

# Health Technologies Knowledge Transfer Network Newsletter



## Forthcoming Events:

02-05 Mar 2008

Orthopaedic Research Society  
Annual Meeting: San Francisco,  
USA

05-09 Mar 2008

AAOS - Annual Meeting 2008:  
San Francisco, USA

04 Mar 2008

Overview of Ultrasound Research  
at NPL: Interwise Event

05 Mar 2008

Surgery by Soundbeam:  
Interwise Event

05 Mar 2008

Health Technologies KTN Seminar:  
Prof Paul Hatton  
Interwise Event (see right)

06 Mar 2008

New Approaches to  
Treating Brain Disease  
Liverpool, UK

11-13 Mar 2008

MEDTEC 2008  
Stuttgart, Germany

12-14 Mar 2008

Biomaterials: Fundamentals  
and Clinical Applications 2008  
Essen, Germany

12-13 Mar 2008

BioWales 2008  
Cardiff, Wales

12 Mar 2008

Convergent Technologies  
Showcase & Conference  
Clydebank, Scotland

13 Mar 2008

Lasers in Healthcare:  
A roadmapping event  
Cambridge, UK

14 -16 Mar 2008

Asian Society for Cardiovascular  
& Thoracic Surgery  
Singapore

18 Mar 2008

Launch of the Institute of  
Bio-Sensing Technology  
Bristol, UK

26 -28 Mar 2008

Importance of Polymer Science for  
Biological Systems: York, UK

## LEADING HEALTHCARE COMPANIES REAP THE REWARDS

**The UK's most innovative healthcare companies had their hard work and outstanding achievements recognised at the Medilink UK National 'Health Technology' Awards in Birmingham on 13 February 2008.**

The event, which was held in the NEC's Exhibition Seminar Theatre, saw a panel of judges from every region of the UK select the best of the Regional Medilink Award Winners for the following categories - Innovation, Growth in Sector, Business Start-Up, Export Achievement and Partnership with the NHS.



**The Health Technologies KTN 'Innovation' Award** was picked up by Medical Lighting Specialists **Brandon Medical Company Ltd**, for the development of Symposia - the world's first fully integrated medical tele-video system for healthcare. The Yorkshire based company's innovation is an IP based open ended platform that allows complete integration of any medical video source providing full collaborative working between clinicians across any distance.

**ImmunoDiagnostic Systems (IDS) Ltd**, a manufacturer of specialist manual healthcare diagnostics kits won the Jonathan Lee Recruitment 'Growth in Sector'.

The Clinical Services Journal 'Start-up' Award went to **Sleepworks Products Ltd**, who produce 'Snorkil', an over the counter anti-snoring device. In their first year of trading, Sleepworks have had strong sales in the UK as well as opening up new markets internationally.

Winner of the UKTI 'Export Achievement' Award was **Hart Biologicals Ltd**, who have established new markets in Germany, the USA and Spain, increasing their turnover by 47%.

The winner of the NHS National Innovation Centre 'Partnership with the NHS' Award was **Peacocks Medical Group Ltd**, for their work with the Diabetic Clinic in Newcastle over the past eight years, that has seen their pressure relieving diabetic footwear (supported by a multi-disciplinary team) reduce amputations by 45%.

The Second Health Technologies KTN Online Seminar:

## Improving the biocompatibility of glass-ionomer cements for dental and medical applications

The Health Technologies KTN announces the second in a series of high profile online seminars addressing issues of interest to the health technologies community.

**Professor Paul Hatton**  
Professor of Biomaterials  
University of Sheffield  
will present on

**'Improving the biocompatibility  
of glass-ionomer cements for  
dental and medical applications'**

on  
**Wednesday 5th March 2008**  
at  
**3.00pm (UK time).**

You can register for this free event and receive details of how to participate by visiting

<http://www.healthtechktn.com>  
or email  
[events@healthtechktn.com](mailto:events@healthtechktn.com)

Places are limited,  
so early registration is advised.

## Paul Hatton

Glass-ionomer cements (GICs) and related materials are used extensively in dentistry where they have a reputation for safety and excellent biocompatibility. This seminar will review briefly the clinical use of GICs, focussing on biocompatibility issues and a number of approaches that could potentially improve their clinical performance for both dental and medical applications.



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## An invention from a member of the KTN has been dramatically affecting lives of victims of Sierra Leone's civil war.

'Stepsafe' walking aids are being distributed to mobility-impaired children and adults at the News Steps clinic in Sierra Leone, thanks to a generous donation made to Mercy Ships, an international charity which provides free medical treatment to some of the world's poorest people.

The device, created by David Youde of Stepsafe Europe Ltd., is a specially designed and CE marked walking-aid which can be fitted to the base of ordinary crutches. The Stepsafe device differs from ordinary walking aids by featuring a ball joint between the base and shaft of the crutch. This makes the crutch easier to manoeuvre and safer to use, as the base of the crutch stays in contact with the ground even on slippery or uneven surfaces.

The walking-aid devices were donated to New Steps, a centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The New Steps centre was established by Mercy Ships in 2000 to provide health care, rehabilitation and support to the thousands of citizens who were maimed, mutilated and impaired during the country's civil war. Morgen Kleinknecht, a member of staff at the New Steps centre, described the experience of Abu Bakaar, a 17 year old patient who had previously suffered a bad fall using ordinary crutches. He said: "When Abu Bakaar returned [to the centre] the following week, he had only good things to say about the new crutch tips. With his old crutches, he said, he slipped many times. When the ground was wet, or when he tried to walk on gravel, he frequently fell. "With the new tips I don't slip at all," he said.



