NHS
The Leeds Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Tomorrow's Healthcare Today:
Leeds Research & Innovation Conference 2026

Hosted by Leeds Teaching Hospitals

Powered by partnership with Health Innovation Leeds.

Wednesday 15th July 2026

Nexus and Exhibition Centre
University of Leeds.

Research & Innovation
Changing the future of healthcare

Bringing the city's research and innovation community together as part of Health Innovation Leeds

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Delivering Tomorrow's Healthcare Today

I'm delighted to welcome you to Leeds' biggest and most collaborative research and innovation conference yet.

Tomorrow's Healthcare Today: Leeds Research and Innovation Conference 2026 brings together colleagues, academics, partners, community organisations and regional leaders to showcase the ideas, partnerships and discoveries transforming care for patients.

Building on the success of our 2025 event—which welcomed over 400 attendees, 70 speakers and more than 60 research posters—this year's conference takes a bold, city-wide approach. It reflects the strength of collaboration across Leeds and the continued support of the Leeds Academic Health Partnership.

Leeds is proud to stand among the UK's top five research delivery centres and one of the top three locations for healthtech innovation. This is a city where ideas are tested at pace, where partnerships drive progress, and where research makes a meaningful difference to people's lives.

Whether you are already involved in research and innovation or are simply curious about how to get started, this conference offers a valuable opportunity to connect, learn and be inspired.

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#LeedsR&I2026

Today you will hear from inspiring keynote speakers and thought-provoking panel discussions on themes that are aligned to our strategic priorities. You will be able to interact with workshops and have the opportunity to connect with colleagues. View posters showcasing pioneering work from across the region and hear about the real examples of research improving patient care.

This conference celebrates the people behind that work and demonstrates how, together, we are shaping the future of healthcare locally, nationally and globally.

Thank you for joining us.

Dr Ai Lyn Tan
Medical Director, Research and Innovation,
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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Leeds Research & Innovation Conference 2026.

15th July 2026

Conference Summary - morning session

	Venue	Time	
	Sports Hall	08.15 - 08:50	Registration at the Exhibition Centre
SESSION 1	Conference Auditorium	09.00 - 10.10	Conference welcome **Keynote speakers:** Dr Ai Lyn Tan • Antony Kildare • Brendan Brown Lindsey Burrow • Professor Sir John Burn
	Sports Hall	10.15 - 10.45	Refreshments, poster viewing, exhibition viewing

			Conference Themes					
SESSION 2	Conference Auditorium and Nexus	10.50 - 11.10 11.15 - 11.35 11.40 - 12.00	**AI and Digital** Theme Chair: **Dr Kieran Zucker**	**Health Inequality** Theme Chair: **Dr Sunil Daga**	**Diagnostic and Devices** Theme Chair: **Dr Stuart Currie**	**Patient Outcomes** Theme Chair: **Dr Caroline Thomas**	**Novel Therapies** Theme Chair: **Dr Jonny Carmichael**	**Meet the Experts / Learning Opportunities**
			Conference Auditorium 1	**Conference Auditorium 2**	**Lecture Theatre Nexus**	**Seminar Room 1 Nexus**	**Seminar Room 3 Nexus**	**The Atrium Nexus**

	Sports Hall	12.00 - 13.00	Lunch, poster viewing, exhibition viewing

SESSION 3	Conference Auditorium	13.05 - 13.35	Presentations from our Platinum and Gold Sponsors
		13.35 - 13.50	Presentations from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Conference Summary - afternoon session

