

ANNUAL FEEDBACK REPORT

20 26



The 4th annual Health Tech Spring Conference has undoubtedly been a resounding success.

We delivered strong results across audience reach, programme quality and partnership development.

This year's conference has seen an uplift in attendees with an 8% increase in audience numbers and a 5% increase in participants.



The Health Tech Spring Story so far...

- Post-pandemic in 2022 we started hosting our monthly networking meetups to bring together the ecosystem.
- They were a huge success and we quickly realised there was a need for bigger events where more connections could be made.
- We secured a small amount of funding and in April 2023 put on Northern Ireland's first full day Medical Innovation and Technology summit (MITS) with 30 speakers from across Ireland, UK, USA and even dialing in from South Africa.
- It sold out (capacity was 250 delegates) and feedback was phenomenal.
- Following the summit we put plans in place to host a larger conference over two days with a dedicated day for showcasing life sciences support industries.
- Health Tech Spring 2024 was launched and we secured private funding to host the event in the Titanic Building Belfast.
- With such a small team, it was a challenge but in April 2024 we welcomed over 350 delegates to our inaugural conference across three floors in the Titanic Building and welcomed guests from across the UK, Ireland and USA. The conference financially broke even.
- Health Tech Spring 2025 was launched in August 2024 and again was sold out early in 2025. This time we had companies coming to us with offers of sponsorship and in 2025 we made a profit while welcoming over 750 delegates across two days.
- Health Tech Spring 2026 took place on 23rd and 24th of April 2026 welcoming 800 delegates across both days. In 2026 we also doubled our revenue and welcomed large pharma industry including AstraZeneca and Roche Diagnostics UK and Ireland as Platinum sponsors.
- We showcased a place-based art exhibition and hosted the first MHRA Industry Liaison Day in NI.
- This year we closed registration one week before the event as we had sold out!
- We already have sponsorship requests for HTS 2027 which will take place after the NI elections in May 2027.
- Our 2027 Early Bird ticket sales will open in Summer 2026.

Across the programme, a consistent message emerged...

Northern Ireland has strong foundations in life sciences and health innovation but must now move from isolated innovation activity to coordinated, system-wide delivery and scale.

Northern Ireland has the assets, relationships and ambition to compete internationally, but the next phase must focus on adoption, implementation and measurable impact.

Health Tech Spring 2026 welcomed over **800 delegates** across two days, over **50 speakers** and **35 exhibitors** in 2026.



