



# Impact Report 2022/23



# Opportunities & Challenges

We are at a time of great opportunity and great challenge, but also a time when the kind of academic health science system we aspire to build around King's Health Partners is starting to deliver the transformational impact we desire.

We are driving forward the life sciences agenda and making remarkable progress with the rapid adoption of healthcare technology, fundamental clinical translational research, and the way we practice and deliver healthcare. We are training and developing future generations of healthcare professionals who have the skill and ambition to improve the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. We are committed to supporting commercial clinical trials activity to ensure our patients have the earliest possible access to innovative treatments, encourage life science investment in south London and reduce costs for the NHS.

The developments and case studies set out in this report are only possible due to the strengths of partnership working and collective ambition, and we are committed to building on this work further for the benefit of people who live in our communities.

I would like to thank everyone across King's Health Partners for their remarkable contributions and for their continued commitment to improving outcomes for patients and local people.

**Rt. Hon Prof Lord Ajay Kakkar KBE PC**  
**Chairman, King's Health Partners**



# Introduction

**King's Health Partners** is building on our five-year strategy to accelerate progress in three ambitious, connected priorities - Personalised Health, Health Digital and Data Sciences, and Population Health. We continue to take a mind and body approach, integrating mental and physical health across everything we do, including addressing the inequalities in health outcomes experienced by people with mental illness.

Our priorities are supported through focusing our energy and resources in three enabling development domains: continuing to develop our life sciences partnerships (including the SC1 Innovation District), investing in our health people through KHP Education and King's Clinical Academic Training Office, and focusing and driving innovation through system partnership.

We are committed to focusing our energy in these areas, driving change through clinical academic collaboration, and improving health outcomes through sustainable system partnerships. Our strategy is ambitious, and success is contingent on building on the strong foundations of our partnership.

We are strengthening our research and innovation infrastructure to ensure the continuity and growth of our partnership's translational research capability through the launch of the Centre for Translational Medicine, working closely with the NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre. We are improving patient experience, health outcomes and building a research-led approach to population health using health data sciences. We are working within our integrated care systems including to develop a sector-wide approach to research and innovation collaboration.

We must go much further and much faster in addressing inequity in patient outcomes and in staff opportunities. King's Health Partners has an essential role to play in ensuring our programmes and research enrolls and benefits the diverse population we serve.

This impact report sets out our delivery and impact over the last year, across our priority areas and development domains, and demonstrates how we are adopting and spreading integrated mental and physical healthcare approaches across our programmes.

**“We must go much further and much faster in addressing inequity in patient outcomes and in staff opportunities.”**





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# Our Partnership

**King's Health Partners** is an Academic Health Sciences Centre bringing research, education and clinical practice together across three NHS Foundation Trusts, Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley with a world-leading university, King's College London.

## Leadership changes

Jill Lockett stepped down as Managing Director over the summer, marking the end of an era characterised by some remarkable achievements. Jill's leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering positive commitment to our mission over the last 11 years have positioned King's Health Partners as an innovative and forward-thinking Academic Health Sciences Centre. We wish Jill all the best for her future endeavours.



## Together we have:



› More than

# 45,000

NHS staff



› More than

# 4,100

hospital beds



# 33,000

› students from more than 190 countries



# 250,000

› alumni



› More than

# £270M

annual research income

# Our Pioneering Mind & Body Approach

**The mind and body are inseparable**, and mental and physical health conditions are often connected. Integrating mental and physical healthcare services improves the care that patients receive, by preventing health problems and addressing inequalities in access to care and treatment.

“For over 100 years we’ve known that people living with serious mental illness do not live as long or as healthy lives as people without. This issue cannot be managed by mental health, physical health or social care alone. This is a system problem, which requires a system solution.”

— **Dr Mary Jane Docherty**, Interim Chief Medical Officer, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

Our partnership is committed to joining up and delivering excellent mental and physical healthcare, research and education, so that we treat the whole person. As an example, anxiety and depression are higher in people with treatment-resistant hypoglycaemia. This year, King’s Health Partners Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity’s psychoeducational programme (HARPdoc) has been shown to significantly reduce rates of severe hypoglycaemia in its participants, as well as significantly improving their scores for diabetes distress, general anxiety, and depression. There is currently no other treatment option for this group highly vulnerable patients.

“We already know from patients, health professionals, and published research how important mind-body integration is in healthcare outcomes; now we need to understand how to make it a reality for people within our clinical services and to spread that learning nationwide.”

