

# MidTECH Matters

News from NHS Innovations West Midlands

## Licence Deals for 2009

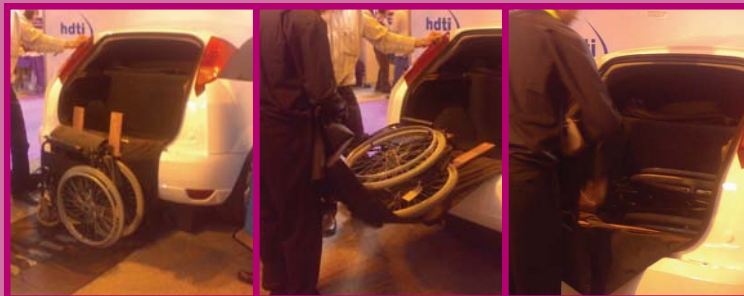
### WE HAVE MOVED OFFICES BUT NOT GONE TOO FAR!

MidTECH has moved to newly refurbished, purpose built offices in the Calthorpe estate in Edgbaston. Next door to our old address, we are now at **4 Greenfield Crescent, Birmingham, B15 3BE**. We hope that you will come and visit us soon.

## The Wheelchair lift

is an innovative idea originating from Peter Thorneycroft, employee of South Birmingham PCT.

The system allows a wheelchair to be lifted easily into the boot of a car. Elderly wheelchair users find it difficult to get out and about and one of the limiting factors is the ability to take a wheelchair on a car journey. Usually the wheelchair would be stored in a boot and it falls to the partner or helper of the wheelchair-user to load and unload this. If they are also elderly this can prove a real problem. The lift can be a manual or totally automated method of lifting. The manual version takes much of the strain away from loading a wheelchair and also ensures the person lifting uses the correct and more efficient muscle groups. In its automatic mode, the wheelchair is neatly stored in the car boot with minimal user intervention. Both systems are very simple to



use, very cheap to construct and can be easily fit to any sized car.

MidTECH has helped in the development and design of the idea and is managing IP protection and commercialisation. They approached a partner organisation called HDTI based at Coventry University who designed and built a prototype of the manual lift. This prototype was then exhibited at Naidex at the NEC last summer. At this exhibition MidTECH was approached by manufacturer, Mangar International Ltd. A licence agreement was negotiated on behalf of the Trust and was signed in January 2009. The product is due to be launched within the next few months.

*Mangar International Ltd are delighted to have signed an exclusive agreement with South Birmingham PCT for the manufacture and distribution of the Wheelchair lift.*

*From initially viewing the prototype at the Naidex show in 2008, Mangar were excited about adding this product to our extensive range of assistance products which are sold Internationally from our HQ in Presteigne, Wales.*

*Having now reached agreement, the product is being placed in the manufacturing programme with minimal adjustments and we plan to have a National launch in the Spring of 2009. This will be followed by integration into the European and USA product offerings in the Summer of 2009.*

*We see the product as the perfect solution for wheelchair users and their carers in ensuring that they have complete mobility.*

**Andrew Stevenson**  
Sales & Marketing Director,  
Mangar International Ltd.

## A message from our Chief Executive David Gleaves



In this issue of MidTECH Matters you will read about the many positive developments taking place involving MidTECH and West Midlands NHS innovations.

Firstly, I'm delighted to welcome several new NHS clients to MidTECH: Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust, Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust, Burton Hospitals NHS Trust, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT, Stoke-on-Trent PCT and Wolverhampton City PCT. These new relationships confirm the growing interest and commitment among NHS bodies in the West Midlands both to innovation and to MidTECH.

MidTECH's primary service to its clients is in the management of NHS innovations from first disclosure through to licence to industry. I'm pleased to report that we have secured our first licence agreement for 2009. You can catch up on this and other licensing activities in this issue.

To support our growing client list and innovation portfolio MidTECH has recruited a new innovation manager, **James Turner** in September 2008; further recruitment is planned for 2009. Team expansion is greatly facilitated by our recent move, in December, to newly-refurbished premises at 4 Greenfield Crescent, Birmingham. Our new offices offer greatly improved accommodation and meeting room facilities and are co-located with Medilink West Midlands, providing a convenient "one-stop shop" for medical and healthcare innovation and business development.

The latter part of 2008 saw the successful finale of the MidTECH Innovation Awards following the launch of last year's innovation competition. The Special Feature shows winning innovations that were highlighted in the 'Oscars' style ceremony hosted by Sandy

Barton (ITV Central News) at Thinktank in Birmingham.

We were delighted when four of the regional finalists also made it through to the National Awards organised by the NHS National Innovation Centre, held in December 2008 at the Magic Circle in London.

