

Your partner in innovation...



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Forthcoming events involving Medipex:

NHS Innovation Competition 2006

1 March
Award Ceremony

29-30 March
Nursing Times Live 2006, GMEX
Centre Manchester
www.nlive.co.uk
Medipex will be joining TrusTech
and Innovations North

Medipex brokers two deals for Sheffield



Drip Stand in situ

No More Back Problems with Drip Stand

A team of clinical engineers lead by Dr Ric Betts in Medical Physics, Sheffield, have successfully designed and developed a simple motorised drip stand for use by urology and other departments, where there is a need to elevate heavy fluid bags (e.g. bags of saline or glycine) to 2m or higher. Such a repetitive manual task can place theatre staff involved in urological procedures at risk of both acute and chronic back and shoulder injuries.

The ease of use and safety features incorporated in the unique design mean it is simple to use and cost effective. An agreement has been reached by Medipex with T-Med Ltd, a subsidiary of Turkington Engineering who will manufacture the motorised drip stand under licence and the Trust will receive a royalty on the sale of each unit.

Mr Gary McMahon, Marketing Director of T-Med commented that, "We are really excited by the potential of the motorised drip stand, it has been designed by experienced NHS staff and solves a genuine problem plaguing thousands of NHS staff – chronic back pain. We have also been impressed by the skill and innovation within the team led by Dr Betts and hope to undertake more collaboration in the future."

Bioprobe

Andrew Cash, Chief Executive of Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust recently met Jeff Franco, the MD of US medical technology company, Nascent Technology Inc., to sign a collaboration deal to undertake clinical research on a bioprobe jointly developed by the Trust and the University of Sheffield.

This was the culmination of over 8 months of negotiations and meetings led by Medipex on behalf of the Trust and the University. The diagnostic probe based on bio-impedance will be used to study epithelial cell structure/properties of the cervix. Medipex had identified the US company as having the ideal blend of experience, resources and, most importantly, entry to the lucrative American market.

Richard Clark, Chief Executive of Medipex said, "The bioprobe represents the biggest deal we have negotiated on behalf of the NHS to date and we expect it to attract substantial clinical research money to Sheffield over the next few years".

L to R: Jeff Franco, David Winstanley, Andrew Cash, Richard Clark



Medipex Achievements Recognised in Government Funding Initiatives

In recognition of the work Medipex is doing with its member Trusts in the Yorkshire and Humber Region, the Department of Health has awarded the company an additional £139,000 top up funding for this current financial year. This is to enable Medipex to carry out in house market research on the increasing number of NHS innovations being assessed by its staff.

Medipex made it a hat trick of successful bids to PSRE when it was awarded £166,000 to undertake a mapping exercise of clinical expertise in the Region. This initiative has also attracted funding from

Yorkshire Forward. It is intended that when the exercise is complete, it will link in with the work already carried out in the North West by TrustTech who have established the ACTNow clinical trials database and to link in with a similar initiative about to be undertaken by Innovations North in the North East to build a comprehensive database of skills and areas of expertise. The combined database will cover a population of 16 million people and will be used to attract companies wishing to undertake clinical trials, including those of medical devices, to the North of England.

nhs-ennovations website is growing!

2006 Yorkshire & Humber NHS Innovation Competition update

Once again the Competition has generated a great response from the Region's NHS bodies with 33 Trusts submitting entries. The breadth and quality of the innovations is impressive and will no doubt present the judging panel with some tough decisions on the 8 February. The winners will be presented with their prizes at the National Railway Museum on the 1 March. Perhaps the examples of innovation from our railway past will inspire them to even greater things in 2007!

Copyright Framework

Free fact sheets on different ways to protect your ideas

Medipex, in conjunction with UDL Patent Attorneys, are pleased to announce a series of practical guidelines packed full of useful hints, tips on different ways to protect intellectual property. The first leaflet on Copyright will be available shortly from Medipex and will be followed by others including leaflets on Design Rights, Database Rights, Confidentiality Agreements and Protecting IP in Joint Projects.

Contact Medipex to find out more.

www.nhs-ennovations.com

The nhs-ennovations website (see Autumn 2005 newsletter) established by Medipex in collaboration with NHS Innovations North and TrusTECH (North West NHS Innovation Hub) allows the on-line purchase of medical products and training materials developed by the NHS and is principally targeted at sales to the NHS.

The website is available for member Trusts across these regions to sell software, training materials and guidance on best practice and simple devices or services that are suitable for wider dissemination.

Products are being added to the website all the time and in reflection of this there has been an addition of three new categories of Products; namely Assistive Technologies, Health and Lifestyle and a What's New section for the very latest additions to the site.

