Dear Colleague

RE: Invitation to apply to sponsor and partner the NHS England Clinical Entrepreneur Programme

As part of NHS England’s commitment to the Five Year Forward View, NHS England, together with Health Education England, has developed the Clinical Entrepreneur Programme.

The programme, which was launched by Sir Bruce Keogh in 2016, is designed to keep the most forward-thinking, entrepreneurial clinicians within this country, bringing the benefit of cutting-edge new treatments and care pathways to the patients who need it – and keeping more of the money generated within the British economy. It offers opportunities for NHS staff to develop their entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial aspirations by helping to develop and scale their most innovative idea.

Specific benefits of the programme include retention of our most innovative staff in the NHS, attraction of new talent into the NHS, development of a cadre of staff bringing commercial/entrepreneurial skills to the NHS both in a clinical and managerial setting, innovators spread throughout the NHS encouraging the early adoption of new innovations. All contributing to improved patient outcomes and improved quality of care and supporting economic growth.

The first cohort is progressing through the programme and we are in the process of recruiting for year 2. It is planned that the programme will be rolled out to healthcare scientists, dentists, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals, to harness the knowledge, skills and experience of all England’s clinicians.

The Programme offers:

- One-to-one mentoring and coaching (80 mentors currently recruited/deployed)
- Entrepreneurial placements/internships
- Access to networking events and facilitation of relationships
- Supporting Clinical Entrepreneurs to agree time out to focus on entrepreneurial activity
- Signposting to funding and other opportunities
- A series of educational pit stops offering bespoke practical sessions on a range of key topics. Such as: IP and copyright law, financing, business modelling, developing presentation skills, product manufacturing, health policy, NHS procurement, founders stories from start-up CEOs, and health system insights from senior colleagues across the NHS, academia and Government.

Gateway approval number: 06788

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While NHS England will continue to provide internal support for core staffing, we are looking for sponsors/partners to contribute to the running of the programme as it continues to grow.

Sponsors/Partners will contribute the programme by:
1. Identify, assess and appoint clinicians, allied health professions, pharmacy, healthcare scientific and medical students through two phases of an application process to the Clinical Entrepreneur training programme.
2. Support Health Education England in achieving a bespoke training programme by advising them of the individual Clinical Entrepreneur’s training needs to fulfil their entrepreneurial aspirations and working with them to achieve bespoke individual portfolio outcomes.
3. Further develop and deliver a suite of educational events including commercial and business skills training to enable and prepare a clinical entrepreneur to engage with and progress their clinical and entrepreneurial aspirations. This will be co-delivered by NHS England and partners.
4. Source and provide additional resource and funding.
5. Build and sustain a retained network of business coaches and mentors. Matching clinical entrepreneurs to coaching, mentoring and internship opportunities.

In order to apply, organisations will not need to fulfil all of the criteria outlined above. It is recognised that organisations will have a variety of expertise and a range of resources to offer. Therefore, it is possible that the needs of the programme may be met through working with multiple partners, each bringing their unique value and knowledge to the programme. Decisions will be taken by an Evaluation Panel convened by the Innovation and Research Team in NHS England.

If interested, organisations can apply to partner/sponsor the programme by submitting a completed copy of the “Expressions of Interest” template, along with a covering letter, to the Innovation and Research Unit at: england.innovation@nhs.net. The information you provide should articulate how your organisation will contribute to this programme. You should cite specific examples which demonstrate your experience and expertise in supporting innovation and include an overview of the nature of the support you will be able to dedicate to make this programme an enduring national success.

Please contact the Innovation and Research Unit via england.innovation@nhs.net for a copy of the template or if you have any question. The closing date is 31 May 2017.

Further details of the programme can be found at:
https://www.innovation.england.nhs.uk/clinical-entrepreneur

With kind regards,

[Signature]

Ian Dodge
National Director for Commissioning Strategy
NHS England

This information can be made available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print, and may be available in alternative languages, upon request. Please contact 0300 311 22 33 or email england.contactus@nhs.net stating that this document is owned by Innovation & Research Team, Commissioning Strategy.

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