— **Prof Mark Edwards**, Academic Director of KHP Mind & Body Programme and Professor of Neurology and Interface Disorders at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) at King’s College London



**Dr Theo Boardman-Pretty**, Speciality Doctor, shares his experience of using Consultant Connect

## King’s Health Partners Mind & Body Programme

This year, KHP’s Mind & Body Improvement Network brought together over 960 people across the UK to support integration in mental and physical healthcare through a shared community of practice, delivering education, training, and shared learning sessions, and working directly with organisations at local, regional, and national level.

## Physical health interventions for people living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

King’s Health Partners, in partnership with Consultant Connect, improved the physical healthcare provision for inpatients at South London and the Maudsley NHS FT. The collaboration enabled more than 500 clinicians from the Trust to access real time physical health guidance from 60 acute specialties. 70% of these of queries resulted in people receiving physical health care from the mental health setting, avoiding referrals or unnecessary transfers.

“Consultant Connect is a great tool, with a particular relevance to doctors in psychiatry. It is helpful to have a rapid and direct access to specialist physical health advice... particularly on a busy inpatient ward.”

— **Dr Theo Boardman-Pretty**, Specialty Doctor, Lambeth Home Treatment Team

In addition to Consultant Connect, a new physical health clinic for inpatients responded to more than 200 referrals with 29% people subsequently not requiring referral to physical health services. These two interventions were part of the portfolio of the Integrating our Mental and Physical Healthcare Systems ([IMPHS](#)) project at South London and Maudsley NHS FT.

## Prioritising the physical needs of people living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

The Mind & Body programme is reviewing the physical health needs of the adult SMI population, looking at national and local data to inform best practice in care. This review will inform commissioners and providers in south east London about the prevalence of physical health conditions amongst the SMI population and how the physical health needs of people with SMI should be addressed at population level.





**Read** more about the IMPARTS legacy



**Experts by experience** share their perspectives from a Pain: Equality of care and support in the community (PEACS) workshop in Lambeth

### **Mental health interventions for people with physical health conditions**

The [IMPARTS](#) project, integrating mental and physical health care in acute settings, has developed an evidence base for integrated care and has delivered numerous training and educational opportunities. The project has delivered 145,000 screening encounters, 41 research publications, with more than 39,000 learners from 188 countries joining the FutureLearn course. As IMPARTS concludes, it leaves a significant legacy, laying the foundations for a broader approach to integrating healthcare which considers community and social factors.

### **Chronic pain and mental health**

KHP Mind & Body Programme's Pain: Equality of care and support in the community (PEACS) project, in partnership with GP practices across Lambeth, works with people from Black communities to co-develop and test a bio-psycho-social approach to caring for people living with chronic pain in primary care. More than 350 people, including over 200 people from the Black community have received support from the PEACS pathway, from access to self-help materials, to attendance at clinically delivered intervention workshops. Initial findings suggest that patients developed new knowledge and skills to support them in managing chronic pain, have increased levels of social connection and reduced feelings of isolation with mutual support from others who understand their lived experience. There have also been statistically significant improvements to patient physical health.

“It made me feel like I wasn’t alone - with chronic pain you become so isolated, and the workshops let me meet so many people with my shared experience...”

### **Leadership changes**

We continue to work towards integrating mental and physical healthcare across our partnership. We are pleased to welcome Prof Mark Edwards, Dr Siobhan Gee and Dr Mike Dille, who will provide academic and clinical leadership to the KHP Mind & Body programme. Thank you to Prof Matthew Hotopf and Dr Sean Cross for their leadership of this programme over the years. [Find out more about the appointments to the KHP Mind & Body programme.](#)



Find out more about the NIHR Maudsley BRC's nine research themes

**We are improving outcomes for patients** by focusing on our areas of strength across healthcare technology and MedTech Science, diagnostics and therapeutics. We are diagnosing people faster and providing personalised treatments, focusing on genomic medicine, advanced cell and gene therapies, and healthcare engineering, including in medical imaging, mental health and neuroscience.

We are proud to launch our Centre for Translational Medicine to facilitate translational medical and health research. This year we announced the release of the first of a series of funding calls designed to underpin and accelerate translational medical research across our partner organisations.

This year, NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre was awarded £41 million to develop targeted treatment for mental disorders and pain, supporting nine research themes.

King's Health Partners received investment in novel therapies and cell therapy facilities, including more than £7 million for the King's College London's Gene Therapy Innovation Hub to advance the development of new genetic treatments, with potential to transform care for people with rare and life-threatening genetic diseases.