For more information visit [www.mercyships.org.uk](http://www.mercyships.org.uk) or [www.stepsafeeurope.co.uk](http://www.stepsafeeurope.co.uk)

### Support for Technology Strategy Board and funding opportunities for the Health Tech sector

December 2007 saw the opening of a TSB collaborative funding call on Technologies for Health. This call (<http://www.technologyprogramme.org.uk>) provides funding of £15m to support businesses working together or in collaboration with research and/or clinical parties, in the broad field of rapid diagnostics and technologies taking care closer to the patient. The deadline for outline submissions is 22 February. To support people making bids to this call, the Health Technologies KTN (with support from 5 other KTNs) ran two workshops (18 January and 1 February in London and York respectively) to inform people of the call topics and processes, as well as to facilitate networking across the broad community. Over 150 people attended these events, with very positive feedback received ("Good networking opportunities", "Good TSB Presentations", "The opportunity to meet the KTN & TSB gave an overall clearer understanding of the proposal process and how funding can be applied"). It is expected further meetings will be held alongside future calls.

### Assisted Living Innovation Platform

The Technology Strategy Board has launched its first Innovation Platform in the medical area, and there is a current call (Expression of Interest deadline now passed) for research projects in the areas of user centred design and short term R&D in areas such as end-to-end systems modeling, home based intelligent data processing and the patient/carer portal. However, an Innovation Platform uniquely addresses broader areas than R&D, taking on any barriers to implementation to solve major societal challenges of the future, e.g. standards, knowledge transfer and large scale demonstrators. Also, an Innovation Platform is expected to run for 3-5 years, such that a series of targeted calls in the broad area can be expected over the next few years. The Health Technologies KTN is working alongside the TSB to raise awareness of the Platform, and has launched an Assistive Living Special Interest Group through which the TSB can communicate with the community – register for this via the Health Technologies KTN portal.

### Healthcare Technology Co-operatives - providing a boost for patients with debilitating diseases

Dawn Primarolo, the Minister for Public Health, has launched a pilot initiative that will bring patients with debilitating diseases such as incontinence or renal failure together with doctors, scientists and manufacturers to help develop new technology and healthcare products in these areas.

The two pilots, called Healthcare Technology Co-operatives, will each receive £275,000 a year for the first two years, with the potential for further funding if successful. This funding has been provided through a range of organisations working together with a shared goal.

The two HTC's will be based at Barts and the London NHS Trust and Sheffield NHS Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust.

More information from <http://www.nihr.ac.uk>.

### Health Technologies KTN University of Brighton Annual Conference 2008 3 April 2008, Brighton, UK

The Health Technologies KTN/University of Brighton Annual Conference 2008 will celebrate the benefits and successes of the collaborative work between companies and academic institutions in the health care technologies area and provide a lively and informative forum for the exchange of ideas about accelerating innovation and technology in the sector. This one-day conference will consist of keynote speeches, workshops, and presentation sessions on a range of topics, focusing on technology exploitation and improved innovation.

The conference will provide an excellent networking opportunity and a forum for the initiation of new partnerships and collaboration.

More information at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/3ywwg7>

### Capacity Building Clusters in Business Research and Engagement

The ESRC are inviting proposal applications for Capacity Building Clusters in Business Research and Engagement. It is anticipated that there will be 4 or 5 clusters within the UK. Each cluster will, in the first instance, receive a five year grant. **Applications need to be submitted no later than 4pm 3rd March 2008.** More information from the ESRC Website: <http://tinyurl.com/ypp2y2>

**27 Mar 2008**  
Health technologies research at  
NPL  
Interwise Event

**01 Apr 2008**  
Precision Power Beams  
Cambridge, UK

**03 Apr 2008**  
Health Technologies KTN  
Annual Conference 2008  
Brighton, UK

**03 Apr 2008**  
Medilink EM Innovation Day  
Nottingham, UK

**07-09 Apr 2008**  
BioSpring Europe 2008  
Madrid, Spain

**09-11 Apr 2008**  
UKNSCN  
Annual Scientific Conference  
Edinburgh, Scotland

**15-18 Apr 2008**  
British Pain Society Meeting  
Liverpool, UK

**15-16 Apr 2008**  
BioTrinity 2008  
Oxford, UK

**17 Apr 2008**  
SciTech 08  
London, UK

**21-23 Apr 2008**  
HC2008  
Harrogate, UK

**23-24 Apr 2008**  
Engineering the Upper Limb  
London, UK

**24 Apr 2008**  
Standards in  
Tissue Engineering  
Interwise Event

**25-26 Apr 2008**  
Mobility Roadshow 2008  
Edinburgh, Scotland

**29 Apr-01 May 2008**  
Naidex 2008  
Birmingham, UK

**01 May 2008**  
Managing Long-Term  
Conditions 2008  
Harrogate, UK

**05-06 May 2008**  
Injectable Biomaterials  
Montreal, Canada

**08 May 2008**  
14th Swiss Conference on  
Biomaterials  
Basel, Switzerland

More details on these and other  
events on the KTN Events Page at  
<http://www.healthtechktn.com>

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