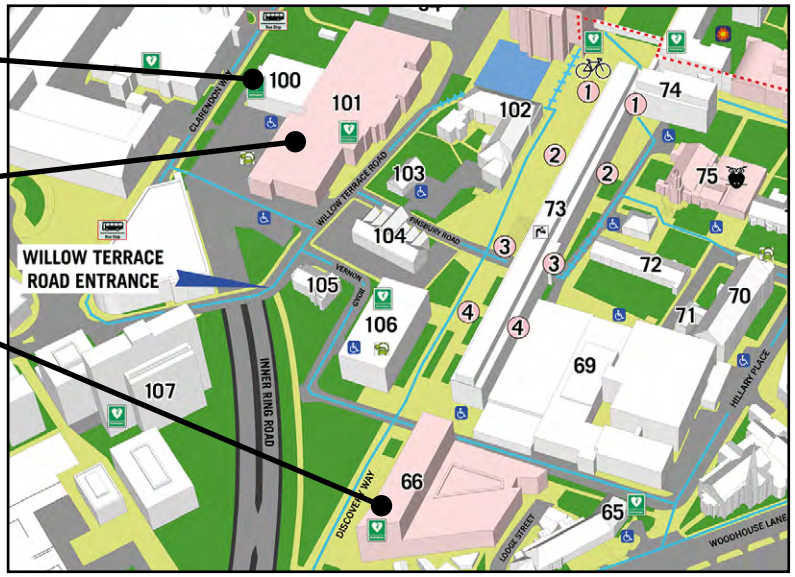
			Conference Themes					
SESSION 4	Conference Auditorium and Nexus	14.00 - 14.20	**Children and Young People**	**Healthy Adults / Long Term Conditions**	**Cancer**	**Mental Health and Neuro-disability**	**Frailty and End of Life**	**Meet the Experts / Learning Opportunities**
		14.25 - 14.45						
		14.50 - 15.10	Theme Chair: **Dr Simon Pini**	Theme Chair: **Kate Lodge**	Theme Chair: **Dr Dan Swinson**	Theme Chair: **Professor Rory O'Connor**	Theme Chair: **Dr Sean Ninan**	
			Conference Auditorium 1	Conference Auditorium 2	Lecture Theatre Nexus	Seminar Room 1 Nexus	Seminar Room 3 Nexus	The Atrium Nexus
	Sports Hall	15.10 - 15.35	**Refreshments, poster viewing, exhibition viewing**					
SESSION 5	Conference Auditorium	15.40 - 17.00	**Keynote speakers** Lindsey Hughes • Becky Baldaro-Booth Beverley Geary • Dr Amir Khan					
	Exhibition Hall	17.00	**Conference Reception**					

Conference site map

100: Conference Auditorium

101: Exhibition Hall

66: Nexus



Conference Programme

SESSION 1

08.15-08.50: **Registration**
(Exhibition Centre, Sports Hall)

09.00-09.10: **Welcome to *Tomorrow's Healthcare Today***
(Conference Auditorium)
Dr Ai Lyn Tan, Medical Director - Research and Innovation, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

09.10-09.20: **Opening Remarks** *(Conference Auditorium)*
Antony Kildare, Chair, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

09.20-09.30: **Opening Remarks** *(Conference Auditorium)*
Brendan Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

09.30-09.50: **Understanding the Patient Journey Through Research, Hope, and Reality**
(Conference Auditorium)
Lindsey Burrow, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Keynote Speaker

09.50-10.10: **Innovation in the NHS: Challenge and Opportunity**
(Conference Auditorium)
Professor Sir John Burn, Professor of Clinical Genetics, Newcastle University
Keynote Speaker

10.15-10.45: **Refreshments, poster, exhibitor viewing, sponsor demo sessions**
(Exhibition Centre, Sports Hall)

SESSION 2:

Conference Theme: AI and Digital (*Conference Auditorium 01)*

Theme chair: Dr Keiran Zucker NIHR Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Clinical Oncology Specialist Registrar, University of Leeds, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

10.50-11.10: **Ethical, Safe, Compliant Deployment of AI in LTHT**
Mr Steve Bush, Chief Clinical Information Officer, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.15-11.35: **Evaluating use of Ambient Voice Technologies in the Emergency Department**
Dr Manou Sundararaj, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.40-12.00: **Empowering Research with the NPIC Digital Pathology Secure Data Environment**
Dr Alexander Wright Head of Research Infrastructure, National Pathology Imaging Co-operative (NPIC), Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Conference Theme: Health Inequality *(Conference Auditorium 02)*

Theme chair: Dr Sunil Daga Consultant Nephrologist and Renal Transplant Physician, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

10.50-11.10: **Using Research and Evidence to Address Social Determinants of Health and Reduce Health Inequalities in Leeds**
Leeds City Council's Public Health and Health Partnerships Team

11.15-11.35: **Enhanced Care Pathways for Obesity in Pregnancy**
Jenny Roddy, Consultant Midwife Health Equity, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
Dr Camilla Nykjaer, Lecturer in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Public Health, University of Leeds

11.40-12.00: **The Generation Study / Born and Bred in Leeds (BaBi)**
Mr Nigel Simpson, Consultant Obstetrician, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Conference Theme: Diagnostics and Devices *(Lecture Theatre Nexus)*

Theme chair: Dr Stuart Currie Academic Neuroradiologist, University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

10.50-11.10: **AI Imaging Ecosystem and the TRIAGE Trial**
Bob Wheller, Lead for Clinical Scientific Computing, Department of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.15-11.35: **SUSTAIN: Simulating and Stimulating Sustainable Healthcare Innovation and Transformation**
Professor Pete Culmer, Professor of Healthcare Engineering, University of Leeds
Mr Adam Peckham-Cooper, Consultant General Surgeon, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.40-12.00: **Steriwave® Nasal Photo Disinfection Prior to Endoscopic Anterior Skull Base Surgery: Impact on Post Operative SSI, Meningitis and Antibiotic Usage**
Mr Paul Nix, Consultant ENT, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Conference Theme: Patient Outcomes *(Seminar Room 1 Nexus)*