# £12M

- › funding award for the UK's first total body PET clinical research facility from the Medical Research Council

# £11.1M

- › investment for clinical research at the Pears Maudsley Centre for Children and Young People from the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF).



Final results of brain cancer clinical trial published

**NHS-Galleri**, a trial revolutionising cancer screening and early detection, has broken international records for set-up and recruitment. KHP Neurosciences has advanced novel treatment for glioblastomas - a vaccine trialled at King's College Hospital has shown to prolong life in patients with aggressive tumours. This is the first time in 17 years that such significant outcomes have been achieved in a phase 3 trial for a systemic treatment in newly diagnosed glioblastoma, and the first time in 27 years that any treatment has been shown to extend survival in recurrent glioblastoma.

Our world-leading scientific and clinical strengths have enabled spinout successes to progress gene therapies to support people living with neurodegenerative disorders including dementia, cardiac regeneration – the repair and regeneration of heart tissue, and the development of therapies to address solid tumours.

We are a core partner driving NHS South East Genomic Laboratory Hub which is commissioned to deliver genomic and genetic testing services across south London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, for 20 acute and nine non-acute NHS Trusts, ensuring equitable access to testing for 8.4 million people.

The King's Centre for Lung Health, which opened in June 2022, is addressing some of the great healthcare challenges of our day, and is pioneering respiratory research, new treatments for acute illness in patients with asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease and innovative diagnostics for lung health and illness.





### Anti-cancer drug trials

The first ever clinical trial of a new class of immunotherapy for cancer has shown promising results that could benefit patients who don't respond to existing cancer treatments. Led by Prof James Spicer and Prof Sophia Karagiannis, funded by Cancer Research UK, the study tested whether a type of antibody called IgE could be used to treat cancer.

Immunotherapy stimulates the body's natural defence system to attack cancer. All existing antibody drugs used in cancer belong to an antibody type called IgG, but IgE antibodies have not been tested in humans before. Results from the Phase I trial show the drug MOv18 IgE shrank the tumour of a patient with ovarian cancer who had not responded to conventional therapy. Results also showed treatment with MOv18 IgE was well tolerated in almost all patients.

"IgE is a completely new form of antibody therapy which has shown great promise in this Phase I trial. The results pave the way to development of an entirely new class of anti-cancer drug for people with chemotherapy-resistant cancers."

— **Prof James Spicer**, Professor of Experimental Cancer Medicine at King's College London and Consultant in Medical Oncology at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

"There are still people with cancer who do not respond to conventional treatments, including clinically available immunotherapies. This trial builds on our long-standing and ongoing work in the laboratory that suggests that IgE could be an effective treatment that can offer additional benefits to complement those of established IgG antibodies in the clinic.

"While we are still in the early stage of trials, our next steps will be to evaluate IgE in larger and different groups of patients and to continue studying how IgE antibodies are able to wake up the patient's immune system to fight different types of cancer."

— **Prof Sophia Karagiannis**, Professor of Translational Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy, King's College London

### Point of care testing in the treatment of people with schizophrenia

Clozapine is the most effective medication in the treatment of schizophrenia, which affects around 300,000 people in the UK. Prescribing clozapine can be complicated because patients must have their blood tested regularly with a venous sample, which can lead to people refusing to take the drug.

Clinicians at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust were ambitious to improve take up of the drug. Led by Prof David Taylor, the team developed and introduced two portable point of care machines to measure clozapine blood levels and white cell counts from a finger prick. The portable machines provide results in just six minutes, in comparison to around four days for lab results.

106 patients with schizophrenia who were being treated with clozapine were surveyed. 85% of patients preferred point of care testing, 90% reporting that point of care testing improved clinical care, and 83% agreeing that the point of care test made them feel more involved in their treatment.



### Cystic Fibrosis (CF) reproductive and maternal health – a clinical and academic innovation project

Introducing gene-specific modulator therapy (Kaftrio) in 2020 resulted in dramatic improvements in CF-health alongside a rise in pregnancies in women with CF. Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals has the largest adult CF cohort in Europe with 600 patients and has seen a four-fold increase in pregnancies, a trend mirrored in US and UK data.

