Special EU Programmes Body
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SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: A Closer Look at the Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre Project (ECME)

THEME:

Research and Innovation

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€8,151,717.53

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland and the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Ulster University

PROJECT PARTNERS

Southern Health & Social Care Trust; Dundalk Institute of Technology; Dublin City University, University College Dublin; University of the Highlands and Islands.

PROJECT CONTACT:

p.beaney@ulster.ac.uk

Start Date: 01/03/2017

End Date: 31/12/2021

https://www.ecme-research.com/

@ECMedEng

The innovative ECME project is improving healthcare pathways for cardiac related health conditions by carrying out fundamental research and developing commercially focused platform technologies. Project researchers are currently utilising advancements in technology to revolutionise healthcare delivery, reduce the time spent in hospitals, and support older people in their own home and community safely, independently and comfortably.

Ulster University Professors join COVID-19 Antibody Test Consortium

As a leading medical research centre ECME, and its staff across the UK, have found themselves playing a pivotal role in the national response to the pandemic. Working on the front line directly with patients, they also answered the call to join the UK Government's Rapid Test Consortium. They are assisting with developing antibody tests for COVID-19; and are involved in modelling of various aspects of COVID's spread and impact. Special mention must go to all ECME staff and researchers but especially to all the lead PI's across the six partner sites along with Prof Dewar Finlay and Dr Min Jing (Ulster University), Dr Rob Brisk and Kathryn Owen (Southern Trust) and Denise Burtenshaw (Dublin City University). Several ECME researchers are also working in clinical settings during the COVID response including Dr Ian Menown, Dr Peter Sharpe, Dr David McEneaney and Dr Stephen Leslie.

ECME COVID-19 Mini Projects Successfully Launched

The ECME Mini Projects were launched at the end of April 2020 and received a huge response in applications from right across the UK. COVID-19 had a significant impact on the research and innovation community. In response, ECME invited proposals that aligned with the challenge areas identified by the World Health Organisation, including the provision of PPE equipment and the supply of rapid diagnostic kits. The application and contract process is still ongoing with successful applicants to be announced shortly. An update will be available on the projects website.

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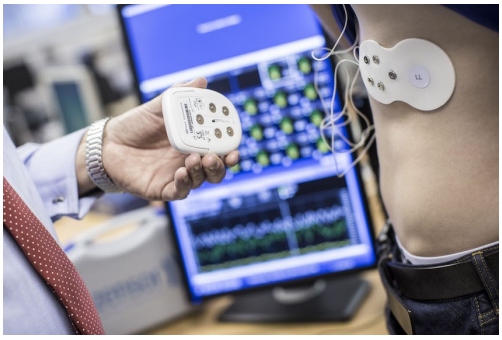
Meet The ECME Researchers

Professor Brian Caulfield is the lead Investigator in the ARCH (Applied Research for Connected Health) Centre, an industry-facing technology centre providing cross-cutting research capability for the benefit of Irish industry in the Connected Health sector. Brian's research programme is focused on exploiting technological advances to enhance human performance in the fields of connected health and sport. As part of the ECME project Brian is researching opportunities created by the advent of integrated electronic health records and personal sensing devices, with resulting data having the potential for transforming care models.

Professor Ian Megson, University of the Highlands and Islands, is a cardiovascular scientist working towards delivering a strategy that ties together chronic illness diagnosis, prevention and management in a remote and rural context. As part of the ECME project Ian is researching novel biomarkers for predicting clinical outcome following administration of contrast agents to patients. The project will involve work with clinical samples and laboratory experiments to explore mechanism.

Utilising Cardiac Health Technology at Ulster University



Ulster University has numerous capabilities in relation to cardiac health technology which are utilised as part of the ECME project. This includes the capability to develop a range of Point of Care Diagnostics and Healthcare Sensor Systems including specific tests for a range of biomarkers and sensing systems i.e. the production of customised bioassays; lateral flow tests; electrode design; and microneedles.