If you have an invention or material that you think would be of use to others please get in touch with Medipex and we will be happy to consider it for inclusion in the website.

Snap shot of online store



A company's perspective



Steve Bennett

Steve Bennett, CEO of Bennett & Co, says "What makes working with Medipex so interesting is viewing things from the other side of the fence. Normally we work with small and medium sized companies in the healthcare sector. But in working with the Hub we know that the ideas are based on real need because they come from staff who are faced with real challenges. It means that we can tailor our work to meet those challenges precisely. Knowing that our solutions are going right to the heart of a problem is very satisfying.

Working with the Innovation Hub has clear benefits for local commerce and local people. But it can go beyond that. For example, we are currently working on the development of a joint project with the three Innovation Hubs that cover the North of England - Medipex, TrusTECH and NHS Innovations North. Working collaboratively with the three Hubs in this way takes the benefits beyond local communities and Trusts.

It means that good ideas are cascaded to a far wider network. That is clearly good news for us, but it also means providing a better service to more NHS customers."

Department of Health (2005) NHS Innovations. Towards Tomorrow's World. NHS Innovations Annual Report 2004/2005. pp12-13

Further recognition for our Competition Winners

Paul Bacon & Ben Heller, winners of last years Innovative Technology Award with the "Sway Pen", and the React Team, winner of the Innovative Service Award, followed up their successes when they were finalists at the National Innovations Award event in October 2005. The Ceremony was held in London and attended by Jane Kennedy, Minister of State for Quality and Patient Safety.

The REACT Team has also been successful in obtaining sponsorship for their own awards ceremony for students and carers on the Course. (See page 3 for details).

Football scores at mental health awards

“There can be no doubt of the benefits and improvement the REACT (Recreational Enterprise Assisting Client Training) programme provides to individuals, when they see stadiums on Match of The Day that they have visited with the programme, they say I’ve been there, I’ve done that – it gives them a voice, which they had never had.”

These were the words of Jan Milner, former England and Doncaster football professional, after receiving her award for service at the REACT Football Training Academy awards ceremony. She spent over thirty years in the game is now a Care Co-ordinator with REACT, an award winning programme which uses football to help people with mental health problems. She was amongst a wide range of carers and students on the course, who were recognised for their hard work and achievement at the awards ceremony, held at Doncaster Rugby Football Club in November.

After the awards, which were sponsored by The Doncaster Lions Club and Doncaster Round Table, Mike Haczynskj – the Chairman of Doncaster Round Table said: “It’s the first time we’ve sponsored an event like this and it’s nice to see the impact this has had on people and the results of the work that has been done, you can see from the faces of the people who have received awards today the benefit this has had on their lives.”

Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust, where the REACT programme is based, introduced the ground breaking programme, to reduce social exclusion and stigma - driving factors in problems such as lack of motivation, low self esteem and social and communication difficulties.

The programme was rewarded earlier this year when REACT won the Medipex award for Innovative Service Delivery, at the 2005 Medipex NHS Innovation competition, and came runner up in the National NHS Innovation Competition in London later in the year.

Medipex welcomes two new members to its team



Dr. Chris Herbert – Associate IP Manager

Chris joined Medipex in January 2006 having previously worked as a research scientist for a spin-out biotechnology company based in Oxfordshire developing “stealth viruses” for gene therapy. Chris obtained his PhD from Liverpool University where he had been working in the Royal Liverpool University Hospital Department of Surgery studying the transcriptional regulation of a metastasis-associated gene in pancreatic cancer. His BSc in Molecular Biology was also gained at Liverpool University. Chris has attended a number of seminars regarding business development and technology commercialisation, and in 2004 successfully completed the “Building a Business” course run at the Saïd Business School in Oxford. At Medipex he will be part of the team responsible for the assessment, development and commercialisation of Intellectual Property emanating from NHS.

Neetu Singh – Marketing and Development Officer

Neetu joined in October 2005 and brings along with her five years of sales and marketing experience in the international market. She has worked in the Information Technology and Financial Services sector where she was responsible for business development and marketing. She holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from University of Bombay and a BSc in Mathematics. She is certified by IBM as 'E-Business Solutions Adviser' and also holds a certificate in 'Gemba Kaizen' (workplace improvement) from Japanese Management Association. She will undertake market research and market entry feasibility studies for the various intellectual property projects and will also be responsible for the marketing activities at Medipex.



Medica 2005 (in Düsseldorf, Germany)

Medipex organised the attendance at Medica on behalf of NHS Innovations. This event is gaining in popularity and 7 of the 9 Hubs were represented by their staff and a wide range of NHS ideas and products were on display.