Congratulations to all our finalists and winners in both the regional and national awards. We are proud that we have been able to work with you all and will continue to play our part in managing and commercialising NHS intellectual property on behalf of the Trusts and PCTs in the region.

2009 promises to be an exciting year for NHS innovations and MidTECH with the implementation of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review and the greater emphasis that will be placed on innovation within the NHS. I look forward to keeping you abreast of developments and MidTECH's role in these initiatives.

# Record Numbers Rise to Board Challenge

Winners of the 2008 Board Challenge Awards with Sue Turner, Chief Executive of the Trust (picture courtesy of Cordelia Noble)



**Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust staff celebrated their achievements in style at the 2008 Board Challenge Awards, sharing the secrets of their success as they picked up prizes. A festive awards ceremony was held at Uffculme Centre, in Moseley, attended by about 150 staff, service users and board members on December 19.**

Directors had chosen five of the Trust's 12 strategic goals as categories for the Board Challenge, with a winner and runners up being selected in each category.

Sue Turner, Chief Executive of the trust, praised the high standard of entries which had almost doubled to 52 since 2007. She was also "struck by the simplicity" of the overall winner, a partnership project between Occupational Therapy at Reaside Clinic and South Birmingham College, which enabled service users to gain a City and Guilds qualification in construction.

Sue said,

*The standard was very high across the board this year, and it was very hard for me because I read all the entries - but in my mind you are all winners.*

*However I did have to select an overall winner.*

*"People who suffer mental health problems can live in isolation throughout their illness and come back in the community with an overwhelming sense of isolation from a lack of friends, the stigma, and difficulty in talking about how they feel.*

*"But this project takes that a step further to help equip them with life skills so that when they're back in the community they can lead productive lives."*

Marie Walker, acting lead on occupational therapy at Reaside, said: "I am not the one who deserves this award, but the team behind me who have worked so hard to make it a success for those involved."

### **The project team received a trophy and £5,000 grant to help extend their scheme.**

The five other winners, who each received a £1,000 grant to help extend their scheme, were:

- Sophia Feurtado, community development manager, for working with a local pastor to embrace community creativity
- A team lead by Jayne Dickenson, head of learning and development, for their project – Developing leadership and management capabilities
- The 'Which One?' project, lead by Professor Mohan George, clinical director at Oleaster and Dr Romina Lopez Gaston

- Programme director Ken Jackson and community mental health team service manager Paddy McGowan for improving the patient experience and enabling service users to manage their illnesses
- Val Hannah, CPN, and Kate Wilson, a centre nurse, both based at Longbridge, won for their team's Ladies Laughter and Fitness project

Sophia, who is based at Arden Leigh, said:

*"It's great to win an award like this.*

*"The money will be spent on engaging facilitators to help the Chaplain at Reaside support the faith and spirituality groups, and to help Mike Royle, an ex-street pastor in Birmingham, with his work there."*

Professor George praised his colleagues for developing a "fantastic concept" for a leaflet which "everyone seems to respond to."

He added: "We're delighted with this win because we think we've put together a leaflet which is probably the best I've seen in the UK or the world, thanks to Romina's design."

Jayne and her team enjoyed a double celebration as they collected their prize, as they had received a coaching award from the Institute of Leadership and Management on the same day. She said, "It's been a fantastic day, but this is the icing on the cake, and a great way to end the year."

# Thousands of patients set to benefit from Shropshire doctor's invention

**A consultant at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust has developed a new product aimed at reducing the risk of kidney patients catching a super bug.**

Dr Kevin Eardley, consultant nephrologist at the trust, has designed a Tunnelled Jugular Line with Observation Window Drape - which will help reduce the chances of dialysis patients developing MRSA.

The trust, with the aid of MidTECH, the West Midlands NHS Innovation Hub, has signed a licence agreement with 365 Healthcare to manufacture and distribute the new drape.

The product is specifically designed for use during the insertion of tunnelled haemodialysis lines. This procedure, which is performed under local anaesthetic, involves the placement of a catheter into the main vein in the neck via a tunnel under the skin starting at the upper chest. The new drape will help ensure that these lines are inserted in a sterile way and with the least discomfort possible for the patient.

The drapes which are currently available are not purposely designed for the procedure, resulting in a number of problems for the patient including an increased risk of infection.

Dr Eardley, who started his renal training in 1997 and was appointed at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust in 2005, has developed a solution to the problem by creating a specialist drape, specifically designed for the tunnelled haemodialysis procedure.

Dr Eardley said: *"Approximately 30 per cent of the total haemodialysis population in the UK have a tunnelled line and these devices can be a source of sepsis, otherwise known as blood poisoning.*

*"Renal sepsis is a significant cause of illness and death and contributes to eight per cent of all new MRSA cases in the UK. Consequently, patients with tunnelled lines are at greater risk of hospitalisation.*



From left to right is Mike Smith, MidTECH; Kevin Eardley, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust; Rob Gidley, 365 Healthcare.