Previously, pregnancy outcomes for women with CF were poor, with unmet clinical and research issues regarding CF-reproductive, maternal and neonatal health needing to be addressed. The CF Reproductive and Maternal Health (CF-R&MH) innovation project, funded by the KHP Cardiovascular & Respiratory Partnership, aimed to provide patient-centred, standardised approaches to CF-antenatal, peripartum and post-partum care; improve access, inequity outcomes and set standards for care for women with CF.

This project has established a CF reproductive and maternal health multi-disciplinary team (MDT) including dedicated Obstetric Physician and monthly outreach CF-Obstetric MDTs. The CF-R&MH clinical academic network received £75K of external funding and is leading a CF Trust grant submission for a Strategic Research Centre award to fund a multinational research collaboration, worth £800K.

More than 45 patients have accessed the service. 50% of pregnancies were managed through local obstetric units via outreach multi-disciplinary teams. Patient public engagement through CF Trust and social media praises the service, with positive patient testimonials, highlighting excellent joined-up patient and interprofessional communication.

"With this service this time... I felt an overwhelming sense of 'I'm safe'... I was confident my pregnancy was going to be fine, and I knew I was going to be fine."

— **Woman with CF** - second baby under this service



**NHS data** is not only essential for direct patient care, but invaluable for researchers and scientists. We are integrating health data, accelerating the discovery of new treatments, and helping people living in south east London and beyond receive faster access to care, diagnostic tools and medical technology.

Used to its full potential, big data drives innovation and research, can be used in population health management to predict outcomes and understand complex causality, and helps health and social care providers plan better services.

King's Health Partners, together with South East London Integrated Care System (SEL ICS), has developed a blueprint and delivery plan which builds on King's Health Partners programmes to integrate health data and enable linked longitudinal data at scale.

For example, South East London Plasma Cell Disorders Registry initiated by King's Health Partners Haematology, collects data on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for all patients with myeloma and related plasma cell disorders. The information collected will be used in research studies.

Patients now have greater control over their health, thanks to the development of new digital platforms including apps and self-reporting tools, and we are steadily building public confidence in the use of data and how it is protected.

King's Health Partners, together with SEL ICS are proud to be partners in the One London bid to NHS England for a subnational secure data environment. The successful bid includes £9 million for the London Secure Data Environment, and £2 million in recognition of the AI Centre for Value Based Healthcare capability to drive change.

We are keeping up with rapidly advancing technology to provide the best quality health and care for people in our communities. King's College London has launched a Digital Futures Institute to explore how populations can live well with new and emerging technology.

### King's Health Partners Digital Health Hub

King's Health Partners secured a £2.5 million award to establish a Digital Health Hub for health partners across south east London to access specialised translational infrastructure. This is one of three hubs nationally, and unique to London.

It incorporates four King's College London Faculties, King's Health Partners, 20 industry members and a further 10 organisations and NHS Trusts across the UK.

The Hub will support the development of new digital technologies and reduce the time it takes for these to benefit patients. By providing expertise, partnerships with industry, and a physical location for technology developers to work together, this project will enable new businesses to grow rapidly, increase the availability of digital health technologies nationally and make a more immediate difference to patients' lives.

"Our Hub will accelerate the development of digital health technologies nationally. This will drive academic research and support the growth of emerging businesses rapidly making a significant difference to patients' lives."

— **Professor Sebastien Ourselin** FEng FMedSci, Head of School, BMEIS, King's College London



### Providing mental health support through apps

Online portal myHealthe collects outcomes reported by patients and integrates them into Electronic Health Records. It provides rapid triage and e-recruitment to mental health digital therapy trials and has been adapted to provide other services. To support young people on waiting lists for mental health treatment, young people, teachers and parents worked with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Digital Lab, part of the [King's Maudsley Partnership](#), to add new features to the myHealthe portal to serve as a 'virtual waiting room'. The pilot was launched in spring 2023 with tailored local resources now available to families in Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Croydon.

"I believe that the advent of the CAMHS virtual waiting room for young people shows that our message 'mental health matters' is being heard. Now that the CAMHS virtual waiting room is active it will lift a burden on many young people."

— **Nenneh**, a mental health ambassador in Year 11 from a Southwark school

myHealthe has so far been implemented in 12 NHS and local authority areas across the UK, with more than 1,000 families enrolled – a figure which is rapidly increasing.

### Caring for surgical wounds

Surgical site infections (SSIs) can affect up to one-third of surgical patients. SSIs are a significant health burden on patients and costly for healthcare providers and are estimated to cost the NHS £700 million a year.