Theme chair: Dr Caroline Thomas Consultant Anaesthetist. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR RRDN Theatre and Anaesthesia Research Lead

10.50-11.10: **The Challenge of Perioperative Diabetes: Technologies and Clinical Systems**
Professor Simon Howell, Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant Anaesthetist, Leeds Institute of Medical Research, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.15-11.35: **Drug Allergy Labels: A Silent Threat to Effective Care**
Dr Louise Savic, Consultant Anaesthetist, Leeds Teaching Hospitsl NHS Trust

11.40-12.00: **When Innovation Meets Reality: Why System Readiness Matters for Surgical Care**
Professor Helen Hughes, Associate Professor in Organisational Psychology, Leeds University Business School, and NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Accelerated Surgical Care

Conference Theme: Novel Therapies *(Seminar Room 3 Nexus)*

Theme host: **Dr Jonny Carmichael** Consultant Haematologist Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Leeds Institute for Medical Research, University of Leeds

10.50-11.10: **Development of AI Tool to Aid Clinicians in Interpretation of Circulating Tumour DNA Report**
Megan Crossman, North East Yorkshire Genomics Medicine Service, Newcastle University/Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre, Freeman Hospital, The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

11.15-11.35: **Advancing Clinical Research Through Partnership: Fortrea Clinical Research Unit (CRU) & NIHR Leeds Clinical Research Facility (CRF)**
Professor Chris Twelves, NIHR Leeds Clinical Research Facility, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Dr Jim Bush, Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology Physicians, Fortrea Clinical Research Unit Ltd

11.40-12.00: **Oncolytic Virus Research Trials**
Professor Adel Samson, University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Meet the Experts / Learning Opportunities *(The Atrium Nexus)*

Area 1

10.50-11.10: **Launch of the LTHT Repository**
Dom Gilroy, Head of Library Services and **Dr Denise Ross,** Head of Healthcare Professions Academic Development, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

11.15-11.35: **Come and Have a Conversation**
Dr Ai Lyn Tan, Dr Chris Herbert, Dr Helen Radford, Sarah Kent.
Dr Denise Ross, Research and Innovation Senior Leadership Team, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.40-12.00: **Supporting Your Innovation Ideas Through the Innovation Pop Up**
Dr Moninder Bhogal, Innovation Team, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Dr Graeme Howling, Medipex

Area 2

10.50-11.10: **Using Real World Data for Research at LTHT**
Alex Coles, Data Manager Research and Innovation
Maryam Abass Assistant Data Manager, Research and Innovation, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.15-11.35: **Find Out About 150 Day Metrics**
Matt Dalton, Project Portfolio Manager, Business Team, Research and Innovation, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

11.40-12.00: **Process Mining the PLICS Dataset to Explore Cost Savings of Clinical Trials**
Paige Uppal, Computer Science student, University of Leeds

12.00-13.00: THE EDGE SPORTS HALL
Lunch, poster viewing, exhibitor viewing

SESSION 3

13.05-13.35: **Presentations from our Platinum and Gold Sponsors (*Conference Auditorium 01)***

1: Moving from AI Vendor to AI Partner: Owning the Outcomes Together
Dr Dominic Pimenta, CEO, TORTUS AI

2: Right Instrument, Right Place, Right Time - Rethinking Sterile Services
Matt Thomas, Head of Technical Services and Sterilog Operations, B. Braun

3: CHILL Not Kill: CD19 CAR-Tregs for Rheumatology
Gareth Wright, Director, Clinical Operations, Quell Therapeutics

4: You'd Be Surprised: RFID Use Cases Reshaping NHS Operations
Ben Ballester, Healthcare Business Development Manager, Brady Corporation

13.35-13.50: **Enabling Neighbourhood Health**
Dr Dan Gilpin, Medical Director for Partnerships and Integration, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Sarah Purchon, Operational Manager Integrated Research Programme, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

SESSION 4:

Conference Theme: Children and Young People *(Conference Auditorium 01)*

Theme chair: Dr Simon Pini NIHR Senior Research Fellow in Psychological and Social Medicine at the University of Leeds

