



GRP Health

Building a Sustainable UK Diagnostic Sector: Meeting the Challenge



Hosted by the University of Warwick,
UHCW IOPDTM and WMHTC

About the event

Fuelled by the new knowledge, investment and innovation demonstrated by the UK diagnostics sector in response to Covid 19, how do we now exploit the commercial, scientific and health opportunities in diagnostics in a post-pandemic world?

This event will bring together key stakeholders from across the NHS, academia, industry and regulatory bodies to explore how we can build on the pandemic testing response to enhance cross-sector collaboration, improve the UK's infrastructure for the development and implementation of innovative diagnostics, and build workforce capacity.

The morning session will comprise a series of keynote presentations followed by an interactive panel discussion. The afternoon session will focus on opportunities to engage with industry, how these can be developed and sustained to enable us to address public health challenges of the future.

For more information visit:

warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/health/events/bsukds/



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Programme

09.30-10.00	Registration	
10.00-10.10	Welcome and Introduction, Professor Lawrence Young and Professor Michael Chappell	
Keynote speakers and panel discussion Q&A		
10.10-10.30	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Diagnostics: Recovery and Renewal - meeting the challenges - Professor Sir Mike Richards - NHS E/I</p> <p>Sir Mike conducted an independent review of diagnostic services in the NHS as part of the NHS Long Term Plan (2019) which highlighted the serious lack of diagnostic capacity in the NHS - equipment, facilities and workforce. It also emphasised the need to do things differently in future - something which has been reinforced by the Covid-19 pandemic. The need to separate 'acute' and 'elective' diagnostics where possible to promote efficiency and to bring many diagnostic tests closer to patients' homes led to the recommendation to establish community diagnostic hubs (CDHs). Alongside this, improving connectivity through digitisation is a high priority as is the development of the diagnostic workforce. NHS England and NHS systems more locally have responded very positively to Sir Mike's report and some initial funding has been secured from the Treasury to support the establishment of the first wave of CDHs. Progress is also being made on digital connectivity and on providing additional training places across a range of diagnostic disciplines.</p>
10.30-10.50	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>The UK IVD Industry's Perspective for the post-COVID future Doris-Ann Williams - BIVDA</p> <p>The COVID pandemic has been a global disaster but the role of diagnostics has never been more highly illuminated to everyone, at least in the UK. The public have taken to routine testing almost like ducks to water and this opens up the opportunity to shift healthcare provision and prevention to include people having an active role in their health. The time is now right to build on the lessons learned and infrastructure created during the past 18 months to improve diagnostics and the UK industry has views on its role which Doris-Ann will outline in her talk.</p>
10.50-11.05	Break	
11.05-11.25	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Driving sustainable diagnostics innovations through cross-sector partnerships-not just for the pandemic Ranga Sampath - Siemens Healthineers</p> <p>The current COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several vulnerabilities in the diagnostics ecosystem. Some of the key lessons we learned were the need for healthy and sustainable interactions between those with ideas and opportunities with those who have the means and abilities to tackle the problem at hand. Whether it was converting exciting new ideas from academia into fieldable, scalable solutions by the commercial sector or generating evidence for commercial solutions through well designed objective, pragmatic studies, there were significant gaps. The global diagnostics challenge is far from addressed for several emerging, as well as chronic, conditions. Industry, academia, regulators and global health leaders must take a partnership-minded approach to ensure we are not constantly in a scramble and panic mode.</p>
11.25-11.45	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Creating Successful Industrial and Academic Partnerships - the positives and pitfalls James Covington - University of Warwick</p> <p>There is a perceived divide between the world and academia and industry, with the well-known "valley of death" between the two groups. However, working closely with industry with an understanding of the needs of both groups can lead to highly successful outcomes. In this talk, I shall discuss my experiences of working with industry, the positives and the pitfalls of collaboration spanning the last 20 years. I will also give some examples of successful projects along with how such projects have been funded in the past.</p>
11.45-12.15	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	Q&As
12.15-12.45	Foyer	Lunch and networking

Responding to the Challenge

12.45-1.30	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Launch of West Midlands Health Technology Cluster ▶ Launch of Tissue Imaging Analytic Centre ▶ Launch of West Midlands Health and Wellbeing Innovation Network
1.30-2.00	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Name: Product Development and Market Access Chair: Dr Lisa Page, Penningtons In attendance: Bob Crowte & Steve Harding (The Binding Site), Lucy Gilbert (UHCW Innovation Hub) Aim: To explore the path from promising technology to successful business considering the challenges of scale up, securing regulation, manufacturing and making sales</p>
	Lecture Theatre OC0.03	<p>Name: AI/Digital Healthcare Chair: Perninder Dhadwar (Imbisoft and Chair of IHWG) In attendance: Eva Truchanowicz (Dignio), Deepak Parashar (University of Warwick) Aim: To lead a discussion about the growing application of digital technologies and AI in the health and care sector including product development and validation, challenges of adoption, procuring digital services, data, governance and ethics, user perspectives and skills.</p>
2.00-2.15	Break	
2.15-3.00	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Name: Funding & Regional Opportunities Chair: David Kidney (WMHTC) In attendance: Minerva (Alex Toft), Mercia (Peter Dines), GBS Growth Hub (Andrew Shortt), C&W LEP (Sarah Windrum), GBS LEP (Kathryn Wagstaff), Innovate UK (Samana Brannigan), WM Growth Company (Anil Vaidya) Aim: to raise awareness of regional initiatives and the support available and make connections. The ambition is not to provide a list of funding opportunities but rather discuss what makes ideas suitable for funding, what investors are looking for, the merits of collaboration and whether there are gaps in local provision.</p>
3.00-3.20	Closing session	<p>Future of Diagnostics Karen Taylor - Deloitte Centre for Health Solutions The global pandemic has felt like 'a series of tidal waves hitting the diagnostic industry and, as the waves recede, the diagnostic landscape will be different'. Different can mean better—improved preventative healthcare, patient empowerment, and immense new business opportunities. Different can also mean worse, for example less investment, reduced or delayed access and lack of innovation. However, we believe that the pandemic and the extent of innovation seen over the past eighteen months means that the opportunities and role of diagnostics in disease management and prevention will have a much higher profile and priority than ever before, including innovations around point of care testing, genetic testing and AI enabled imaging. This is likely to mean a future marked by more collaboration and partnerships between diagnostics makers, health systems and pivotal stakeholders to help drive innovation and access to state-of-the-art testing for all members of society.</p>
	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	
3.20-3.40	Lecture Theatre OC1.05	<p>Professor Neil Anderson Consultant Clinical Biochemist UHCW Director UHCW Institute of Precision Diagnostics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Launch of UHCW Institute of Precision Diagnostics and Translational Medicine ▶ Closing comments
3.40-4.00	Open networking	