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## Growing Rehabilitation Industries Project (GRIP)

Principal Investigator: Prof Mark Lewis

Recent years have witnessed extraordinary advances in rehabilitation medicine and the technologies that underpin the recovery of people suffering from trauma, injury and chronic health conditions. Some of these advancements have been driven by new battlefield treatments and military contexts, while others have their roots in the requirements of the civilian population, such as the need for muscles, joints and bones to function over much longer periods as people live longer.



Capitalising on this, the UK has become a leader in the development of new medical, healthcare and technological methods, approaches and devices in this field, characterised as “rehabilitation and associated medical technologies”. Many of these innovations have been achieved collaboratively in world-leading East Midlands research institutions, working alongside industry and clinical partners in relevant NHS Trusts. In addition to intensive clinical interventions, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of physical activity in the treatment of chronic conditions, as well as in illness prevention, and of the critical role technology plays to inform and accelerate recovery.

The relocation of the defence rehabilitation provision from Headley Court to the new £300m Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at Stanford (3 miles from Loughborough) in June 2018, with an associated national (civilian) facility to follow shortly, has created a unique opportunity for the UK to harness the competitive economic advantage that its global leadership in rehabilitation medicine and technologies provides.

The ‘Growing Rehabilitation Industries Project’ (GRIP) is a timely intervention, funded by UK Research and Innovation through the Strength in Places Fund, which will create substantial economic growth in the Nottingham/Loughborough/Leicester area. In line with the Government’s Industrial Strategy, rehabilitation and medical technology businesses in the area will benefit from a step change in research and innovation practices, harnessing pioneering research and industrial capability to develop new and innovative projects for local, national and international markets – creating new jobs, high quality skills and driving economic growth.

Project partners include local cutting-edge businesses (such as 3M Healthcare Ltd, Attenborough Dental and Renfrew Group International); leading Research Institutions (Universities of Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent); sector business groups (Medilink East Midlands and BioCity); important health providers (Nottingham University Hospitals and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trusts, DNRC, the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine and the East Midlands Academic Health Science Network) and key local partners (Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Authorities).

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