14.00-14.20: **When No One Has Asked Before: Engaging Young Adults, Parents and Clinicians to Shape Research on Survivorship Care After Fertility Tissue Preservation**
Rebecca Mottram, Research Delivery Nurse, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.25-14.45: **Demographic, Clinical and Quality of Life Profiles of Children and Young People Attending 35 NHS Complications of Excess Weight Clinics in England: An Observational Study**
Dr Jamie Matu, Reader in Nutrition and Metabolic Health, Leeds Beckett University

14.50-15.10: **Developing an Ambulatory Chemotherapy Service for Children and Young People at Leeds Children's Hospital**
Dr Jess Morgan, Consultant Paediatric Oncology, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Conference Theme: Healthy Adults / Long Term Conditions *(Conference Auditorium 02)*

Theme chair: Kate Lodge Partnership Director, Leeds Academic Health Partnership

14.00-14.20: **Advanced Clinical Practice in the Leeds Specialist Spondyloarthritis Service: A Pilot of a Point-Of-Care Foot and Ankle Clinic Incorporating Musculoskeletal Ultrasound**
Dr Richard Wilkins, Clinical Academic Podiatrist, University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.25-14.45: **Deep Learning in Primary Care Health Records to Predict Incident Heart Failure from Temporal and Contextual Representations of Antecedent Risk Factors**
Sashi Mahapatra, PhD Researcher, University of Leeds

14.50-15.10: **A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Emotional and Binge Eating in UK Adults Enrolled on the NHS Low-Calorie Diet Pilot for Type 2 Diabetes**
Dr Jordan Marwood, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Obesity Institute at Leeds Beckett University

Conference Theme: Cancer *(Lecture Theatre Nexus)*

Theme chair: Dr Dan Swinson Medical Oncologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.00-14.20: **Leeds Cancer Research UK Radiation Research Centre of Excellence: Pioneering Radiotherapy Research to Transform Lives**
Professor David Sebag-Montefiore, CRUK RadNet Leeds Centre Director, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.25-14.45: **Clinical Implementation of AI-Generated Contours for Increased Efficiency in Radiotherapy Treatment Planning**
Jack Gape, Clinical Scientist / Radiotherapy Physicist, Leeds Cancer Centre
Dr Bashar Al-Qaisieh, Lead for Research & Innovation and Radiotherapy Imaging, Medical Physics & Clinical Engineering, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.50-15.10: **The Leeds Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit - Innovation and Impact**
Professor David Cairns, Professor of Clinical Trial Research, University of Leeds
Dr Sadie Roberts, Deputy Director and Operations Director of the CRUK Clinical Trials Unit, Leeds

Conference Theme: Mental Health and Neurodisability *(Seminar Room 1 Nexus)*

Theme chair: **Professor Rory O'Connor** Lead Clinician for Rehabilitation, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Charterhouse Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine University of Leeds

14.00-14.20: **Cool Casts: 3-D Printed Splints in Wrist Spasticity Management - a Feasibility Study**
Dr Chris Walshaw, Clinical Speciality Occupational Therapist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Ali Abdi, CEO of Additive Design

14.25-14.45: **It's About Meeting People Where They Are: How Can we Support People who Self-Harm to Engage with Services? A Qualitative Study Exploring the Experiences of People Who Self-Harm, and the Healthcare Professionals Who See Them**
Dr Charlotte Horner, Research Fellow, University of Leeds

14.50-15.10: **Redesigning Clinical Care in Parkinson's Rehabilitation Through Digital Innovation**
Ally Whelan, Highly Specialist Physiotherapist, Leeds Teaching Hospitsl NHS Trust
Dr Ledia Agley, Head of Customer Success at Kneu Health

Conference Theme: Frailty and End Of Life *(Seminar Room 3 Nexus)*

Theme host: **Dr Sean Ninan** Consultant in Elderly Medicine, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.00-14.20: **BE SPeCiaL (Brain Tumours: Enhancing Supportive and Palliative Care in Patients and Loved Ones): Co Designing Future Support**
Dr Emma Nicklin, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Patient Centred Outcomes Research Group, Leeds Institute of Medical Research

14.25-14.45: **The Leeds Motor Neurone Disease Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Pathway: Improving Clinical Outcomes and Experience in a UK Centre**
Dr Linford Fernandes, Consultant Neurologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.50-15.10: **A Joined Up Approach to Technology Enabled Care in Leeds**
Hannah Roden, Digital Innovation Officer, Integrated Digital Service, Leeds City Council/ Leeds Office of West Yorkshire ICB

Meet the Experts / Learning Opportunities (*The Atrium Nexus)*

Area 1

14.00-14.20: **The Successful Fellowship Recipe. Q&A**
Associate Professor Carole Burnett, Academic Capacity Development Lead, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Biomedical Research Centre

