

A man is sitting on a dark leather sofa in a modern living room, reading a book. To his left is a tall white bookshelf filled with books. Behind him is a large window that looks out onto a dark, starry night sky with a faint rainbow or aurora in the distance. The room is dimly lit, with light coming from the window and the bookshelf.

HSC Innovations

The Elevation
Awards 2010

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Foreword

We all agree that to make real improvements in patient care, we need to continue to develop and exploit new ideas and establish innovative ways to address current unmet needs in the delivery of health and social care.

HSC Innovations, the intellectual property and innovation management service for Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care Sector, provides a platform along with our industry and clinical partners to identify, protect, and develop ideas towards commercialisation and implementation.

From our inception in 2007, we have been working hard to ensure that new ideas that provide solutions for unmet clinical needs and have commercial potential are given every opportunity to be identified, realised and developed to improve patient care.



We occupy a unique position that enables us to deliver practical advice, industry links and essential know-how to accelerate new ideas from across Northern Ireland towards real-life application. Indeed, we are already helping to channel a cache of novel developments that will actively enable patients to benefit from the latest advances in knowledge and technology.

Through the Elevation Awards we have been privileged to gain unique access to the vision and ambitious thinking of our colleagues from across the five trusts. The quality of the ideas put forward was excellent, demonstrating a broad range of skills, talent and innovation. Our congratulations go to not only the winners, but all the finalists who were selected for the first-ever awards event and we look forward to exploring these ideas further.

Recognising that ideas can transform organisations, careers and communities we have the resources and expertise to help our colleagues translate them into vital new products and groundbreaking advances. The HSC Innovations team can help identify and explore opportunities to obtain, protect, develop and commercialise new ideas. We also help all staff navigate the challenges of securing intellectual property protection for these concepts and ideas, and it is these ideas that generally offer the most promise in developing new solutions for current unmet clinical needs.

Ideas enable us to see the future in the present, let's keep them flowing.

Dr David Brownlee
Innovations Advisor, HSC Innovations

Introduction

Designed to reward and encourage bright new thinking, the Elevation Awards are a celebration of the creativity, talent and innovation that has helped accelerate and define Health and Social Care (HSC) Services in Northern Ireland.

Launched in March 2010 by HSC Innovations, the competition challenged more than 60,000 HSC staff across Northern Ireland to put forward innovative ideas with the potential to improve patient care.

A total of 12 finalists from across the five HSC Trusts were selected for the inaugural awards by an expert judging team made up of representatives from industry, healthcare and business organisations.

From these, three entries made the top grade in each of the following specialist categories:

- ICT Idea of the Year
- Equipment of the Year
- Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals Idea of the Year

Measuring the inventiveness; practicality and potential value of each submission; the judges also identified the best overall entry from each of the five trusts and awarded a commendation for a smart idea from an organisation that supports Health and Social Care delivery.

This summary booklet profiles the innovative solutions which claimed top honours at the first-ever Elevation Awards night held in May 2010.





See the future in the present

Organised by HSC Innovations, the *Elevation Awards* is the first competition of its kind to engage exclusively with Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care sector.

Diagnostics and Pharmaceutical Idea of the Year & Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Winner

Dr Derek Fairely - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Innovation

Meningitis Diagnostic

Description

Meningitis is a disease with rapid onset but ambiguous early symptoms. Diagnosis is traditionally confirmed by culture, often taking 36 hours, but this technique, developed by a team in the Regional Virus Laboratory, uses 'loop-mediated isothermal amplification' (LAMP) to provide a rapid – less than one hour - diagnosis of meningitis from blood, cerebrospinal fluid or swabs.

Judges Comments

Focused on overcoming a diagnostic crisis for doctors and saving lives this is a commercially protectable entry that is likely to be implemented as a product and reach service delivery. It has substantial value within and beyond the Health and Social Care service.



Dr Derek Fairley (centre) is presented with his award by Dr David Brownlee (Left) from HSC Innovations and Pat McCartan, Chairman of the Belfast HSC Trust.

Equipment Idea of the Year

Winner

John McAuley - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Innovation

Portable knee blocker for use in occupational therapy

Description

Traditionally a standing frame or a rise and fall table with a knee block extension is used to support occupational therapy patients with a left or right weakness in a standing position. Such large apparatus takes up a lot of floor space, but this compact innovation can be used in limited space by hospital or community teams working in the patient's home. It also reduces the number of therapists required to handle a patient, reducing moving and handling risks.

Judges Comments

This innovation represents the potential to achieve important labour and consequent cost or efficiency savings through a simple piece of equipment. Importantly the device has potential to be used beyond a clinical setting with a portable version to be used by therapists working in the community.



Dr David Brownlee (Left) from HSC Innovations and Prof Alistair Fee present John McAuley from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust with Equipment Award.