29% Industry



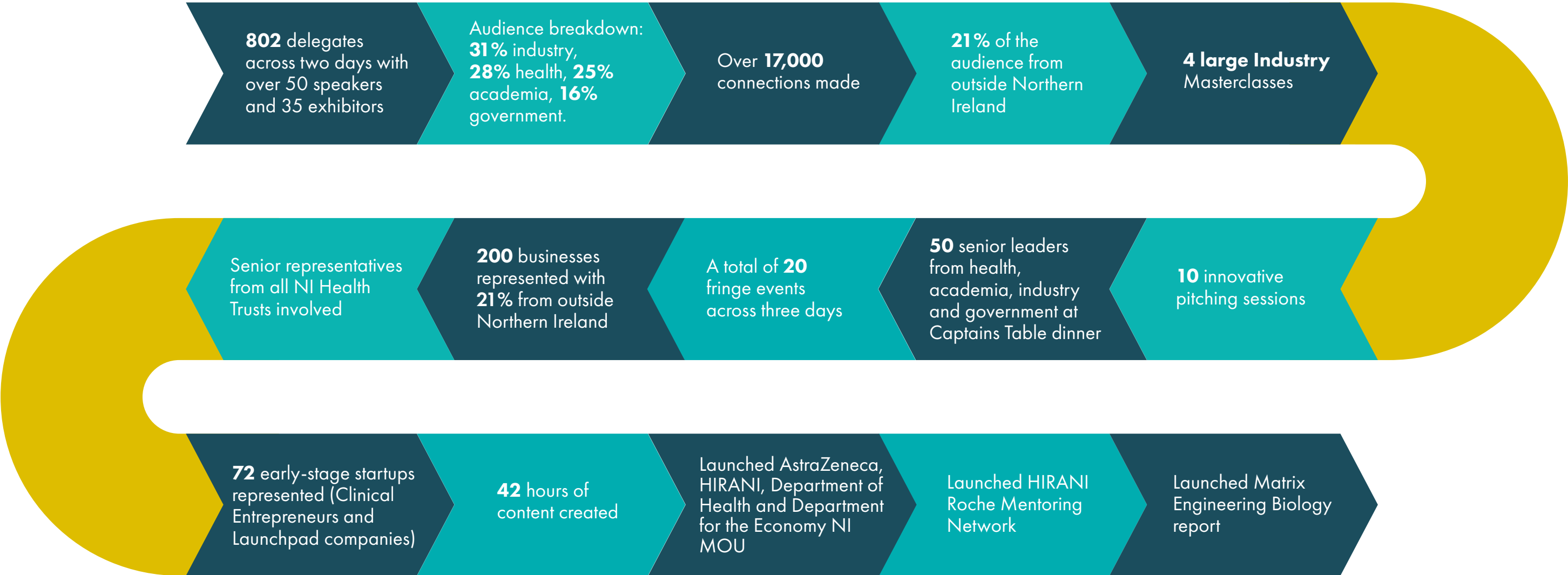
30% Health



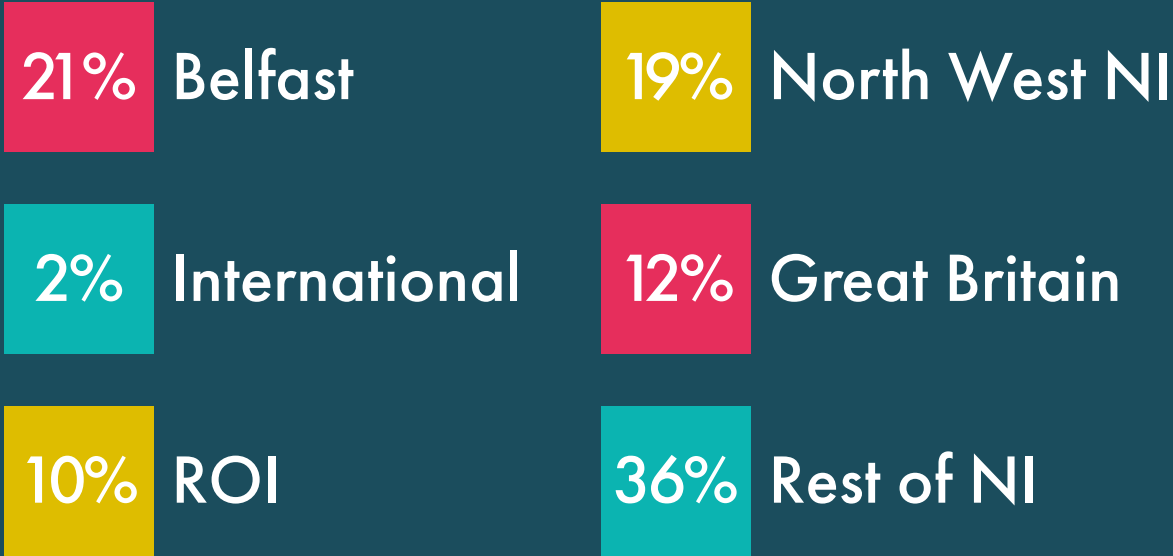
26% Academia



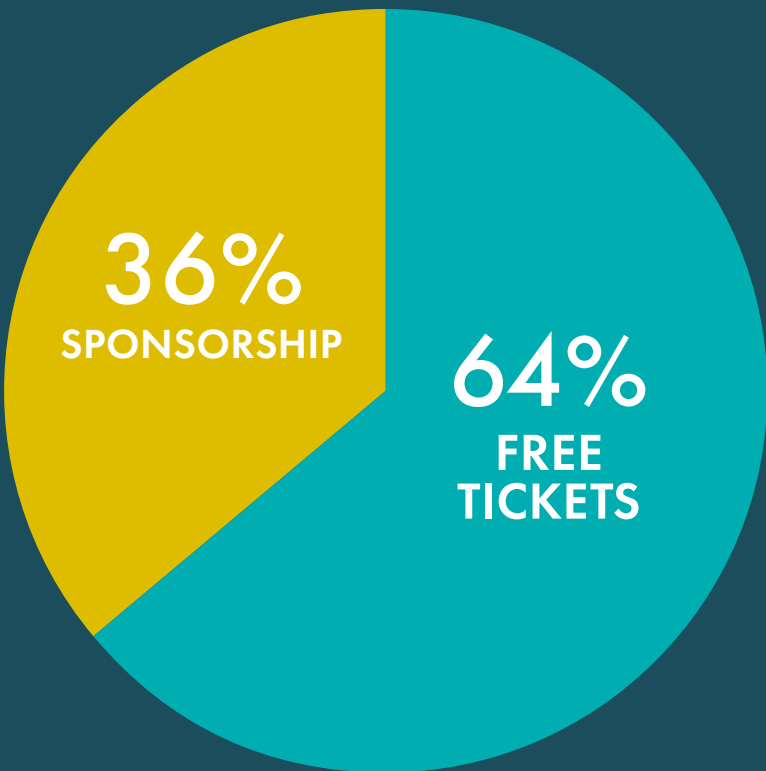
16% Government



Audience Reach



Our conference remains fiscally accessible to all sectors in NI



Our sponsorship programme ensures that 64% of our tickets where free to students, health workers and small businesses.

Attendance & Engagement

93.1% Events that involve extensive engagement



Ticketed events, workshops and events that last up to and over one hour.
E.g. All workshops, Masterclasses and Panel sessions.

