

North of Scotland Laboratories Programme 'Taigh-solais'

Published for professionals working within or alongside North of Scotland Laboratories

Stars in their eyes!



Innovation in Practice

Intelligent Liver Function Testing Team

"This is an excellent example of a system which helps clinicians including GPs like myself in deciding what to do about patients with abnormal Liver Function Tests. This is efficient, it saves clinician time and saves the NHS money."

Colleagues in NHS Tayside have rightly received, not only NHS Tayside Board, but international recognition for the fantastic work they have undertaken with their 'Intelligent Liver Function Testing' (iLFT).

In collaboration with Dundee University, the team developed the new testing process using the automated Blood Sciences laboratory infrastructure at Ninewells Hospital, which can now also detect liver disease at an early stage, potentially saving thousands of lives.

Liver disease, which is often asymptomatic, has become the second most common cause of death in under 65-year-olds across the UK, however initial results from these new iLFT tests showed a 44% increase in liver disease diagnosis, allowing that oftentimes all important earlier access to treatment.

One of the iLFT project leads, Professor John Dillon stated 'liver disease is a silent killer, it creeps up on you, so it is crucial that we find a way to detect it earlier and switch off this ticking time bomb.' Professor Dillon goes on to say 'by working with the existing IT analytical systems in the lab, we were able to develop a system that detects the early warning signs of liver disease and which can then give GPs the tools they need to make solid diagnosis and begin treatment plans.'

This is not the only recognition the team have won; in total:

- Winner Innovation Award of Royal College of Physicians' Excellence in Patient Care Awards 2019
- Winner of the new international award, 2019 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award in global recognition of the integrated clinical care project entitled: Intelligent Liver Function Testing (iLFT):
- Winner for "Intelligent liver function testing (iLFT) in action" of the Frontline Gastroenterology Prize for the 'Best patient benefit in gastroenterology and hepatology' 2019
- Winner of the Innovation Award of the Royal College of Pathology Excellence awards 2019
- Highly commended in the Digital Innovation category of the "BMJ Awards" 2019

I'm sure you'll all agree, recognition well deserved!