The ISLA Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance project, driven and funded by King's Health Partners Cardiovascular & Respiratory Partnership programme together with Islacare, a health technology start-up, is an innovative approach to post-operative wound management and surgical site infection surveillance.

Patients involved in the project uploaded images of their surgical wound at agreed intervals to the ISLA app. Patients using the app were six times less likely to be readmitted for SSI than patients receiving routine follow up, and eight times less likely to require re-operation for SSI. More than 7,750 patients have benefitted from the ISLA app.



Watch the highlights from the Population Health & Equity Conference 2023

**South east London** faces significant population health challenges, some of which are common to urban locations and some of which are unique to our area. There is a high burden of physical and mental ill health, with growing health inequalities. We are improving our understanding of the societal implications for prediction, early intervention and moving to disease prevention, across diverse population groups, focusing on equity in everything we do.

“Working in partnership allows us to push the boundaries of our current understandings of the reasons behind, and actions towards, health equity.”

— **Prof Laia Becares**, Professor of Social Science and Health, King’s College London

We work with South East London Integrated Care System to form the South East London Coalition for Better Health & Equity, working together with primary care and voluntary and community organisations to focus on Population Health Management and addressing inequalities in health provision. This year, a £5.8 million health inequalities fund was coordinated through our joint Population Health & Equity programme and £4 million secured for system-wide work to focus on the Vital 5.

The Vital 5 has been a priority for King’s Health Partners since the 2017 Lancet report ‘the global burden of disease’ was published, and this investment allows us to go further and faster in addressing five modifiable risk factors that contribute to the leading causes of illness, disability and early death in England. These are: tobacco dependence, hypertension, (un)healthy weight, mental illness and alcohol intake.

We have launched the Vital 5 Check programme, a new screening tool for Vital5 risks, with signposting and onward referral for patients. To support our work to achieve health equity, the programme prioritises those in greatest need, reaching people through community pharmacies, mass vaccination clinics and outpatients departments. 29 community pharmacies in south east London have signed up so far, completing 300 Vital 5 Checks. More than 100 Vital 5 Checks have also been delivered in outpatients departments.

#### Improving hypertension outcomes for patients

Hypertension, one of the Vital 5, is responsible for 12% of GP appointments, with an estimated cost to the NHS of over £2 billion each year. In south east London, controlling the blood pressure of 80% of people with known hypertension, over three years, would prevent 172 heart attacks with an associated saving of £1.3 million, and prevent 258 strokes with an associated saving of £3.6 million.

Clinical Effectiveness South East London, hosted by King’s College London via King’s Health Partners led a One London Pathfinder funding bid for £250k to create a south east London-wide hypertension and inequalities dashboard. We are working in partnership with [Mabadiliko Community Interest Company \(CIC\)](#) to understand people’s attitudes around hypertension, system mistrust and methods to improve diverse participation in hypertension research. We are adapting our approach to testing, developing protocols to provide blood pressure testing in the community.

Blood pressure testing is taking place through the Vital 5 check at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS FT mass vaccination clinic. More than 1,455 checks have been completed with two in three people opting in for further care, with new innovative routes for following up with patients.

“We want to understand how trust can be built to improve the information that patients’ share with health services. In terms of clinical effectiveness, our hope is that our findings generate some tactical recommendations to help primary care teams support people in culturally sensitive ways.”

— **Nadine Fontaine Palmer**, Director, Mabadiliko CIC



### Community initiatives

Our communities play a significant role in leading conversations about healthy futures. Kevin De La Rosa, owner of Mane Couture Barbers and Mr Jonathan Noël, Consultant Urological Surgeon at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS FT launched an inspiring community health initiative to give expert NHS advice to barber shop customers on topics including prostate cancer, mental health and Sickle Cell Disease.

"Information has to be shared, and this is one way, through Kevin's barber shop. Hopefully others will follow suit, it's an amazing initiative he has come up with."

— **Mr Jonathan Noel**, Consultant Urological Surgeon at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS FT

South London Listens promotes recovery, works to prevent people experiencing a mental ill-health crisis and finds solutions to challenges posed by work and wages, loneliness and isolation and parental mental health. The programme, which has set up more than 40 Be Well Hubs in south London, works with communities, local authorities, mental health trusts and NHS Integrated Care Systems to drive the mental ill-health prevention agenda.