*"Because there wasn't a drape purposely designed for tunnelled haemodialysis catheter insertion, doctors were having to use drapes which did not have holes the correct size or shape for the procedure. They also had to use more than one drape at a time.*

*"I have therefore designed a specific drape for the insertion of tunnelled haemodialysis catheters. It is appropriately sized and has a specifically designed aperture. It is also designed to help reduce the feeling of claustrophobia many patients experience by having a transparent section covering the patient's face. This will also aid nurses' observation and reassurance of the patient during the procedure.*

*"These new features should increase the efficiency of the drape as an infection control barrier, therefore helping reduce the risk of infection. It will also be more comfortable for the patient."*

Dr Eardley added he hoped his invention would help thousands of patients each year.

He said: *"The number of lines inserted each year is high. At Shrewsbury, we insert 100 tunnelled lines per year for a total dialysis population of 200.*

*"The total dialysis population in the UK is 23,000. It is therefore likely that many thousands of these procedures are performed each year in the UK."*

Rob Gidley, managing director of 365 Healthcare, said: "Dr Eardley's drape is specifically designed for a certain procedure. Before this product, hospital staff were just making do with drapes that were not made for the procedure.

"Dr Eardley's drape is responding to clinical needs. It is about producing the right product for the right procedure.

"The drape has gone into production using the latest technology materials which safeguard against infection and make draping very easy. We are manufacturing an initial stock which we are aiming to launch in November this year.

***As a locally based company, we at 365 Healthcare are extremely proud and pleased to be involved in the development of such an exciting product and we look forward to introducing the new drape to many other similar units to Dr Eardley's.***

David Gleaves, chief executive of MidTECH, said: "We are very pleased to have been able to assist the trust in licensing such an innovative product that will benefit a high number of patients."

# Innovative NHS Staff get their own Night at The Oscars

A trail-blazing project to improve care for confused older people – developed at Birmingham’s Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust – carried off the top prize at a glittering ‘Oscars’ style ceremony.

‘About Me’ – a method of helping nurses and other staff to understand more about individual patients and their backgrounds – triumphed at the MidTECH Innovation Awards in November 2008.

The project, which records a patient’s life history and individual ways of communicating, was the brainchild of Ruth Chauhan, development lead for older people at Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals.

Her prize includes £4,000, which she plans to spend further developing the project so that older people with dementia have a ‘life book’ to take with them anywhere – and those caring for them will know the things that are individual to them, helping staff to communicate and care for them better.



Twelve inventions and innovations, developed by ingenious NHS staff throughout the West Midlands, were finalists in the prestigious awards, organised by MidTECH, the regional NHS innovation hub.

The event, held at ‘Thinktank’ at Millennium Point, Birmingham, was hosted by **Sandy Barton**, health correspondent for ITV Central.



**The two runners-up** in the awards, each receiving a £2,000 cheque to spend on further developing their projects, were:

- ‘Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS)’, developed by Dr Heather Duncan, consultant in paediatric intensive care at Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



- ‘Hand-held diabetes antenatal records’, developed through the Diabetes in Pregnancy Advisory Group of the Perinatal Institute. The project is led by Jane Dale, consultant physician and endocrinologist at Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust.



**‘Ones to Watch’** awards, each receiving £1,000 towards their projects, were presented to:

- ‘Taking a Genetic Family History’, a project led by Candy Cooley, manager of the National Genetics Education Centre at Birmingham Women’s NHS Foundation Trust. This project has also been selected to represent the West Midlands in the ‘diagnostics and therapeutics’ category of the National NHS Innovation Awards.



- ‘New Lighter Weight Breast Prosthesis’, designed by Sally Lane, maxillofacial prosthetist at Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust. This project has also been selected to represent the West Midlands in the ‘medical devices’ category of the National NHS Innovation Awards.



'Jump Start' – a project developed by Andrew Lapper, of Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, with the help of a member of the IT department at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley – has also been selected to represent the West Midlands in the 'ICT and software' category at the National NHS Innovation Awards.

Winner Ruth Chauhan, who now qualifies for the 'publications and media' category of the National NHS Innovation Awards to be held on December 3rd 2008 at the Magic Circle in London, said: "I'm stunned but delighted to have won – it shows that innovations don't have to be technical and can be really quite simple.

"The idea for 'About Me' originally came from the daughter of a patient, who found she had to keep repeating things about her mother to care staff. I feel the award for this project is a tribute to all the older people who need care."