14.25-14.45: **What Makes a Good Research Study?**
Professor Anne-Maree Keenan MBE, University of Leeds

14.50-15.10: **How to Prepare a 2 Minute Video Application for an Academic Award**
Associate Professor Carole Burnett, Academic Capacity Development Lead, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, SCPRA fellow

Area 2

14.00-14.20: **The Health Innovation Leeds Incubator**
Rachel Dixon, Business Development and Innovation Manager, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Nathan Berry, Head of Collaboration and Healthtech Lead, NEXUS
Natalie Allen, Head of Business Partnerships Leeds Beckett University

14.25-14.45: **How to Identify the Right Workforce for your Clinical Trial**
Mary Claude-Perrin and Dr Rachel Harrison, Lead Research Nurses, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

14.50-15.10: **How to be a Principle Investigator**
Karl Ward, Lead Research Nurse, Research and Innovation Academy, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

15.10-15.35 SPORTS HALL
Refreshments, poster viewing, exhibitor viewing

SESSION 5

Keynote Speakers (*Conference Auditorium 01)*

15.40-16.00: **Research, Innovation and the 10 Year Plan**
Lindsey Hughes, Director of Research, Innovation, Research and Life Sciences Strategy Group, NHS England

16.00-16.20: **Your Charity Partner: Supporting Research and Innovation in Leeds**
Becky Baldaro-Booth, Director of Grants and Impact, Leeds Hospitals Charity

16.20-16.40: **Leeds Teaching Hospitals Research and Innovation Awards**
Beverley Geary, Chief Nurse, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

16.40-17.00: **Closing Remarks**
Dr Amir Khan GP, Ridge Medical Practice, Bradford and Patron of Leeds Hospitals Charity

17.00 EXHIBITION HALL
Conference Reception

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#LeedsR&I2026

Sponsor spotlight

Visit the stands and attend our partner sessions to hear first-hand the exciting innovations that are already embedded in healthcare environments.

Leeds Hospitals Charity is the charity partner of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. We're the charity that champions, supports and gives thanks to the NHS. Bringing together thousands of donors so we can make a real difference for the people and patients of Yorkshire.

We do this by funding life-saving equipment, treatments, research into rare diseases and home comforts – whatever will make the biggest impact to the people who need it most.

Since the launch of our strategy in 2021, we're proud to have provided over £28 million of additional funding to Leeds Teaching Hospitals, with over £8 million supporting research and innovation projects across Leeds. Additional funding has supported a wide range of projects tackling health inequalities, driving innovation in healthcare and supporting research projects to ensure patients have access to the best healthcare and see improved outcomes.

We have invested £2.6 million to tackle serious health and wellbeing problems affecting children and young people by supporting the Child Health Outcomes Research at Leeds (CHORAL) partnership.

At the new Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease, patients with potential disease symptoms will have access to early diagnosis because of two charity funded research initiatives that will leverage artificial intelligence and advanced technologies to improve diagnostic speed and accuracy.

Working collaboratively with other AMRC-accredited organisations, including Ducenne UK, Marie Curie and The Brain Tumour Charity, we have been able to further our research funding opportunities for the benefit of patients here in Leeds.

Brady Corporation Ltd is a global leader in safety, identification and compliance solutions for a diverse range of industries. Brady is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and holds a solid international presence, employing more than 5600 people worldwide.

Brady's products help customers increase safety, security, productivity and performance and include high-performance labels, signs, safety devices, printing systems and software. Founded in 1914, the company has a diverse customer base in electronics, telecommunications, manufacturing, electrical, construction, healthcare, aerospace and a variety of other industries. Moreover, Brady's extensive offering includes an ecosystem of RFID solutions, ranging from labels to fixed and handheld readers, antennas and software.

Brady is partnering at the Research & Innovation Conference with Caretag and Dutch IoT Solutions. Based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and operating across Europe and Asia, Caretag specialises in precise instrument tracking, asset management, and bulk reading of medical tools. Their innovative solutions reduce the need for manual management of instruments, setting a new standard in efficiency and accuracy.

B. Braun Medical Ltd is one of the world's leading medical technology companies, dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people around the world.

For more than 180 years, our family-owned company has advanced healthcare by focusing on what matters most: improving clinical outcomes, reducing the cost of care, and delivering meaningful benefits for patients. With over 66,000 employees worldwide, B. Braun partners with healthcare professionals to deliver a comprehensive portfolio of over 5,000 products, services and solutions that support care from hospital to home. Through integrated digital solutions, connected systems and smart technologies, B. Braun helps clinicians work more safely and efficiently, while empowering patients throughout their treatment journey. By sharing expertise and collaborating across healthcare systems, B. Braun continuously drives improvements in clinical practice and supports the delivery of safe, sustainable care.

