



# COLLABORATING NATIONALLY

Much of our work is in collaboration with the AHSN Network, spreading an endorsed set of innovations and connecting partners in our region with national NHS initiatives, such as the NHS Innovation Accelerator and NHS Clinical Entrepreneurs.

## CHESHIRE INNOVATOR JOINS SELECT BAND OF FELLOWS

**A healthcare innovator who has been supported by the Innovation Agency has been selected as a Fellow of the prestigious NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA)**

Charles MacKinnon is Healthcare Director at IEG4 Ltd, a Cheshire company that has developed a computer software package to improve patient care.

The software is designed for teams handling continuing healthcare, a package of care for people with complex health needs. The software helps accelerate the process of assessing an individual's eligibility for care.

The Innovation Agency supported IEG4's funding bids, introduced the company to NHS clinicians and managers in Cheshire and helped an evaluation of its system in Cheshire.

The NIA is an NHS England initiative delivered in partnership with the country's 15 Academic Health Science Networks, including the Innovation Agency. The NIA supports Fellows in spreading high-impact innovations across the NHS to benefit patients and staff and Charles was one of 13 to be selected in the latest cohort.

Charles MacKinnon said: "The Innovation Agency were catalysts for this right from the start. They were the ones who gave me the confidence to apply for funding, for instance, when I didn't think a small digital company in Cheshire would be in the running for it."



Charles MacKinnon,  
Healthcare Director,  
IEG4 Ltd



Clinical Entrepreneur  
Dr Sohaib Imtiaz

## LIFESTYLE AND DIGITAL HEALTH ROTATION FOR SOHAIB

**A junior doctor with a passion for improving health through a combination of lifestyle changes and digital technologies joined the Innovation Agency on placement.**

Dr Sohaib Imtiaz is an NHS Clinical Entrepreneur who won support from those overseeing his training as a doctor to take the unusual route of joining us 'on rotation'.

The NHS England Clinical Entrepreneur training programme gives opportunities to health professionals to develop their aspirations during their training period. The aim is to equip them with the skills, knowledge, experience and leadership capacity needed to deliver on the promise of digital health, genomics, data analytics, advanced technology and social networks for the NHS.

Sohaib is Digital Innovation Director for the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine and has a keen interest in using digital products such as apps, sensors and phones to support a healthy lifestyle.

During his placement he met colleagues working in public health and digital transformation programmes in the North West Coast and nationally, including an AHSN Network artificial intelligence (AI) workshop.

Sohaib said: "The range of meetings and learning experiences I was involved in have been really invigorating and have helped me see how the greatest impact in health can be made – and how the NHS is placed to really accelerate change.

"From my experience, the Innovation Agency remains central to this change and is an example of a great functioning organisation which is making a big impact.

"I have particularly enjoyed the culture at the Innovation Agency which is forward-looking and open to opportunities. It was enjoyable to work in an NHS organisation with wonderful people who have a passion for innovation."