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INNOVATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY: USING A LIVING LAB APPROACH AS DRIVER FOR A SMART AND HEALTHY CITY

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Innovation through technology is vital within health care and if used effectively it can improve efficiencies and boost economic growth on a global scale. Living labs are major drivers within the health innovation space. They represent a methodologically pragmatic approach to innovation, characterised by real-life experimentation in real world setting, which includes the active involvement of health and social care users. The living lab is a 'bottom-up' research-to-innovation approach, which explores the needs of citizens through exchanging knowledge and user innovation. Convergent innovation focuses on integrating and converging a diverse range of knowledge within process, product and service design. These processes harnessed together are central to the successful development of a sustainable smart city if integrated into its planning and structure. Methodologically, we suggest that this is best achieved by developing the city as a 'living lab'. The utility of this approach is currently being shaped through a European funded project which aims to establish a city region living lab in Liverpool, UK. It aims to explore this position in more depth with the intention of highlighting how a city living lab, which is smart, can provide the space and resources required to promote sustainable solutions with a city's health ecosystem. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) living lab provides opportunities for businesses to listen to and engage with people using services and products and adds social value by, for example, developing technology that has a positive impact on wellbeing and thus improve health and quality of life and yield greater social value for the community.

Biography

Grahame Smith is a Mental Health Nursing Academic and a Reader in Participatory Engagement in Mental Health. He is also a subject Head at the School of Nursing and Allied Health from Liverpool John Moores University. In addition, he is the Centre Lead for the Centre for Collaborative Innovation in Dementia, an accredited health living lab—European Network of Living Labs (ENOLL). His specific interests include living well with dementia, user-centric innovation (health) and living lab.

Bibha Simkhada has background in Adult Nursing (RGN) with PhD in Public Health. She is working as a researcher at the Liverpool John Moores University working in the Centre for Collaborative Innovation in Dementia, which is an accredited Living Lab (European Network of Living Labs) in the UK. She has key role in different research activities around health innovation especially on living lab. Her research interest includes Dementia, Mental health, Health Innovation, Health Inequalities, and lifestyle.

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