



SPOTLIGHT ON - THE NHS NW HEALTHCARE SCIENCE NETWORK

What is the NW Healthcare Scientist Network?

The NHS NW Healthcare Science Network is a professional network created in 2004 and has been instrumental in promoting, supporting, developing and representing the Healthcare Science workforce of over 7000 scientists in the NW.

This funded network represents Healthcare Scientists from over 45 different specialisms across the three divisions of Life Science, Physiological Science and Physical Science and Engineering.

Locating Healthcare Scientists in the NW couldn't be easier as a new NW Healthcare Science Directory for 2012 is now available for download at www.nwhcs.nhs.uk

What do Healthcare Scientists do?

This diverse workforce contributes to over 80% of clinical decisions and plays a vital part in ensuring the delivery of quality outcomes which follow the patient throughout their care

They are natural innovators continually developing world class cutting edge technology through the constant development of new tests and treatments to improve health outcomes for patients across the North West.

Innovation

The NW HCS network is currently collaborating with the Chief Scientific Officer Prof. Sue Hill and NW Scientific

Director Angela Douglas (Consultant Clinical Cytogeneticist, Liverpool Womens Hospital) on several innovation projects across the NW – more details can be found at www.nwhcs.nhs.uk

Healthcare Scientists provide expert input throughout entire patient pathways from diagnostic testing, specialist equipment calibration and maintenance, to working side by side with surgeons in theatres and out in the community in GP practices and patients' homes.

Healthcare Scientists celebrate!

The Healthcare Scientist network is proud to announce that 7 NW Healthcare Scientists have received national awards this year.

Chief Scientific Officer's national leadership event

5 five out of the 9 national Healthcare Science Awards presented in London on 30th April 2012 at the Chief Scientific Officers annual leadership event were awarded to NW Healthcare Scientists.

The awards were presented by Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health and Professor Sue Hill, the government's Chief Scientific Officer. The awards were a significant achievement for each of the individuals and their professions but they also reflected and recognised the North West's commitment to the Healthcare Scientist community and to raising the profile of Healthcare Science both regionally and nationally.

Pictured: NHS NW Healthcare Science Workforce Lead, Helen Liggett, with Chief Scientific Officer, Prof. Sue Hill and former Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley - Award for Healthcare Ambassador of the Year 2012.



The National Award Winners

- CLINICAL LEADER OF THE YEAR
[Keith Pearce, South Manchester University Hospitals Trust](#)
- SERVICE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR
[Ed Hinchcliffe, Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR
[Helen Liggett, NHS North West](#)
- EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
[Derek Middleton, Royal Liverpool Hospitals Trust](#)
- HEALTHCARE SCIENCE PATIENT INVOLVEMENT AWARD
[Martin Myers, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust](#)

The Advancing Healthcare Awards 2012

The Advancing Healthcare Awards for Healthcare Science and Allied Health Professions held in London on March 30th 2012 also yielded two more winners from the NW.

The winning entry for the "Rethinking the patient care pathway" was Tony Kay and his team from the Audiology dept. at Aintree NHS Trust who developed one stop clinics for people with tinnitus and balance disorders.

The winning entry for the Chief Scientific Officers "Leadership award" was awarded to Carl Rowbottom and his team at the Radiotherapy Physics dept. Christie NHS Foundation Trust for their work demonstrating how access for cancer patients to intensity modulated radiotherapy could be significantly improved.

Implementing Modernising Scientific Careers in the NW

The Healthcare Scientist workforce is going through a major transformation following the development, and launch in 2010, of [Modernising Scientific Careers](#) (MSC) – a key work programme in the Department of Health to develop a modern career pathway for Healthcare Scientists. The National policies guiding the implementation of MSC are [MSC - the UK Way Forward](#) and [MSC - The England Action Plan](#)

The MSC programme addresses some of the difficulties currently facing the Healthcare Science workforce in terms of education, skill mix and workforce planning by providing a clear framework of education and workforce development.

MSC introduces training programmes at four main levels for the HCS workforce:

- **Assistant / Associate level**
- **Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) – undergraduate level**
3 year programme combining Bachelors level academic study with comprehensive work based learning component.
- **Scientist Training Programme (STP) – postgraduate entry and pre-registration training.**
3 year funded programme with entry routes for existing employees as well as those from outside the NHS that combines Masters level academic study with work based learning.

Higher Specialist Scientific Training

Full details of the programmes, funding and key contacts can be found on the [NW HCS](#) website under "Our Priorities"

Autumn 2012 will see the second cohort of STP trainees being recruited to North West organisations, bringing the total number of NW STP Trainees to 57 across 9 organisations.

- **Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust**
- **Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**
- **University Hospitals of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust**
- **The Christie NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**
- **East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust**

Pictured: Hannah Marsden –
Clinical Embryology (LWH)





HOT TOPIC



Pictured: David Ramage - Medical Illustration and Clinical Photography (LTHTR)

A large number of NW organisations are also providing work based learning to ensure successful delivery of Practitioner Training Programmes. NHS North West is again supporting delivery of work based learning to ensure workforce provision at practitioner level.

The North West is also proud to be delivering a large number of the MSC programmes through its Higher Education Institutes. Collaboration and partnership working has enabled them to deliver programmes of the highest quality. North West HEIs delivering MSC programmes are:



The NW Healthcare Science network members sign up to promote their professions as a STEMNET (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Healthcare Science Ambassador and give their time to STEMNET (www.stemnet.org.uk) getting involved in a wide range of activities outside the NHS for example in supporting the Big Bang Fair - the largest national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Full details of the MSC programme and progress in implementation can be found at www.nwhcs.nhs.uk

Promoting Healthcare Science across the NW

Another key Healthcare Science network work-stream is to promote Healthcare Science as a career to the next generation of scientists in schools and colleges and also to educate the general public and other health professionals as to the vital work Healthcare Scientists do.

New for Autumn 2012...The NW Healthcare Science network will be launching its **new look website** and also launching its **groundbreaking collaboration with the Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Networks as the Centre for Professional Workforce Development (CPWD)** which will provide a single point of access to some 30,000 Healthcare staff across 60 professions!

HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NW HEALTHCARE SCIENCE NETWORK?

Register at www.nwhcs.nhs.uk and www.nwcpwd.nhs.uk for regular updates

Contact:

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WHO IS LEADING ON MSC IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NW?

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Pictured: Chris Golby - Radiotherapy Physics (Christie FT)

