

The background of the cover is a composite image. It features a glowing DNA double helix structure in shades of pink and orange against a blue background. In the foreground, there is a close-up of a microscope's eyepiece and objective lenses, rendered in a cool blue tone. The entire image is framed by several overlapping dark blue circular shapes that create a sense of depth and focus.

***IQVIA Annual
Westminster
Life Sciences &
NHS Summit***





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Foreword

The UK stands at a crucial juncture as a global life sciences player. Against a backdrop of rapid technological advancement, demographic shifts, and unprecedented global competition, IQVIA's Life Sciences & NHS Summit provided an essential space to examine the actions we must take in partnership to strengthen our innovation ecosystem, grow the UK economy, and, most importantly, deliver better outcomes for patients.

As the summit host, IQVIA was proud to support an event that brought together leading voices from government, the NHS, academia, and industry. What made the conversation so impactful was not just the calibre of expertise in the room, but the shared recognition that incremental change is no longer enough. A new kind of ambition is needed – one that is deeply collaborative, driven by data, and aligned across local and national systems.

Particular thanks go to our keynote speaker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health, Rt Hon Baroness Gillian Merron. We were also pleased to welcome speakers including Chief Executive of Health Innovation Manchester, Professor Ben Bridgewater, Chief Executive of the Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI), Peter Ellingworth, and Country Managing Director & Head of Human Pharma UK & Ireland, Boehringer Ingelheim, Vani Manja.

From the outset, the summit focused on how the UK can regain and cement its position as a global leader in life sciences, not only in research and discovery, but in the equitable and timely adoption of innovation. The ministerial keynote reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the sector, and it was encouraging to hear clear acknowledgement of both the opportunity and the urgency that defines this moment. Attendees responded in kind – with candour, challenge, and constructive proposals.

A central theme throughout the discussions was the importance of system readiness. It is no longer sufficient to generate innovation; we must also build the capacity to adopt it at pace and scale. This means ensuring the NHS has the infrastructure, skills, and flexibility to adopt new treatments and technologies systematically and equitably. It means recognising that obesity-driven CVD metabolic disease, dementia, respiratory conditions, HealthTech, and rare diseases demand more than good science – they require systems that can implement that science, sustainably and at scale.

Another strong message from the summit was the need to reframe how we define and measure value. Too often, innovation is assessed through the narrow lens of short-term cost, rather than long-term benefit. Indeed, medicines and HealthTech are perceived by many in the NHS as a “dead-weight” cost that challenges annual budgets. Yet innovation, when deployed effectively, is a catalyst for better health outcomes, improved productivity, and economic resilience. We heard compelling calls to modernise cost-effectiveness frameworks, align incentives across care settings and adopt outcome-based commissioning models that reward impact rather than activity.

The role of data was also brought into sharp focus. High-quality, interoperable health data is not a luxury – it is the foundation of research, the engine of personalised care, and the connective tissue of integrated systems. Attendees recognised that while the UK has real strengths in this area, we must act with urgency to unlock the full potential of health data. This includes developing trusted governance frameworks, accelerating access pathways, and investing in analytical capability across the system.

Perhaps most importantly, the summit reaffirmed the power of local collaboration. National ambition is vital, but delivery happens on the ground. We heard inspiring examples from Greater Manchester and beyond, where integrated care systems (ICS), industry, and academia are working together to design and deliver truly transformative care models. These are not just pilots – they are blueprints for how we can operationalise innovation at population scale.

At IQVIA, we believe the life sciences sector is not just an economic asset – it is a public good. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure innovation translates into real-world impact. Whether through enabling secure data access, attracting and delivering clinical trials to the UK, or partnering on strategic planning, our mission is to turn possibility into progress.

The conversations held at the summit were candid, challenging, and largely optimistic. They reflected a sector that understands both the responsibility and the opportunity at hand. This report, written independently by policy institute Curia, captures that spirit – and lays out a path forward.

We hope it inspires continued collaboration, bold thinking, and, most of all, action.

By Angela McFarlane
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Summary

QVIA's Life Sciences & NHS Summit convened a diverse group of stakeholders from government, the life sciences industry, and the wider health and innovation ecosystem. Held under the Chatham House Rule, the summit offered an opportunity for frank discussion around transforming health and care and the delivery of the three big shifts through life science collaboration.

The session was opened with a welcome from Angela McFarlane, Vice President, Strategic Planning, Northern Europe, at IQVIA, who emphasised the summit's purpose: to drive bold, collaborative thinking across the three big shifts underpinning transformation in health and life sciences – namely, shifting from hospital to community, sickness to prevention, and analogue to digital.

These themes framed the summit discussions, with an emphasis on actionable recommendations for system-wide change.

The keynote was delivered by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health, Rt Hon Baroness Gillian Merron, who also holds ministerial responsibility for life sciences and innovation. The Minister reaffirmed government commitment to the sector and set out a clear ambition: to make the UK a global exemplar in scaling life sciences businesses and delivering transformational health technologies. The speech sought to reassure attendees of renewed momentum and alignment across departments.