Other finalists include:

- 'CentreX' – an Essential Aid for Radiographers', developed at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust:
- 'Diabetes Inpatient Referral Pathway', developed at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
- 'GP Practice Page', developed at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- 'Infection Prevention and Control Dashboard', developed at Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
- 'Jump Start', developed at Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust
- 'Patient Information Virtual Reality Touch Screen Kiosk', developed at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
- 'Prostate Brachytherapy', developed at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

David Gleaves, chief executive of MidTECH, said:

**"I heartily congratulate our winner, runners-up, 'ones to watch' and all finalists in this year's awards – which are very special because 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the NHS.**

**"The entries chosen for our regional final were of a very high standard and include medical devices, rehabilitation products, software and training products, reflecting the diversity of NHS services.**

**"In our eyes they are all winners but, for the judges, the 'About Me person centred care for confused older people' project, which helps to address very important concerns about how best to care for this group of patients, had the edge.**

**"**



More details about the award winner, runners-up, 'ones to watch' and other finalists can be found at [www.midtech.org.uk](http://www.midtech.org.uk)

## West Midlands Finalist wins National Award

Four inventions and innovations, developed by ingenious NHS staff throughout the West Midlands, were finalists in the prestigious National awards organised by the NHS National Innovation Centre and held on December 3rd 2008, at the Magic Circle in London. Prizes were presented to winners by Dame Yve Buckland, NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

The short listed entries chosen for this year's national finals reflect the diversity of NHS services, and included Medical Devices; Diagnostics & Therapeutics; ICT & Software and Publications & Media.

A Runner-up prize of £2,000 was awarded to **Candy Cooley and her team** from Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust in the 'Diagnostics & Therapeutics' category.

'Taking a Genetic Family History', was developed at the National Genetics Education Centre, Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust.

Hardly a day goes by without a reference to genetics in the media – and this has led to many patients asking healthcare professionals if their condition might be inherited. This project, led by Candy Cooley, manager of the National Genetics Education Centre at the Trust, has developed an educational pack to help

healthcare workers to draw up a family pedigree and identify possible patterns of inherited health conditions. It enables healthcare workers to ask a series of questions and draw up a pedigree, which then helps patients to understand potential genetic links.

Other short listed entries from the West Midlands were as follows:

#### *Medical Devices*

'New, Lighter Weight Breast Prosthesis'

**Sally Lane**

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust

#### *ICT & Software*

'Jump Start'

**Andrew Lapper**

Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

#### *Publications & Media*

'About me'

**Ruth Chauhan**

Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust



### National Innovation Centre



Candy Cooley and the team at the National Awards

## Frequently Asked Questions

In each issue of MidTECH Matters we answer questions on a specific area of intellectual property. This time we focus on Patents.

#### **What is a patent?**

A patent is a form of legal protection covering inventions. You can file a patent to protect how things work, how they are made and what they do. Once you have a patent for an idea other parties cannot make, do or use your idea without your permission.

#### **What if I had the idea at home and worked on it in my own time?**

Legally speaking, it makes no difference. If the idea relates to your normal duties, it is still owned by your employer.

#### **So if I don't own the idea, what's in it for me?**

In accordance with Department of Health guidelines, many Trusts' intellectual property policies allow for an employee who invents a new product to receive a share of any money the Trust makes from its commercialisation.

Exploiting new ideas, even the simplest of devices, is an expensive and risky business with no guarantee of success. If the idea is owned by the Trust, MidTECH can provide expertise and resources to progress the project at no personal cost or risk to you. We cannot do this for ideas owned by individuals, even if they are NHS employees.

You will also have the satisfaction of seeing your idea realised, for the benefit of you, your Trust, the NHS and its patients.

If you are an NHS employee and have any queries relating to ownership of intellectual property, give us a call and we can advise you.

## Events

### Medica 2008, 19-22 November 2008, Düsseldorf, Germany



**NHS Innovations**

Medica 2008, the world's largest medical equipment showcase, provided the setting for the re-launch of NHS PASA's Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing (CEP). Along with NHS PASA and NHS Innovations, CEP hosted the joint stand on the UK pavilion at the event held in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Staff from NHS Innovations were at the exhibition looking for partners to help commercialise and supply a range of innovative ideas that originated from NHS staff throughout the UK. A significant level of business was undertaken with many potential leads to follow up.

This initiative provided a good opportunity to demonstrate how the UK innovation landscape is increasingly joined up, with more obvious linkage between innovative ideas and adoption of new technologies. The simplification of the innovation pathway and a more efficient evaluation process are key elements of Health Minister Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review of the NHS.

MidTECH 4 Greenfield Crescent  
Birmingham B15 3BE

Tel: +44 (0)121 455 0346  
Fax: +44 (0)121 454 1560

Email: [enquiries@midtech.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@midtech.org.uk)  
[www.midtech.org.uk](http://www.midtech.org.uk)