

Healthy Ageing and Technology Innovation Lab

Thursday 14th February 2019

12.00 – 17.30

Innovation Suite, Core Technology Facility, Grafton Street, Manchester

The UK Government's Industrial Strategy identifies an '**Ageing Society**' as one of the **four grand challenges** and identifies collaboration between academia and business as a key part of helping to combat this challenge

'Innovation in age-related products and services can make a significant difference to UK productivity and individuals' wellbeing, and will find a growing global market. Ageing also presents significant challenges to the economy, including greater caring demands on those of working age and increased health and social care costs. Without action, an ageing population could reduce the size of our workforce and lead to lower productivity.'

The University of Manchester has developed a mechanism for effective engagement between businesses & academics, and we are running an Healthy Ageing and Technology Innovation Lab. Our Innovation Labs initiate co-developed research projects that address a business need.

How does it work?

- The Innovation Labs follow a facilitated process led by a creative consultancy.
- At each Lab we host 3-5 industry partners, working in teams of 4-6, with cross-discipline academic groups.
- We work through a dynamic, creative process - define the problem/question → Facilitated creative thinking activity → Generate solutions → Feasibility matrix → Identify optimal solution → Pitch project idea to expert panel for seed corn funding.
- There is a strong emphasis on scoping for future large scale funding opportunities.

What's the benefit (or purpose)?

- Successful, trusted model for business-academic collaboration.
- Development of new cross-disciplinary relationships within The University.
- Businesses benefiting tangibly from academic engagement.
- Successful, seed- funded projects with potential for conversion, with University support, to collaborative research funding proposals.
- Enhancing academic-business engagement & develop tangible project plans in just 5 hours.

What do we need from Academic researchers?

- To attend with an open mind and collaborative approach to working with business and academics from other disciplines.
- Share your knowledge and expertise with businesses to help combat challenges that they face in society.
- Commit to attend the half-day workshop and any follow up project work.