

Health Tech Spring – Our Annual Sector Conference

Post-pandemic in 2022 HIRANI noticed a gap in the ecosystem for cross sector engagement and 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.

And we have lift off...

Health Tech Spring 2024 was launched and we secured private funding to host the event in the Titanic Building Belfast.

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.

Fast forward to 2026 and we welcomed 800 delegates across two days in April and welcomed large pharma industry including AstraZeneca and Roche Diagnostics UK and Ireland as sponsors and hosted the first MHRA Industry Liaison Day in NI.





Since 2022 we have witnessed a gear change across the Health and Life Sciences sector in Northern Ireland towards system-level transformation, enabling health innovations to reach patients faster whilst unlocking better outcomes for our health service, industry and economy.

At our annual conference, we explore themes including cross-sector partnerships to build community-ready diagnostics, supercharging investment to accelerate world-class innovation, and unlocking our collective assets to activate benefits for patients and our region with global reach.

Social and strategic

Health Tech Spring 2026 brought together leaders from healthcare, academia, industry, and government to examine the future of life sciences and health innovation in Northern Ireland.

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.

Opportunities that were identified in 2026:

- Establish Northern Ireland as an innovation testbed: market the region globally as a health innovation destination.
- Scale the neighbourhood care model: develop it as a replicable international framework.
- Build a stronger funding ecosystem: attract venture capital and support early-stage companies.
- Create structured adoption pathways: standardise innovation implementation across the system.

Call to Action

Across all sessions, five priorities stood out:

- Prioritisation: focus on two to three key system challenges.
- Adoption: accelerate translation from innovation to practice.
- Collaboration: deepen partnerships across sectors.
- Investment: address early-stage funding gaps.
- Capability: develop workforce and leadership skills.

Health Tech Spring 2026 demonstrated that Northern Ireland has strong capabilities; the ecosystem is increasingly connected and the opportunity is globally significant.

The next phase is not discovery; it is delivery.

