

Innovation in diagnostics - 1st Annual CADDA Scientific Conference

Join us for the inaugural CADDA Scientific Conference, a one-day meeting showcasing emerging diagnostic technologies, innovation across the diagnostics pipeline, CADDA-supported projects and structured partnering opportunities.

Date: Tuesday 15 September 2026

Venue: Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, University of Manchester

Time: 09.30–16.10

Attendance is **FREE**, but registration is required by **Friday 4 September 2026**.

Early Career Researchers are encouraged to attend and present a poster; a limited number of travel bursaries are available (up to £200 to be paid post conference with receipts).

09.30	Arrival, coffee/tea, welcome
10.00	Session 1: Innovation in the diagnostics ecosystem
Is the future of diagnostics in your pocket? If not point-of-care, why not? <i>Associate Prof Al Edwards, University of Southampton</i>	
Advancements in Mendelian disease diagnostics <i>Prof Siddharth Banka, University of Manchester</i>	
The Nose has it: Development of an assay of clinical utility <i>Prof Perdita Barran, University of Manchester</i>	
Next Generation Circulating Tumour Cell Detection & Characterisation <i>Dr Mark McCairn, Chromition</i>	
11.00	Break into groups, collect coffee/tea
11:15	Session 2: Challenges for diagnostics development
Facilitated breakout discussion groups to identify key challenges	
Panel discussion: Taking academic ideas to commercialisation. <i>Chair: Dr Iain Miller (CADDA advisor and serial diagnostic entrepreneur)</i>	
CADDA advisor and serial diagnostic entrepreneur • <i>Dr Mark McCairn, Chromition</i> • <i>Dr Tim Eyes, Imperagen</i> • <i>Neal Bradshaw, IVD Commercialisation Consultant, NB</i> • <i>Dr John Tyson, NHS Foundation Trust</i> • <i>Dr Ruizhi Wang, Abselion</i>	
12.30	Lunch, poster viewing, networking and partnering opportunities
13.30	Session 3: Idea to Innovation: Novel CADDA-supported exemplars
Brief presentations from six CADDA Knowledge Transfer Voucher projects:	

	• UCL (Guido Bolognesi)/Global Access Diagnostics — Lateral flow assay sensitivity enhancement • University of Kent (David Beale)/Austin Davis — Cellulose-binding protein fusions • University of Manchester (Cerys Manning)/ StrataStem — Alzheimer's disease risk prediction • University of Manchester /EMQN (Henry Thomas)— CYP2C19 cell lines for POCT quality assessment • University of Manchester (Matt Gibson)/Global Access Diagnostics — Next-generation lateral flow diagnostics • University of Kent /Hyperfine Kent and Medway Health Clinic Project (Joanne Rodda)
14.30	Coffee/tea, poster viewing, networking
15.00	Keynote presentation PoC genetic testing to inform clinical decision making <i>Prof Bill Newman, University of Manchester</i>
15.25	Session 4: Ongoing CADDa-supported exemplar projects
	The worms that turned: advancing diagnostics for smarter parasite control in horses <i>Austin Davis in collaboration with the University of Kent</i>
	From immuno- to glyco-diagnostics <i>Prof Matt Gibson (University of Manchester), in collaboration with Icen Glycoscience</i>
	Brainalyze: Translating MX-Raman Technology for dementia diagnosis <i>Prof Sumeet Mahajan (Brainalyze/University of Southampton) & Tushar Jhanwar (University of Kent)</i>
16.10	Close of conference/departure