TORTUS is a UK-based health technology company developing AI-powered clinical assistants to support healthcare professionals and improve patient care. Founded in 2022, the company is focused on reducing the administrative burden on clinicians by automating time-consuming documentation tasks. Its platform uses advanced speech recognition and artificial intelligence to listen to patient consultations and generate structured clinical notes, referral letters, and coding in real time, seamlessly integrating into existing electronic health record systems.

Designed by NHS clinicians and engineers, TORTUS prioritises safety, privacy and workflow integration, with systems that do not retain or train on patient data. By streamlining documentation and improving efficiency, the technology enables clinicians to spend more time with patients while enhancing the quality and consistency of clinical records.

TORTUS is working with NHS organisations across the UK to drive productivity gains, support staff wellbeing, and help deliver more patient-centred care at scale.

Quell Therapeutics is a UK-based, clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing innovative cell therapies for patients with severe immune-mediated and inflammatory diseases. The company is pioneering the use of engineered regulatory T cells (Tregs), which play a critical role in maintaining immune balance, to create targeted treatments designed to control harmful immune responses at their source. By harnessing and modifying a patient's own cells, Quell aims to restore immune tolerance and provide durable, long-lasting therapeutic benefit across a range of conditions, including autoimmune diseases and organ transplant rejection.

Founded in 2019 and headquartered in London, Quell combines cutting-edge cell engineering technologies with scalable manufacturing and translational research expertise. Through collaboration with leading academic institutions and industry partners, the company is advancing a pipeline of next-generation therapies with the potential to transform outcomes for patients with limited treatment options.

NEXUS
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Nexus is where innovative businesses work with the University of Leeds to turn ideas into positive impact for people and places. Here, ambitious companies connect with researchers, academics, fresh graduate talent, and like-minded innovators and entrepreneurs.

We broker the partnerships they need to develop their ideas, scale their businesses and deliver meaningful change – from improving population health and societal wellbeing, to creating more resilient, sustainable places.

Through active collaboration, expert brokerage and a highly engaged community, Nexus helps innovators go further, faster - and with greater impact. We offer support to pioneering businesses who share a commitment to making a positive impact on health.

Whether that's through digital products, medtech innovations or data-driven services with the potential to transform healthcare delivery. We introduce these businesses into Leeds and West Yorkshire's thriving health ecosystem, where we can help them research and develop products, build viable commercial propositions and open the door for wider deployment through the health services.

Fortrea

Fortrea is a leading global clinical research organization (CRO) with over 30 years of clinical research experience, providing comprehensive Phase I-IV trial management, clinical pharmacology, and consulting services across 20+ therapeutic areas. Evolved from Covance and Labcorp, Fortrea is built for biotech and biopharma, medical device and diagnostic innovators, delivering agile, fit-for-purpose full service (FSO), functional service (FSP) and hybrid solutions in about 100 countries. We combine scientific rigor and operational excellence with innovation to help bring therapies from pipeline to patient. Together, exceptional is possible.

Learn more about us at www.fortrea.com and follow us on LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter).

Acorn Compliance

Acorn Compliance helps healthtech innovators meet the regulatory requirements needed to get their solutions into the NHS and beyond. Our platform, Squirrel™, is the industry's first Automated + Assured compliance platform, helping innovators achieve compliance 10x faster while ensuring every output is reviewed by specialists with over 100 years of combined regulatory experience.

From DSPT and DTAC through to DCB 0129, ISO 27001, SaMD and AIaMD, Squirrel™ lets you automate, streamline and manage all your current and future compliance in a single, AI-powered platform, backed by the industry's only compliance warranty.

Hundreds of innovators trust Acorn to help get their solutions safe, compliant and into the hands of those who need them most.

Johnson&Johnson MedTech

At **Johnson & Johnson**, we believe health is everything. Our strength in healthcare innovation empowers us to build a world where complex diseases are prevented, treated, and cured, where treatments are smarter and less invasive, and solutions are personal. Through our expertise in Innovative Medicine and MedTech, we are uniquely positioned to innovate across the full spectrum of healthcare solutions today to deliver the breakthroughs of tomorrow, and profoundly impact health for humanity.

