

“Innovations in communications technology can transform people’s lives in genuine and remarkable ways. Our research is about bridging the gap between physician expertise and patient need.”



Professor Christopher Eccleston
Director of the Centre for Pain Research

Imagine a life when you are interrupted every ten minutes by pain. You try to ignore it and carry on, but it just won't go away. Every time you try to do something that matters, there it is again.

This is the life lived by thousands of people in the UK today. A quarter of us will experience chronic severe pain at some point in our lives, and as we get older it becomes more likely.

The good news is that there are effective treatments to help people who are learning to live with chronic pain. But the bad news is that this expertise lies in the hands of a small number of healthcare professionals, delivering treatments according to a model that hasn't changed in more than a century: you travel to a special facility and you have a short conversation with a medical expert.

This can change. Today, innovations in communications technology can transform lives in genuine and remarkable ways. So our research is about bridging the gap between physician expertise and patient need. But to make this happen, we need fruitful partnerships between experts: engineers, psychologists, computer scientists, business leaders, doctors, academics, and patients themselves.