Professor Jim Briggs and The Learning Clinic Ltd

Application name should be the nominee name (i.e. the name of the Partnership team, project, people or person who will be the recipient of the Award).

Confidentiality Declaration

✓ I confirm all contributors to this project have provided consent for the use of the information provided in this application to be used by the organisers in any promotion of the Awards.

✓ The information provided does not include comercially sensitive content that requires approval before it is made public.

Consent

✓ I am happy for any of the information provided to be used by the organisers in any promotion of the Awards

1. Knowledge with Impact

Criteria

In this category applications should demonstrate exemplary TCS / KTP credentials, with a particular focus on evidencing the impacts made, the transformative outcomes delivered, and the exploitation potential realised.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

2. Driving Innovation for the Future

Criteria

Here we wish to showcase the most creative, innovative and market-disruptive aspects of TCS / KTP. Applicants here should be able to demonstrate and evidence the nature, novelty and scale of progressive change enabled and exploited by TCS / KTP.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

3. The Art of Successful Collaboration

Criteria

This theme exemplifies the TCS / KTP ethos, here we wish to focus on the relationship aspects of TCS / KTP and how applicants can demonstrate a depth and breadth of reach and impact that has been facilitated through people and organisations working in partnership for a common goal.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

The shortlisted finalists for each category will be invited to attend the Gold Awards Gala Dinner on Wednesday, 29th October 2025 at the Kimpton Clock Tower Hotel in Manchester.

Each shortlisted finalist will be allocated three Gold Awards Gala Dinner tickets, but will be responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation costs.

Are you applying for the Knowledge with Impact Category?	Yes

About the Nominees

Describe the People/ Partners/ Participants involved including any available TCS/ KTP project details (mention here any relevant context such as Knowledge Base and Company Partner details, main company activities, markets, locations; also consider providing turnover, profitability, and headcount numbers where possible).

> The "VitalPAC" KTP (KTP000721), conducted from 2006 to 2008, was a transformative collaboration between the University of Portsmouth's Centre for Healthcare Modelling and Informatics and The Learning Clinic Ltd (TLC), formerly TigerTeam Software Ltd. The project addressed a critical healthcare challenge which created delays in clinical decision-making and increased risks to patient safety. Professors Jim Briggs and David Prytherch led the academic team, with TLC represented by Roger Killen and Roy Margolis. Dan Flatters was the KTP Associate. A key partner, Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust (PHUT), represented by Prof Gary Smith and Dr Paul Schmidt, enabled clinical validation through live ward trials.
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> TLC, a UK-based company specialising in digital health solutions, developed VitalPAC through the KTP, an innovative bedside monitoring system enabling real-time data capture and remote access for clinicians. This pioneering product laid the foundation for the National Early Warning Score (NEWS), now adopted by 99.5% of UK hospitals and endorsed by NHS England and WHO.

The University contributed advanced data science and clinical modelling, while TLC scaled the solution commercially, growing to 64 employees and achieving a net profit of £2.6million in 2023. This KTP exemplifies high-impact knowledge transfer, delivering healthcare innovation with enduring national and global impact.

The Strategic Context

What was the strategic challenge, need or opportunity that this KTP (or formerly TCS) nomination set out to address? Please outline the key purpose/ aims/ objectives of your partnership(s) and/ or the drivers motivating the Gold Award nominee(s)

In the mid-2000s, hospitals primarily relied on paper-based systems for recording patient data. Nurses documented vital signs such as pulse, temperature, and blood pressure, on bedside charts which were inaccessible to clinicians elsewhere in the hospital. This fragmented approach hindered timely decision-making and posed risks to patient safety. TLC identified a critical opportunity to digitise this process and partnered with the University of Portsmouth to develop a solution. The result was VitalPAC, a handheld device (initially an iPod Touch) that allowed nurses to record vital signs electronically at the bedside. The KTP focused on designing an intuitive interface for doctors to remotely monitor patients via tablets.

This innovation was the first of its kind in the UK, and possibly globally. The project aimed to minimise data entry, ensure accuracy, and provide seamless access to patient information for all relevant clinicians. The collaboration combined TLC's vision and software development capabilities with the University's expertise in healthcare modelling and informatics. The strategic goal was not only to improve operational efficiency but also to enhance patient outcomes by enabling early detection of deterioration. This partnership laid the groundwork for a broader transformation in clinical practice, setting the stage for national and international adoption of digital early warning systems.

Overview of Outcomes and/or Impacts for the Beneficiaries

Please outline the key achievements. Detail the impacts realised for the host Organisation(s), the Knowledge Base(s) and the Associate(s). What were the evidential impacts and outcomes realised alongside any evidence of changes in operations, culture, economic/ societal/ environmental benefits etc. How was TCS / KTP transformational in realising optimal outcomes and impact for everyone involved.

The KTP led the University of Portsmouth team to further the development of VitalPAC Early Warning Score (ViEWS), which evolved into the National Early Warning Score (NEWS). Using data science, Professors Briggs and Prytherch optimised scoring parameters to predict critical outcomes such as cardiac arrest or ICU admission within 24 hours.

NEWS outperformed 33 other early warning systems and was later adopted by the Royal College of Physicians in 2012 (with only a couple of minor tweaks). Its simplicity and effectiveness facilitated rapid adoption: by 2013, two-thirds of UK hospitals had implemented it or planned to. The system's compatibility with both digital and paper-based workflows ensured accessibility across diverse healthcare settings. In 2018, NHS England mandated the use of NEWS through a Patient Safety Alert and provided

financial incentives for adoption. The University of Portsmouth submitted this evidence as Impact Case Study in the last Research Exercise Framework (REF) in 2021.

By 2022, 99.5% of hospitals and 100% of ambulance trusts had adopted it as NEWS2. TLC's operational culture shifted towards evidence-based innovation, and the company experienced significant economic growth. The KTP transformed clinical workflows, improved patient safety, and demonstrated the power of academic-industry collaboration in delivering scalable, life-saving healthcare solutions.

WOW Factor!

What makes this nomination special in having realised its exploitation potential and why should it win the Knowledge with Impact Gold Award?

The most compelling aspect of this nomination is its life-saving impact. Clinical evaluations showed an 18% reduction in mortality in pilot hospitals following the implementation of NEWS. NHS England estimates that standardised use of NEWS2 save over 1,800 lives annually. The KTP's enduring legacy and influence extends beyond the UK: it has been evaluated in over 50 studies across at least 14 countries, including the USA.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organisation (WHO) endorsed NEWS2 as the only adult early warning score in its May 2020 guidance for managing suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. This global recognition underscores the system's clinical value and scalability. NEWS2 has also been recommended for use in nursing and residential care homes to standardise communication with NHS services. The innovation originated from a KTP project, a testament to the transformative potential of academic-industry partnerships. The University's research through this KTP directly influenced national policy and extended global reach.

Why should we win?

From a local initiative to a global standard, this work exemplifies knowledge with impact. It seamlessly integrates rigorous research, practical application, and measurable outcomes to deliver a healthcare solution that saves lives, informs policy, and inspires future innovation. In our humble view, this nomination stands out not only for its technical excellence and unwavering commitment to research and knowledge transfer, but also for its profound societal benefit and the lives it has saved before and throughout the pandemic, making it a deserving candidate for the Knowledge with Impact Golden Award.