Roche Diagnostics is a division of Roche. We develop and integrate diagnostic solutions that address today's challenges and anticipate tomorrow's needs, transforming the way diseases can be prevented, diagnosed, and monitored. In more than 100 countries, we offer the industry's most comprehensive in vitro diagnostics solutions, covering molecular diagnostics, clinical chemistry and immunoassays, tissue diagnostics, point of care testing, patient self-testing, next-generation sequencing, laboratory automation and IT, and decision-support solutions. From our earliest days, improving patients' lives has been at the heart of our business. At Roche Diagnostics we believe time is precious and we are dedicated to providing diagnostic tests and services that give people more time with their loved ones.

Health Innovation Leeds - in Leeds we're working together to tackle inequalities and transform health and care for all.

Health Innovation Leeds collectively showcases and represents the amazing organisations, people and work happening here in our city – which we are all part of. This includes world-class academic research and globally-leading innovation in healthtech.

Supported by Leeds Academic Health Partnership – one of the biggest of its kind in the UK – Health Innovation Leeds offers a friendly front door to navigate and connect with the city's opportunities, and a collective banner to showcase our strengths nationally and internationally.

Find out more: healthinnovationleeds.com

Keynote speakers

Dr Ai Lyn Tan

Medical Director, Research and Innovation,
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Tan is the Medical Director of Research and Innovation at Leeds Hospitals NHS Trust, an Associate Professor at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine at the University of Leeds, and a Consultant Rheumatologist at Chapel Allerton Hospital and the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre. Dr Tan's main research interests include using imaging techniques such as MRI and ultrasound to improve the understanding of the pathogenesis of arthritis and muscle conditions. Dr Tan was awarded Young Investigator Awards from the British Society for Rheumatology and the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology, and was one of the first NIHR Clinical Lecturers, and subsequently held the NIHR Clinical Scientist Award.

Prior to this, Dr Tan was the Clinical Lead for the Musculoskeletal Specialty Group at the Yorkshire and Humber CRN, and the Research and Innovation Lead for Chapel Allerton Hospital CSU, She currently co-leads the Movement and Physical Activity Research Network at the University of Leeds and is on the steering committee of the Empower Leeds Women Network. Dr Tan is Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Connections Rheumatology, and past Editor-in-Chief of Rheumatology Advances in Practice. Dr Tan is an advocate for physical activity in promoting health and runs every day, and volunteers as a Social Media Ambassador for parkrun UK.

Antony Kildare

Chair, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

A highly respected and accomplished senior leader, Antony Kildare brings extensive experience from non-executive, trustee and chair roles across healthcare and the NHS, as well as over 25 years in leadership positions, with experience spanning commerce, innovation, economic development and regeneration.

Antony was appointed Chair by NHS England in June 2025 and joined the Trust in August 2025.

He brings substantial board-level leadership experience across the NHS, public services, and the voluntary sector. Antony is a former Independent Chair of Medway Community Healthcare and former Non-Executive Director and Independent Chair of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust. He has also served as a Board Director of the International Health Alliance and as Chair of The Health and Europe Centre.

Visit our website for more details about our speakers

Alongside his NHS roles, Antony was Chair of national advocacy provider POhWER for over five years until August 2025. He has held Chief Executive roles in leading national charities and was Board Advisor and inaugural Chief Executive Officer of a children's services company.

Antony has more than two decades of experience in commercial and strategic leadership, specialising in partnership development, organisational change, and large-scale transformation across health, education, children's services, and community programmes in the UK and Europe.

Brendan Brown,

Chief Executive, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Brendan joined Leeds Teaching Hospitals in September 2025 from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

Brendan was Chief Executive at Calderdale and Huddersfield from 2022 until 2025, following almost four years as Chief Executive at Airedale NHSFT alongside his role of System Partnership Lead for the Airedale, Wharfedale & Craven Partnership.

He has previously held the position of Executive Director of Nursing/Deputy Chief Executive at both Calderdale & Huddersfield and Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts. Brendan has a clinical and therapeutic background, and holds a Masters with Distinction from the University of Nottingham.

He has a proven track record for health and care leadership, and consistent improvements in the delivery of healthcare across hospital and community settings.

Lindsey Burrow

Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, BSc(Hons), PgDip, MCSP, MMACP
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Lindsey Burrow is an NHS physiotherapist, charity patron of Leeds Hospitals Charity, author of The Sunday Times best seller, Take Care, and advocate for carers and people living with motor neurone disease (MND). Through her professional career in healthcare and her personal experience supporting her late husband, Rob Burrow CBE, during his journey with MND, Lindsey has become a voice for patient-centred care, awareness and research.

As a Patron of Leeds Hospitals Charity, Lindsey has played a pivotal role in fundraising and campaigning efforts that helped bring the Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease in Leeds from vision to reality. The centre, the UK's first purpose-built facility dedicated to MND care, research, education, and holistic support, stands as a lasting legacy of collaboration between patients, clinicians, researchers, charities, and the wider community.

