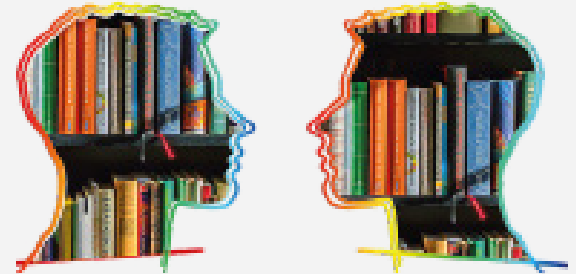




Knowledge Exchange News 3

IS THIS KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE OR NOT?



Knowledge exchange (KE) is a process which brings together academic staff, users of research and wider groups and communities to exchange ideas, evidence and expertise.

Knowledge exchange covers activities that engage non-academic communities in the sharing of knowledge, experience, and ideas helping ensure that our research and expertise make an impact in society and the economy.

Knowledge exchange activities often have no immediate impact but offer routes to impact, increasing the visibility and accessibility of research in ways that maximise the chance of it making a difference to the world outside of academia. Doing this often requires new or improved skills, beyond those that are core to academic work. Engagement with non-academic audiences is ongoing; a life's work, and not just a one-off activity.

Getting involved in knowledge exchange can deliver significant benefits to you, your research partners and to wider society and demonstrating

engagement with your research is now a requirement for most funding. It is also crucial in the context of national higher education quality assessments, notably including the REF (Research Excellence Framework) and the KEF (Knowledge Exchange Framework).

Knowledge exchange is a collaborative venture that involves translating knowledge and research into impact in society and the economy and comes in many forms:

- Academics working with the public/private sector to resolve real life problems
- Creation of start-up and spin-out companies
- Industrial partnerships
- Commercialisation
- Collaborative research projects
- Consultancy services
- Commissioned/contract research

- Providing specialist University facilities, equipment and testing services to companies
- Continuing professional development and training (CPD)
- Knowledge Transfer partnerships (KTPs)
- IP exploitation
- Licensing technologies, tools or training materials
- Briefings and other ways of communicating research
- Public engagement
- Events with external audiences
- Secondment, Internships, Community projects and placement positions
- Carrying out research to inform the work of your organisation
- Building a network of relevant academics and practitioners
- Writing funding applications for larger knowledge exchange projects

What is research impact?

Research impact is defined as "the demonstrable contribution that research makes to change that brings benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life." Impact demonstrates the importance of research, its use and investment to support it.

What are the KEF and the KEC?

The *Knowledge Exchange Framework* (KEF) aims to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public funding for knowledge exchange, such as HEIF, and help universities improve the culture and support for knowledge exchange.



It forms the third pillar of assessment of university activities, alongside the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and provides the metrics that allow us to better understand our performance.

The *Knowledge Exchange Concordat* complements the KE and aims to help us, as universities, explain what we do, how we do it and what steps we are taking to get better at knowledge exchange.



The Concordat supports the University of York's efforts to make knowledge exchange a core activity and to ensure we are providing the right support and environment for staff and students to undertake high quality KEF activities.

Knowledge Exchange in action



Professor Stephen Smith, Department of Electronic Engineering started his Knowledge Exchange journey when one of the university's commercialisation managers came to a departmental staff meeting in 2007. After an initial discussion on the commercial potential of his idea, Stephen was given some HEIF money to undertake clinical studies and develop a monitor for the assessment of Parkinson's disease.

Every hour, someone in the UK is told they have Parkinson's*. Some 127,000 people. But up to 25% of these are misdiagnosed.

*Source: Parkinson's UK



Fifteen years down the line Stephen is the co-founder and director of *Clearsky Medical Diagnostics* and is successfully combining his commercial work with his academic research and teaching. The company has developed and marketed a range of monitors which can be used to help diagnose and monitor the progression of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and a range of other neurodegenerative conditions, in a non-invasive and accessible way, using data on conventional neuropsychological tasks, uploaded to a PC and professionally analysed remotely.

The value of KE to academics

Recognising that academics often worry about the extra work involved with commercialisation, Stephen was keen to highlight the benefits of undertaking KE. "Clearly there is more work, however rather than the often held perception that it is in addition to research activity, **KE can, and should be, part of academic research activity** and can bring many positive benefits to both an academic's research and teaching activities.

Very often we don't even recognise that we are already doing KE. Commercialisation is just one form of KE. Whenever we deliver an external presentation, engage with policymakers or work with public, private or cultural organisations we are effectively doing knowledge exchange.

Essentially, we all want to communicate how the work we are doing has some form of benefit on society and how it has an impact on the lives of other people.

KE is the process that brings together academic staff, users of research and wider communities to exchange ideas and expertise, increase the impact of research, add value to professional development and develop new collaborations and partnerships. Furthermore, it can open up a range of exciting new funding opportunities and open the door to creating spin-out companies and developing new industrial partnerships.

I would really encourage colleagues to think about how they can create even more impact from their research through different types of KE. There's plenty of support available across the university and a wide range of funding too."

Read the full interview [here](#).

Your peers need you!

We would love to showcase examples of Knowledge Exchange in the KE News and build up an informal network of 'KE Champions' across the institution, who can support their peers in Knowledge Exchange activities and raise awareness of the support available.

Please contact Amanda Selvaratnam amanda.selvaratnam@york.ac.uk or Clare Murgatroyd clare.murgatroyd@york.ac.uk if you are interested in getting involved, would like to share your KE story or find out more about KE support and funding.