### Up!Up!

KHP Diabetes, Endocrinology & Obesity has supported partners to deliver a Weight Management Programme Up!Up! Living Lighter the African and Caribbean Way for the Black African and Black Caribbean communities in Lewisham. The programme has led to the development of culturally tailored community provision across all six boroughs in south east London. 90% of participants taking part in the programme agreed that Up!Up! helped them feel supported in managing their health. Both weight and waistline reduced by a mean 4.5% in 12 weeks despite there being no focus on weight loss in the programme.



← **The Neasden** barber shop owner taking community health into his own hands



← **Watch** the highlights from South London Listens Accountability Assembly 2022



# Developing the Future of Life Sciences and Innovation

**Valuable relationships** with industry partners inspire innovation and help to develop therapies and technology. King's Health Partners spinout creation exploring cell and gene therapy has continued to attract investment. This year AstraZeneca entered an \$85 million collaboration with Quell Therapeutics for cell therapy in Type 1 Diabetes and Inflammatory Bowel Disease. King's Health Partners Haematology partners with Bristol Myers Squibb on age-related clonal haemopoiesis.

"At its most simple, innovation in healthcare is critical to delivering better outcome for patients in the population we serve."

— **Dr Rachna Chowla**, Joint Director Clinical Strategy, King's Health Partners

We are proud to be part of SC1 London Life Sciences Innovation District, with the vision to create a transformative life sciences ecosystem in central London dedicated to innovation, creative partnerships and to improve life for our local and global communities. SC1 is home to three Innovation Hubs: the BioMedical Hub at the London Bridge Campus, the MedTech Hub at the Westminster Bridge Campus, and the Mind & Body Hub at the Denmark Hill Campus.

Health equity is at the heart of SC1 which will foster public-private partnerships, via the Innovation Hubs, to develop solutions to society's complex health care challenges. By enabling collaboration between visionary start-ups, founders, entrepreneurs and partners from the BioPharma, BioTech, Technology, Finance and Business worlds, SC1 aspires to improve the lives of people locally and globally.

Strong progress has been made over the past year in the four strategic pillars that anchor SC1. These include Entrepreneurship Enterprise and becoming the go to' ecosystem for start-ups, entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs); a Partnership Strategy which provides a framework and synergistic fit for BioPharma, Big Tech and the investment community; an Employment & Skills Strategy that focuses on leveraging local talent; and a Real Estate Strategy across the three Innovation Hubs that provides the space to realise this unique vision.

Our physical presence within SC1, in particular at the MedTech Hub is expanding, all critical to fostering public-private partnerships. The [London Institute for Healthcare Engineering \(LIHE\)](#), with major co-investment, will open in early 2024, co-locating academics and clinicians, and harnessing the MedTech sector's commercial innovation power. This year we were proud to open the Manufacture of Active Implants and Surgical Instruments (MAISI) Centre - established by King's College London's School of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences, in partnership with University College London and Newcastle University and King's College London. Finally, the [Surgical & Interventional Engineering Validation Suite](#) opened at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT, expediting translational research from bench to bedside.

"The first year for SC1 was foundational, setting us for long-term success. I am thrilled that our mission around reimagining innovation and health equity is resonating, fostering public-private partnerships as we build out a truly global life sciences innovation district."

— **Georgina Rizik**, Executive Director at SC1



←  
Find out more about KHP Ventures' portfolio



←  
Find out more about the Health Innovation Network's projects this year

KHP Ventures is rapidly accelerating, offering equity investments in healthcare expertise for MedTech and digital start-ups.

King's Health Partners works closely with south London's Health Innovation Network, which works to increase the spread and adoption of innovation across large populations, at pace and scale.

## Stem cell therapy for Type 1 diabetes

King's College Hospital has been selected as a site to conduct a promising new research study using [stem-cell therapy to treat Type 1 diabetes \(T1D\)](#). The novel treatment called VX-880 by Vertex Pharmaceuticals hopes to help those with T1D produce their insulin again. The treatment involves transplanting lab-grown insulin-producing beta cells into people with T1D. By replacing the destroyed beta cells, the VX-880 treatment allows the body to produce its insulin again, potentially reducing the need to inject insulin.

"The VX-880 trial is a landmark step towards using renewable approaches to replace the insulin-producing cells that are lost in type 1 diabetes. We are very pleased to be part of this journey."

