

Public involvement opportunity in rehabilitation technologies with the EMERGE RehabTech Programme

The new research programme, EMERGE RehabTech, is seeking local people to join our friendly team as a member of our Public Advisory Group (PAG). These are vital patient and public roles which will actively contribute to shaping the direction and activities of the EMERGE RehabTech programme bringing insights that represent the viewpoints and experiences of people on a rehabilitation journey. This group will ensure the programme is relevant, inclusive, and shaped by the experiences of the people it is designed to support.

➤ About EMERGE RehabTech

EMERGE RehabTech is a four-year programme that supports new ideas and technologies to help people with their rehabilitation. The programme is led by Nottingham Trent University, working in partnership with the University of Nottingham, Loughborough University, and the University of Derby. <https://mtif.co.uk/impact/emerge-place-based-impact-acceleration-account-pbiaa/>

By rehabilitation technologies, we mean the tools to speed up recovery, reduce disability, and regain independence following serious injury, illness, or declining function with age. We also include tools that prevent, reduce, or manage complications linked to many health conditions. Our goal is to help these innovations move from the idea into real-world use more quickly.

We will fund projects to develop new tools, devices and services, run events, and bring people together to build a strong, connected rehabilitation technology community in the East Midlands.

To get maximum value from this opportunity and ensure the innovations we support are usable and useful, we must involve patients, carers and the public who have lived experience of rehabilitation in shaping the whole programme. To this end, we would like to establish our own dedicated Public Advisory Group (PAG) that will work with the programme over its four-year duration.

What will you do?

The EMERGE RehabTech Public Advisory Group will:

- Attend quarterly meetings (hybrid: online or in person) with the EMERGE delivery team.
- Offer your perspective on programme activities, including events, public engagement and funding calls, bringing lived experience to strategic discussions.
- Help us to review funding proposals, reflect on progress, and critically evaluate impact from funded projects.
- Take part in optional activities such as attending research workshops hosted by EMERGE or focus groups led by EMERGE-funded projects to offer your perspectives on their rehabilitation technologies.
- We expect members to commit to an initial term of 12 months, with the option to renew.

➤ **Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for individuals who:

- Are aged 18 or over
- Have experience of living with an injury, disability, a condition or illness which required or continues to require rehabilitation in a clinical setting or at home (Expert by Experience)
- Are a parent, family member, carer or friend of someone with rehabilitation needs
- Have needed rehabilitation for a sports injury, illness, disability, disease or traumatic event
- Have a child who required or requires ongoing rehabilitation
- Are based in the East Midlands or have knowledge/ interest in East Midlands communities
- Are interested in improving rehabilitation technologies and services
- Are comfortable working in a group setting
- Respect the views and experiences of others and can work with people from different backgrounds
- Can commit to attending meetings and reviewing materials as needed (approx. 2 hours every 3 months)

➤ **Benefits of taking part**

- Make a difference to how rehabilitation technologies are developed, funded and used
- Take part in a programme that benefits East Midlands communities
- Make sure people's real experiences are listened to and included
- Learn more about research and new ideas in rehabilitation
- Help shape technologies that are inclusive and accessible.

➤ **What you can expect from us?**

- To be able to contact a designated member of staff before and after each meeting by phone or in writing.
- To be welcomed and listened to.
- To be made aware of opportunities to be involved in research.
- To have any accessibility needs taken into account where possible.
- To be kept up to date with research progress and receive feedback on meetings.
- To be reimbursed for your time at a rate of £25 / hour. Please look at the information [here](#) on how this payment could affect those receiving welfare benefits.
- You will receive reasonable travel expenses. All payments will be paid via Nottingham Trent University in British Pound Sterling by bank transfer.

➤ **Diversity statement**

We are committed to building a group that reflects the diversity of people and communities across the East Midlands and beyond. We welcome people of all backgrounds, ages, identities and experiences including those who may not have been involved in research or public groups before. We especially encourage participation from people who are often underrepresented in health and research settings, including:

- People from ethnic minority communities
- Disabled people and those with long-term conditions
- People from rural or lower-income areas
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- People with different communication or learning needs

We believe that having a wide range of voices and perspectives makes our programme stronger, fairer, and more relevant to everyone.

➤ **How can I get involved?**

If you'd like to join this Public Advisory Group, please complete the expression of interest form which you can access by clicking here [EMERGE RehabTech Public Advisory Group Expression of Interest – Fill in form.](#)

If you would like to have an informal chat about becoming involved or have difficulties accessing the form, please contact EMERGErehabtech@ntu.ac.uk and we can arrange a phone call.

Key dates

- Deadline for return of the Expression of Interest form: 7th January 2026
- Informal meetings to discuss your involvement: commencing 19th January 2026. These can be telephone calls or online meetings.