Alongside her advocacy work, Lindsey has inspired thousands through her fundraising challenges, public speaking, and commitment to improving the lives of others. In recognition of her public service, healthcare leadership, and charitable contributions, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Leeds Beckett University in 2025.

Drawing on both professional expertise and lived experience, Lindsey continues to champion compassionate care, support innovation in MND services and research, and advocate for families navigating life-changing conditions.

Professor Sir John Burn

Professor of Clinical Genetics at Newcastle University and board director, Genomics England

Sir John Burn was born and raised in West Auckland, County Durham and trained as a doctor at Newcastle University where he is Professor of Clinical Genetics. He leads the Cancer Prevention Programme (CaPP) and is an honorary NHS consultant in the Northern Genetics Service which he led for 20 years (1984-2004). Over 300 referenced peer reviewed publications have been cited over 45,000 times (H index 100).

He co-led creation of the Millennium Landmark Centre for Life opened by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in 2000; it houses genetics and fertility NHS services and genomic research and genomic laboratory services for the 8.5 million people in Northern England. The Centre provides science classes to 40,000 children each year and receives up to a quarter of a million visitors.

He chairs DNA device company QuantuMDx Ltd. He is a Trustee of the European Hereditary Tumour Group, the UNESCO NGO Global Variome and of HUGO (the Human Genome Organisation) London. Past roles include President of the European Society of Human Genetics, board member NHS England and chair of Newcastle Hospitals.

Sir John is a non-executive director of the national Medicines Development Catapult. He is Chair of Research and Innovation, NE& Yorkshire Genomics Medicine Service and Chair of the Prevention and Population Research Committee of Cancer Research UK.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2010 for services to medicine and in 2014 was recognised as a ‘local hero’ with a brass plaque on Newcastle Quayside.

John and his wife Linda have two children and four grandchildren. Their daughter and her husband and four children are the Marsh family who became famous in lockdown for their parody songs on YouTube which led to an appearance on Comic Relief. They have over 250,000 subscribers and recently released their first album. John says he is now 8th most famous family member, overtaken by the Marshes and their dog Boo.

Lindsey Hughes

Director of Research, Research in the Innovation,
Research and Life Sciences Strategy Group at NHS England

Lindsey Hughes is Director of Research in the Innovation, Research and Life Sciences Strategy Group at NHS England. During 30 years of NHS service, including 18 years in frontline service provision as an Orthoptist, Lindsey has held various clinical, professional and national leadership roles. Lindsey joined NHS England in 2014 and led the Improving Rehabilitation Services Programme prior to joining the IRLSS group in 2016 where she developed the research programme. She took up her current role in 2022 and is currently also co leading the IRLSS team. Her portfolio includes Embedding Research, Patient and Public Involvement, Innovation Systems and Medicines Innovation"

Becky Baldaro-Booth

Director of Grants and Impact, Leeds Hospitals Charity

After working in the higher education sector for many years, Becky joined Leeds Hospitals Charity in March 2018. Firstly, overseeing the development of Day One Major Trauma Support and latterly leading on the Charity's funding strategy. Having undertaken extensive charity fundraising in her personal life, Leeds Hospitals Charity presented a great opportunity to continue philanthropy whilst utilising her unique professional skills and experience in strategy and partnerships. Becky is working closely with Leeds Teaching Hospitals to deliver the Charity's research and innovation strategy and through charitable funding, contributing to Leeds Teaching Hospitals to deliver on its own.

Dr Amir Khan

GP and Leeds Hospitals Charity Patron

TV's favourite GP, Dr Amir Khan became Leeds Hospitals Charity's first ambassador in March 2021. The Bradford-born GP has worked in West Yorkshire for over a decade. He first appeared on hit TV series GPs: Behind Closed Doors and is now well-known for regular appearances on ITV's Lorraine and Good Morning Britain.

Dr Khan is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at both Bradford and Leeds University, as well as being on the advisory board for the Bradford School of Pharmacy and Practice Managers Association.

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Research and Innovation Conference 2026 Feedback Form

The best conference poster, voted for by you

Healthcare professionals and academics across the City have shared their best academic and improvement work for the year by submitting an abstract and displaying a poster summary

All abstracts submitted have been peer-reviewed with the top posters on display in the Exhibition Hall, Exhibition Centre.

SCAN ME

You can vote for your favourite poster which you think displays the most innovative approach or strongest impact at the Conference by scanning or clicking this QR code. **Voting will close at 3.50pm on the day**.

You can also view all of the abstracts and posters within the LTHT Repository DSpace

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