— **Dr Yee Cheah**, Diabetes Clinical Lead for Islet Transplantation and Director of the Islet Isolation Facility, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

## Psilocybin therapy for treatment resistant depression

Psilocybin therapy has potential to benefit more than 100 million people worldwide who suffer with treatment resistant depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anorexia nervosa. Investigators, led by Dr James Rucker, demonstrated that psilocybin therapy was safe to deliver to groups of trial participants and that a single 25mg dose of psilocybin therapy led to a clinically significant reduction in depression symptoms for up to six weeks and recovery of nearly a third of participants at 12 week follow up. King's College London, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Compass Pathways are opening the £11 million Centre for Mental Health Research and Innovation, which will test the safety and efficacy of psilocybin therapy and will allow much faster recruitment of participants into trials in the UK.



Read KHP Education strategy  
Beyond the Curriculum

**We are ambitious** for our future healthcare workforce and proud that King's College London has been awarded a total of 46 Integrated Academic Training posts for 2024 and 2025, representing the highest allocation in London for 2024 and joint second total number nationally.

The KHP Education Strategy 2023–2028, *Beyond the Curriculum*, formed with the views of 129 leaders across our partnership, focuses on two priorities – leadership and health data sciences. These are supported by our growing Learning Hub and our partnership with King's Clinical Academic Training Office, which provides advice, best practice and information on careers and support for funding. Together with our partners, we are focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) and widening participation.

Our partnership is committed to embedding inclusive practices and cultures to improve services and patient outcomes, raise staff morale, and reduce staff turnover. We are adopting anti-racism policies and developing inclusive leaders through programmes and courses.

“The health and wellbeing of our staff and workforce is the top priority in health systems and we have got to look after our staff better. Our greatest assets are our people, and we need to treasure and cherish them in every way we can.

— **Prof Dame Anne Marie Rafferty** CBE, Professor of Nursing Policy at King's College London

In 2022/2023:

# 159

courses on our  
KHP Learning Hub

# 9,107

people across **74** countries  
used the KHP Learning Hub

# 12

Academic Surgical Ground Rounds  
have taken place with **383** attendees

# 5,814

people joined KHP multi-disciplinary  
events and webinars

# 800

plays for podcast series  
KHPHaemPearls

# 366

people attended our  
Annual Conference 2022

# 808

staff and managers attended  
KCL Diversity Matters training

# “I am passionate about improving the lives of those living with chronic breathlessness”



## Improving the lives of people living with chronic breathlessness

Dr Charles Reilly, Consultant Physiotherapist in Chronic Respiratory Disease at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded £1.2million for a five-year advanced fellowship by the Health Education England/National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Integrated Clinical and Practitioner Academic Advanced Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (ACAF) scheme.

The NIHR ACAF fellowship allows Dr Reilly to advance his research and leadership expertise, develop his research team and fund his research project titled: Improving the lives of people living with chronic breathlessness due to advanced disease via a self-guided internet-based supportive intervention, SELF-BREATHE. As part of Dr Reilly's fellowship, he will conduct a multi-centre randomised controlled clinic trial, where patients will be recruited from across partner organisations.

Dr Reilly's fellowship builds upon his collaborative working relationships, strengthening clinical-academic links across KHP.

“I am passionate about improving the lives of those living with chronic breathlessness due to advanced disease. This award builds upon my strong academic affiliation with Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London. I hope my success will inspire other Allied Health Professional to apply to the NIHR and develop their own clinical academic careers.”

— **Dr Charles Reilly**, Consultant Physiotherapist in Chronic Respiratory Disease at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**King's College London's** Translational Research Office hosts the Translational Academy, a training programme in translational research and co-ordinates the Commercial Development Fund (CDF), an internal funding scheme offering investigators £10–50K to improve the near-term commercial-readiness of translational research projects.

We are also encouraging people to find out more about research through our clinical academic partnerships. King's Health Partners Women and Children's Health launched the Knowledge Hub, providing support for research development. Ask the Institute, which has generated £450k since inception, embeds research in the NHS by providing advice and guidance to clinical staff helping to narrow the gaps between best evidence and best practice.

## Mind of the Matter

Mind of the Matter is a YouTube-funded partnership with King's Health Partners, King's College London and South London and Maudsley NHS FT, worth £200k. The series provides expert-led content which connects viewers with trusted mental health information from experts, debunking myths and helping to prevent the spread of misinformation. With more than 120k views, the series provides more than two hours total running time of advice and guidance on topics including depression, anxiety and eating disorders.



←  
**Watch** our series  
Mind of the Matter



**Our clinical academic groups** bring together the best in education and training, research, and clinical services. The strength of our Clinical Academic Groups and Clinical Academic Partnerships positions us as world leaders in driving improvements in patient and population health outcomes and addressing structural causes of burden of disease and health inequalities, locally, nationally and internationally.

