

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Laura James, Marketing Manager, NHSIL  
[laura.james@nhsinnovationslondon](mailto:laura.james@nhsinnovationslondon), 0207 380 1711

**LEADING MEDICAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION  
CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS AND DEMONSTRATES  
THE GROWTH IN QUALITY INNOVATIONS FROM LONDON NHS  
HOSPITALS**



NHS Innovations London celebrated another year of outstanding achievements at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review Event on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. To mark the occasion delegates were invited to Altitude Broadcasting Studios in London where they watched live floor interviews with Sir Robert Naylor and Bob Bell, Chief Executives from top London NHS Trusts plus Jerry Benjamin of Advent Ventures, one of the world's most successful Venture Capitalists on his views of the real value coming out of NHS technologies. Nigel Banister, Head of Science and Technology at the London Development Agency, also spoke on how NHSIL is perfectly placed to help London become a global centre, not just for medical research, but innovative medical companies.

During the past year, NHSIL has evaluated hundreds of projects, progressed 32 into development, has 22 in commercialisation, launched 12 products onto the market, secured 19 licences and set up its first start up company.

Jerry Benjamin from Advent Ventures, who recently joined the NHSIL board as a non executive director, commented that, "Although NHSIL is only 2 years old, I have been extremely impressed with their expertise and professionalism. In my 20 years in the field, they are equivalent to or better than any of the US or UK technology transfer organisations that I have dealt with particularly in their approach to setting up spin out companies".

Sir Jonathan Michael, Deputy Managing Director, BT Healthcare and former Chief Executive of Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust said 'NHS Innovations London have made tremendous progress in the past 2 years. Against an NHS trend of localisation, NHSIL merged the former Hubs into what has become an excellent cross-London service.

The event culminated in case study presentations from some of London's top NHS innovators including Ajay Jain, Specialist Registrar in Interventional Cardiology, Barts and the London NHS Trust. Dr Jain illustrated his new catheter device which provides a simpler but more robust way of finding a way through blocked arteries. Occlusion (blockage) of blood vessels is common in peripheral and coronary circulation. In the US approximately 100,000 patients per year are treated for the condition.

Dr Jain says that "Hopefully, if we can use this minimally invasive technique through the skin, patients will not have to go on to have a big operation such as a heart bypass". By using this technique they could be treated as a day case reducing the risks associated with open heart surgery and removing the need for a prolonged hospital stay.

Dr Jain could not have developed this without the help of NHSIL 'NHS Innovations London helped me to take my idea from the back of a napkin to something which I can now hold in my hand'. He further commented "Taking my invention to NHSIL, having it looked at by outside people and for them to take it seriously has given me a lot of satisfaction". NHSIL are currently looking for a suitable commercial partner to develop and manufacture the device.



Bob Bell commented that “The next phase of NHSIL’s development over the coming years will be to storm the market with new technologies and products”

NHS Innovations London aims to aid the financial health of London NHS Trusts, the physical and emotional health of patients and the economic development of London and the UK. It works with Trusts to identify promising innovations, provide a swift, objective analysis of their commercial potential, secure appropriate intellectual property protection and support inventors and their teams to fast track ideas to market.

Through the endeavours of NHSIL, patients and NHS Trusts benefit from new and enhanced therapies, diagnostics, medical devices, equipment, software and health education products. Inventors gain appropriate recognition and reward for their ideas and revenue derived from their inventions can be reinvested into the NHS to promote better healthcare for the future.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Digital pictures of the event are available upon request from [laura.knowles@nhsinnovationslondon.com](mailto:laura.knowles@nhsinnovationslondon.com). NHS Innovations London works with all NHS Trusts in London to identify promising innovations, provide a swift, objective analysis of their commercial potential, secure appropriate intellectual property protection and support inventors and their teams to fast track ideas to market. NHS Innovations London is funded by; the London Development Agency; the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Department of Health. Visit [www.nhsinnovationslondon.com](http://www.nhsinnovationslondon.com) for more information.