Ken Anderson, Commercial Director Department of Health, and Stuart Smalley, Head of International Developments, visited the stand on the first day and spent time chatting to Hub staff.

Medica is one of the worlds largest medical trade fair and an excellent forum to display the innovations emanating from the NHS. It enables staff to gain an insight in to emerging new medical technology areas and promote commercially-ready NHS innovations. It provides an opportunity to evaluate “state of the art” medical technology in several areas to better understand and benchmark NHS ideas and products. Medica provided Medipex the opportunity to have face to face meetings with 3 companies regarding one project that would have taken weeks to achieve in the UK. Walking around the stands provided two leads for technologies that Medipex is dealing with. It is highly unlikely that web searches would have identified the two companies, demonstrating that Medica is invaluable for the networking opportunity it provides.



Richard Clark, Medipex CEO, with members of the NHS Innovations Team

What is Medipex?

Medipex is the NHS Innovation Hub 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.

Feedback

Do you have any comments on issues revised in this newsletter or would you like us to write about your idea? If so email us at enquiries@medipex.co.uk

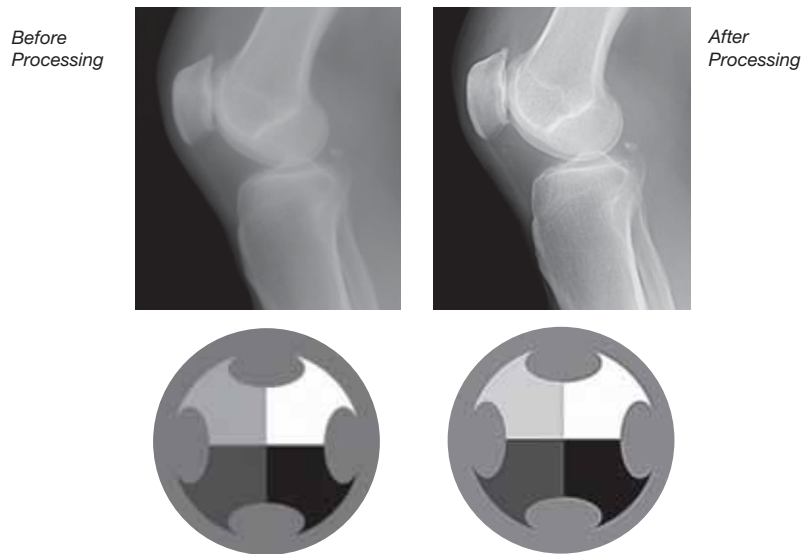
Medipex, Innovation and Digital Imaging in the NHS

PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System)

PACS, which is currently being implemented in the NHS throughout the UK as part of the £6.2bn National Programme for IT marks a sea-change for the NHS in the way images can be viewed and stored. It enables the capture, storage, distribution and viewing of a wide range of medical images (both fixed and motion images) and will allow simultaneous viewing of images at multiple locations. It also eliminates the need to make and file multiple copies of an image. The implementation of PACS allows further digitisation of patient records and should allow a more efficient treatment process. It will be made available at any NHS location where pictures will be taken, stored or used for diagnosis or treatment.

With PACS, images will be able to be digitally enhanced and consequentially new QA (Quality Assurance) procedures will be needed in order to ensure that images are viewed correctly. The following innovations have been developed by teams in the Medical Physics Department of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

DFOR (Digital Frame of Reference) Icon



Knee X-ray and DFOR Icon before and after processing

To make an image appear "right" on a screen, it is almost always necessary to apply some sort of digital enhancement. However, this digital enhancement may introduce artefacts into the image which in turn might result in misdiagnosis. The **DFOR Icon** has been designed to allow PACS users to determine how an image has been processed and what artefacts (if any) may have been introduced. The picture above represents how a DFOR icon is processed along with an image and how this compares to the original icon. DFOR is covered by a UK patent and Medipex is seeking commercial partners to take this project forward.

LOGIN – Image Viewing Control



LOGIN Prompt and Background Screen

Establishing a QA procedure to ensure consistency of image interpretation between different monitors will be of paramount importance with the implementation of PACS. It is with that in mind that the **LOGIN Image Viewing Control** has been designed. LOGIN is a software package which prevents image viewing software from being run unless the display is set at a predetermined level necessary for optimal examination of images. This invention ensures a minimum level of clinical governance and audit with respect to soft-copy viewing. The patents for this invention have been filed and Medipex is actively seeking commercial partners to take this project forward.

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