“In a Clinical Academic Partnership, I am surrounded by a network of highly talented people who are always willing to help solve problems and offer advice. I strongly believe that to achieve the highest quality of care for our patients we need to work in partnership, not just with each other but with our patients as well.”

— **Dr Alistair Duncan**, Consultant Dietician,  
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Research led by our Palliative Care Clinical Academic Group, funded by Marie Curie in partnership with Hull York Medical School, University of Hull, and University of Cambridge, identified a gap in Integrated Care System strategies to provide and improve end of life care. This analysis informed the [Health and Care Bill](#) and national requirements for Integrated Care Boards to provide palliative care.



## Sleep medicine: National Pathway

85% of cases of obstructive sleep apnoea are undiagnosed, and nationally, one third of respiratory referrals are for sleep conditions. Sleep medicine faces structural challenges, as sleep conditions are managed across multiple specialties and there are variations in models of care delivery.

The national optimal sleep pathway, commissioned by NHS England and GIRFT, and driven through a fellowship funded by King's Health Partners Cardiovascular & Respiratory Partnership programme, provides an end-to-end pathway for patients with sleep disorders, informed by best practice and clinical experience. The pathway supports the design and development of sleep services to meet demand and improve service quality for patients with sleep disorders. The pathway stages include approaches to population health; patient finding; referral; diagnostic and management; and outcome measures.

These changes have potential to improve experiences for patients, and improve access to care, detection, and treatment, while reducing outpatient attendances and health inequalities. The pathway places the patient at the centre of their care, helping to raise the profile of sleep disorders to improve rates of undiagnosed sleep disorders.

**In summer**, The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) awarded King's College London £25m to tackle important long-standing and emerging health and social care issues. The award is part of a £100m funding boost to 20 new Policy Research Units across England, funded by the NIHR's Policy Research Programme. The units will focus on palliative and end of life care, mental health, addictions, child and family research and health and care workforce, bringing together multidisciplinary teams of researchers to address research questions.

King's Health Partners co-chairs major programmes with South East London integrated Care Board, including the Diabetes & Obesity Delivery Board which brings together patients, communities, and clinicians together to improve care, translate research and improve health equity across six boroughs and six providers. Our Research & Innovation partnership works towards a community research collaborative with primary care teams across six London boroughs.

We also work closely with the Health Innovation Network (HIN) South London, SC1 and wider innovation pipeline partners to ensure effective research translation and benefit for people who live locally. This year King's Health Partners co-hosted an inaugural conference, Innovation in the NHS and beyond, attended by 115 people with world leading business school INSEAD and the HIN to share our work improve our local systems leadership of spread and adoption.

Internationally, King's Health Partners held the European University Hospital Alliance (EUHA) presidency this year, hosting a symposium on Rethinking European Health Systems: Creating the Sustainable Health Workforce of the Future, and are pleased hand over the presidency to Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin. The Alliance strives to represent the diversity and the capabilities of European university hospitals and seeks to support its members in the mutual development of their services for patients all over Europe.

We are continuing to work with our partners globally. This year, the KHP Centre for Global Health was awarded £1.1m to develop the Somaliland programme which aims to improve the quality of care across six regional hospitals in addition to work already taking place in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.





# Looking to the Future

**This impact report** captures a series of achievements and developments over a year which has seen considerable workforce challenges and pressures.

Our ability to work in partnership as an Academic Health Sciences Centre in this complex and challenging environment is more important than ever. Our mission, delivered through our strategic priorities, is not only to drive improvements in healthcare, but to build trust with our communities and inspire confidence that our health system will continue to hold itself accountable on issues of health equity and access. There are areas where we are making progress, but we know we need to go further to address this.

Our combined strength affords us the opportunity to continue to address these issues, combining clinical and academic expertise to innovate, drive improvements and create a more sustainable and equitable future for our staff and patients.

Advancements in life sciences will continue to be guided by the people who live in south east London, and it is our responsibility to ensure our mind and body approach connects everything we do.

I would like to thank our staff and partners across KHP, and the wider system for their continued work and support this year. I look forward to exploring our combined potential for future innovation and discovery together.

**Prof Richard Trembath**  
**Executive Director, King's Health Partners**



Find out more about our work  
at [kingshealthpartners.org](https://kingshealthpartners.org)

To get in touch please email [kingshealthpartners@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:kingshealthpartners@kcl.ac.uk)

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