



The Royal Society of Medicine

TACKLING INEQUALITIES

Through innovation and entrepreneurship

The 2nd annual meeting on Tackling Inequalities at the Royal Society of Medicine focused on doing so through innovation and entrepreneurship.

There was a reminder of Core20PLUS5, aimed at the conditions that can make the most impact on the 20% of the population with poorest health outcomes and the launch of the Core20PLUS5 delivery toolkit.

Professor Bola Owolabi pointed out the NHS obligation to orientate ourselves to not leave any part of the population behind and our need to understand the differential needs of the population.

We must design our services to address health inequalities and when we innovate it needs to be equitable, developed and implemented to ensure that those who stand to benefit most will access it.

Presentations from Core20PLUS5 accelerator sites and the lessons learned included the need to earn trust and recognition of historical injustice, the importance of language services, ease of navigation of services, location and access and linking to others who can address current needs and the use of storytelling to capture how people feel and how they can be included.

A panel with the national director of NHS Innovation Accelerator, the deputy director of InHIP (innovation for healthcare Inequalities Programme) and the national director for the Health Innovation Network discussed the focus on new products and devices or those approved by NICE but not making it through to populations with poor health.

Professor Tony Young introduced some brilliant entrepreneurs from the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, including a medical student and an anaesthetic registrar, solving problems in innovative ways, and retaining talent in the NHS.

Prof Owolabi concluded that the journey to improving healthcare inequalities is a marathon, a complex problem that will not be solved by one person, one team, one intervention, but instead which will be achieved one adjustment at a time and build on the principles learnt

today that will help us to that, recognise the inequalities, innovate to be equitable, make sure those who most need it are not left behind and orientate ourselves to design a more equitable health service for the future.

There are five new e-learning modules to support the implementation of Core20Plus5 available on <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/health-inequalities/>

Through the meeting there were many parallels with the evolutions facing medical education, the challenges of differential attainment and the historical injustices of the SAS and LED grades. The lesson of looking at innovation through multiple lens was well made.

At the end of our career, can we all look ourselves in the eye and say we did the best that we could, with the time that we had and the influence we had?