

## The Topol Digital fellowships

On the day of the launch of the Topol Review in February 2019, the Secretary of State Matt Hancock announced the establishment of the Topol Programme for Digital Fellowships in Healthcare, a programme to allow clinicians to combine their clinical training or current job with digital transformation work in their local host institutions. Over 250 applications for the programme were received and 18 fellows were appointed, beginning their programme in September 2019.

14 of the fellows are spending their two days of protected time each week working on digital projects and services in their host institution and specialism. These range from a number of patient-facing remote monitoring and reporting services – for example for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and cancer – to projects and services designed to test and introduce artificial intelligence into diagnostic pathways. The other 4 fellows are working on Technology Enhanced Learning Projects introduced and sponsored by the HEE TEL team. We profile the work of two fellows below.

The fellows have so far attended 3 of 6 planned programme workshops. The primary focus of the programme's design has been upon making digital change happen on the ground, rather than on achieving academic qualifications. The focus of the workshops has been to expose the fellows to person-centred digital transformation expertise from practitioners inside and, importantly, from outside the healthcare system.

Since the very first days of their fellowship, many of the fellows have spoken and presented about their work at a broad range of specialty-specific and system-wide high profile events, such as HETT, NHS Expo, NHS Providers, the Intelligent Health AI summit and at the HEE - Yale Digital Future Programme.

Each of the fellows has a profile page on the Topol Review website where we publish details of their projects. [View the fellows' profiles.](#)

Several of the fellows have begun to write excellent blog posts about their work which we publish on the Topol Review website. [Read updates from the fellows.](#) Other fellows, such as [Sarah Hudson](#) and [Chris Tack](#) publish their own blogs about their Topol work.

The two fellows profiled below are typical of the cohort in the **pace** with which they have moved their digital transformation work forward and the **passion** they bring to their work.

**Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi** is Head of Research Nursing at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Her digital project aims to introduce a remote monitoring service, using a mobile app, to reach patients with diabetes who have not attended diabetic eye screening for several years. The service aims to allow for diabetic retinopathy screening to take place in the community, providing patients with immediate feedback of the results, to increase screening uptake and to reduce the risk of subsequent blindness. Roxanne is already piloting the service in the community. Since beginning her Topol Fellowship Roxanne has been invited to be a guest lecturer at Yale Nursing School. The RCN have recently featured Roxanne's digital fellowship on their website as part of their 'Every Nurse an e-nurse campaign'. [View details and video here.](#)

**Haris Shuaib** is a clinical scientist at Guy's and St Thomas Hospital Trust. (GSTT) At the outset of his fellowship Haris fellowship project was to work on the development of in-house artificial intelligence software to monitor the quality of MRI images. Haris' work has now changed to the extent that his focus is on the development of a trust-wide AI service to transform GSTT into an AI-enabled trust. Haris successfully bid for £100,000 of funding from the GSTT Charity to support this work and he has been invited to join the NHSX AI regulation advisory panel.

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6 February 2020