Information and Communication Technologies Idea of the Year & Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Winner

Stephen Wallace - Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)

Innovation

Bespoke SHSCT system for cleanliness reporting

Description

Focused on hospital cleanliness the E-Dashboards concept is an information collation and presentation system to improve infection prevention information in a hospital setting. The application gathers key information streams and presents them quickly and concisely to all healthcare staff. It enhances the daily measurement and comparison of the performance of departments and facilities while streamlining communication.

Judges Comments

This entry has the potential to impact on one of the biggest areas of public concern - hospital cleanliness and the incidence of healthcare acquired infection. The system enables vital corrective action to be taken to ensure cleanliness compliance. Judges remarked on the way the system helps staff take ownership of cleanliness and how relative performance can be measured across wards or sites, so that interventions can be focussed efficiently.



Dr Peter Sharpe and Dr Patrick Loughran from the Southern Trust join Dr David Brownlee from HSC Innovations to present Stephen Wallace (second left) with the awards for the Best ICT Idea and Best Southern Trust Idea at the first-ever Elevation Awards.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Winner

Patrick Maguire

Innovation

Intermediate care KPI scorecard for separate teams

Description

This idea concerns the management of eleven separate Intermediate Care teams in the Northern Trust, amalgamated from three legacy trusts. The manual collection of performance management data had proven time-consuming, unreliable and made analysis difficult. The development of a scorecard takes monthly data from the teams and measures performance against Key Performance Indicators. It also charts and track progress over time and displays consolidated management data.

Judges Comments

The judges praised the way the system improves performance reporting by gathering data from separate teams to establish reliable metrics and allowing the service to establish clear savings through interventions.



Dr David Brownlee (Left) from HSC Innovations and Prof Mike Scott present Patrick Maguire with the award for the most Innovative Idea in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Winner

Rosemary Bird

Innovation

Provision of healthy snacks in hospitals

Description

This idea sets out to redress imbalance in availability of fruit and healthy snacks by capitalising on vending machines placed in hospitals, outside canteens, outside wards and in A&E waiting rooms. Offering clear benefits for staff, patients and relatives the machines would be maintained by catering staff with costs paid by consumers and potential profits returned to the service.

Judges Comments

The judges commended this concept noting that vending machines with fresh produce are already in wide use, particularly in industry, and that solely stocking sugary and salty snacks does not appear to be in line with messages promoted by the Health and Social Care service.



Dr David Brownlee (Left) from HSC Innovations and Dr David Hill present Rosemary Bird with the award for the Best Idea from the South Eastern HSC Trust.

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Winner

Dr Philip Gardiner

Innovation

Glove and sock tools to gather data on stiffness and movement

Description

Developed by a multi-disciplinary team, this innovation involves a prototype glove system to measure the speed and range of hand movements and track the loss or improvement in that motion over time. The improved data on digit movement will support clinical interventions in arthritis and will assist clinicians by providing visualisations of the recorded movement.

Judges Comments

Although requiring some work to define the clinical utility, this entry has the potential to improve measurements of limb-digit function using off-the-shelf apparatus.



Dr David Brownlee, Innovations Advisor at HSC Innovations (left), and Sally Doherty R&D Manager at the Western Health and Social Care Trust presents Dr Philip Gardiner with the award for the Western Trust's Innovative Idea of the Year.

Commendation

Winner

Gillian McMullan, Patient and Client Council (PCC)

Innovation

Accessibility improvements to PCC reports and materials

Description

The Council has developed communications templates to support learning disabled individuals in their engagement with the council. Documents such as agendas, minutes of meetings and schedules of meetings have been adjusted to include a range of non-verbal visual aids. The new format has achieved a significant progression in ensuring individuals with a learning disability are equally supported in meetings of the council and the Bamford Monitoring Group.

Judges Comments

This apparently simple improvement in communication has enhanced engagement with key stakeholders and similar approaches can provide benefits in other areas of service delivery also.



(L-R) Dr David Brownlee, HSC Innovations, presents a Commendation Award to Joanne McDonald, Lisa Marie Henry and winner Gillian McMullan, Patient and Client Council (PCC).

got a
good
idea?

Although this year's call for entries has passed, it's never too late to put forward innovative ideas that can improve patient care.

HSC Innovations is the dedicated innovation management and Intellectual Property (IP) support service for the health and social care sector in Northern Ireland.

It provides year-round support to help take new ideas closer to commercial reality by securing Intellectual Property and working with industry and clinical partners to enable new products to be developed which will improve patient care.

If you have an idea for new or improved therapies, devices, diagnostics and procedures that could save lives, time or money we can help you take it forward.

Contact us at:

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For further information on the competition and support and services available from HSC Innovations please visit; <http://www.hscinnovations.com>



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