox, who provide the commercial speech technology expertise. The third, of course, is Medipex, who are helping us with all aspects of intellectual property in the project, which is worth £600,000 over 3 years, with half of the funding put in by industry.



# Innovation, diversity and progress



Richard Clark,  
Chief Executive of Medipex Ltd.

Welcome to the second edition of this newsletter which we hope you enjoy. Here at Medipex we are committed to providing a high standard of service for the management of NHS intellectual property, an area that has been sadly neglected in the past.

We continue to be amazed at the variety of ideas and the resourcefulness of NHS staff who present their ideas to us and we feel privileged to be part of this process. The innovation competition that we launched late last year reinforced this view so much so that I have been asked by my board to repeat the innovation competition which I have great pleasure in announcing on the front of this newsletter.

Membership of Medipex by NHS Trusts across the region has now reached 26 and we are confident that this figure will continue to rise as word spreads about what we do. We are also much more aware of the potential value of our IP portfolio and we have had some very positive dialogue with healthcare companies on 5 or 6 projects that we expect to licence in the near future. Several other projects are at the stage where we consider the creation of a new commercial enterprise to be in the best interests of everyone concerned.

Look out for further information on these exciting developments in the Winter edition of our Newsletter.

## Practical guidance for innovation

Medipex are offering a free booklet packed with practical advice on protecting copyright, patenting and other important steps to innovation, to help you ensure your ideas are rewarded. The booklet can be downloaded at [www.medipex.co.uk](http://www.medipex.co.uk)

## Kathy moves on



This month we bid a fond farewell to Dr. Kathy Armour who joined Medipex at its inception. In addition to her role as an Intellectual Property Manager, Kathy has been instrumental in developing and delivering the Company's marketing and PR strategy. She will be sadly missed by everyone at Medipex as she moves on to pastures new - and nearer to home so she can spend more time with her young son, Nathan.

Our very best wishes for a happy and successful future go with her.

**DRIP BAGS - NO LONGER A PAIN IN THE BACK!**  
The Motorised Drip Stand, a fresh approach aimed at reducing the risk of back and shoulder injuries to theatre staff

- reduces chronic back and shoulder injuries
- effortlessly providing required operating height
- ergonomic loading height
- used for a wide-range of theatre procedures
- fully CE marked

**safe**  
**simple**  
**effective**  
**flexible**  
**dependable**

**THE MOTORISED DRIP STAND**  
SAFE. SIMPLE. EFFECTIVE.

**medipex**  
See [www.nhs-innovations.com](http://www.nhs-innovations.com) for further information

# What is Medipex?

Medipex is the NHS Innovation Centre for the Yorkshire and Humber region. It is one of a national network of NHS Innovation centres that manage and exploit Intellectual Property (IP) within the NHS.

IP is any new idea or invention. Such ideas can arise out of routine work as well as research and may result in a product which is commercially valuable.

Example ideas are:

- Devices and equipment
- Diagnostics and therapies
- Software
- Training Materials
- Pharmaceutical products and processes

## Aims and Objectives of Medipex

- To ensure the financial benefits of IP created by the NHS are returned to the NHS
- To identify, assess and commercialise new ideas and innovations leading to improved patient care.
- To develop clear IP exploitation policies with NHS Trusts and other NHS bodies.
- To ensure that non-commercial but valuable ideas are disseminated and adopted throughout the NHS.

## What can Medipex provide?

- Advice and guidance on protecting your IP
- Identification, assessment and exploitation of IP.
- Training and education about protecting and exploiting IP.
- Accessing expert advice e.g. legal, financial and commercial.
- Identification of potential commercial partners
- Evaluation of IP and initiation of further R&D
- Commissioning of prototypes and clinical trials including access to proof-of-concept funding
- Construction of useful IP exploitation strategies
- Assistance with the IP portfolio for the annual R&D report

## What next?

All the above services are free to you providing that you work for an NHS Trust based in Yorkshire & Humber and your Trust is a member of Medipex. If you are unsure whether your Trust is a member, please contact Medipex on the number below. Any enquiry whether your Trust is a member or not are treated in strictest confidence and if we can, we will give guidance over the phone.

# Working with Medipex

## a view from a member Trust



Medipex has been working with Airedale NHS Trust over the last year providing a service to Trust staff to assess the potential of their innovative ideas.

One of the initial issues for the Trust was the creation of their intellectual property (IP) policy. Alison Thompson, Research Manager at the Trust said:

"Instigation of such a policy is a critical step in assisting the Trust to come to grips with

the management of IP generated by our staff, and we were pleased that Medipex were on hand to guide us with the creation of this".

Through working closely with Airedale it is clear that there are innovative individuals within the Trust whose ideas, particularly in the areas of orthopaedics and speech and language therapy, whilst still at an early stage are nevertheless very promising and have great potential for improving patient care.

"Through our association with Medipex we now have a vehicle to assist in capturing these innovative ideas from staff, having them assessed and if appropriate taken forward to commercialisation for the benefit of both the staff concerned and the Trust" remarked Alison.

Medipex looks forward to a bright future helping Airedale NHS Trust to capitalise on its innovative ideas.

## Medipex provides a world-wide platform for Innovation

MEDICA is the world's largest healthcare technologies trade fair and boasts approximately 4,300 exhibitors from more than 60 countries, thus providing an incomparable international trade platform for Healthcare Technologies.

This year Medipex will exhibit alongside NHS Innovations, to provide a spotlight for NHS intellectual property from across Yorkshire and Humber on the world stage.



Lord Warner (centre-right), Minister of State for NHS Delivery, on the NHS Innovations MEDICA Stand.

**For further information about the event, contact Medipex on 0113 392 6454.**

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