80.9% Events that are interactive Drop-In hands-on events/manned exhibitions



86% Events with passing engagement visual exhibitions, interaction up to 30 minutes.



E.g. place based art exhibition

Digital Reach



2.1 Million views on LinkedIn

46% increase in views on HIRANI website

432,000 views on other social channels

1514 views on the HIRANI Youtube channel

Feedback from Participants

99%
would recommend
the conference to
a colleague

98%
found the content
directly relevant
to their role

100%
would attend
again

What People Said...



"A week on, and I'm still in awe of the event you and your team put together. It was flawless and the hard work certainly paid off.

The sincerity of everyone involved to find new ways of thinking / working / technological advancements, all for the benefit of health and life sciences was staggering.

I am so glad Roche could be part of it and look forward to many more touch points over the coming months and years."

Rozanna Hardie, Healthcare Systems Partner, Roche Diagnostics UK and Ireland

"Huge congratulations to you Joann, the HIRANI team and our NI partners on a superb event and a landmark MoU. Our discussions with Northern Ireland's leaders have consistently demonstrated a powerful convergence of shared ambition - we are all excited to see the neighbourhood-led respiratory pathway and the broader impact on health and wealth for Northern Ireland that we can generate from the MoU. Inspiring leadership and collaboration!"

Brian Forbes Government Affairs Director, AstraZeneca Global Corporate Affairs Team

"The discussions were rich, candid, and grounded in real-world experience, from industry and academia to innovation and clinical science. A clear theme emerged: our collective strength lies not just in capability, but in how effectively we connect, collaborate, and create pathways for the next generation to lead. Thank you to HIRANI for bringing together a community so committed to shaping the future of health and life sciences."

Catherine Ross, Chief Scientific Officer, Scotland



"HealthTech Spring 2026 at the Titanic Building this week - two days that showcased exactly why Northern Ireland's healthtech and life sciences ecosystem is one of the most exciting places to be investing right now. The breadth on display was remarkable. Precision medicine, digital health, diagnostics, medical devices, therapeutics, founders tackling problems that genuinely matter, underpinned by world class science from our universities and a Health and Social Care system uniquely positioned as a test bed for innovation. Equally important was the alignment in the room. Industry, clinicians, researchers, government and investors, all pulling in the same direction."

Brian Cummings, Investment Director, Clarendon Fund Managers

"I have posted several times about this Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI) event. I would encourage others especially from HSCNI to engage with HIRANI to promote better outcomes. There is such a drive, a willingness to engage. The answer seems simple. Move forward together, share ideas & expertise. I was struck by the simplicity of the lists of take aways."

Nicola Doherty, Lead Psychologist, HSCNI



"This month, we visited the Health Tech Spring 2026 Conference and launched our first Northern Ireland Stakeholder Liaison Day, beginning a new quarterly programme to improve access to our regulatory expertise. We look forward to building on this momentum through continued engagement in Northern Ireland."

Lawrence Tallon, CEO MHRA





"Health Tech Spring was fantastic! Not only the biggest med tech event ever hosted in NI, but also the most insightful and optimistic. Colossal congratulations to Joann Rhodes & the whole team at HIRANI"

Tim Brundle, CEO, Innovation Ulster

"The people, the energy, the venue and most importantly the topics of discussion have been inspiring, energising and humbling. I am grateful to have been invited to participate and I look forward to seeing the improvements we can make as a whole team together (service users and their families, academia, public sector and industry) over the coming year."

Justene Ewing, Vice President Healthcare and Life Sciences, CGI

"An excellent time at Health Tech Spring 2026, with a strong focus on something we often underestimate: the work required to move innovation from promise to practice."

Professor Aine Carroll, University College Dublin

"Today was just one of those great days- bright, sunny day and at an amazing conference full of people who are keen to work together to make things better for patients. Positive disruptors all in one room. Healthcare, industry and academia all collaborating. One of the most inspiring conferences I have been to."

Dr Joanne Young GP



"I'm in Belfast listening to the President of AstraZeneca UK announce an MoU with Northern Ireland, starting with respiratory disease. Tom Keith-Roach's keynote is about the future of healthcare, where we diagnose early, and intervene upstream to stop or reverse disease progression. To facilitate this, AZ have been focused on a partnership model far greater than simply providing medicines with over 600 partnerships already, and an ambitious plan to launch 20 new medicines by 2030. This is taking place at HIRANI's annual innovation event, Health Tech Spring, which has again been a brilliant gathering of the local ecosystem. The future for Northern Ireland feels brighter than ever."

Hassan Chaudhury, DATA-CAN





Health Tech Spring is not just a conference showcasing our sector, it brings partners such as the MHRA, The Academy of Medical Sciences, Innovate UK and many more to Northern Ireland and has inspired our partners to bring their events to our neighbourhood. It is one of a suite of events HIRANI hosts each year to connect, integrate and advocate for our ecosystem.

SAVE THE DATE!
Health Tech Spring
20th and 21st May 2027

