Space at Harwell
MULTIDISCIPLINARY INNOVATION

HealthTec at Harwell
MULTIDISCIPLINARY INNOVATION

EnergyTec at Harwell
MULTIDISCIPLINARY INNOVATION

ResMed

ResMed designs and manufacturers healthcare solutions for patients with respiratory diseases including sleep apnoea. In response to the pandemic they upscaled their production of ventilators threefold to support the NHS and we caught up with them to hear how they are permanently improving the ability of clinicians to treat patients remotely as the clinical landscape changes.

Antoine Valterio, Country Manager, ResMed UK told us "Our goal for the coming year is to continue supporting the NHS in recovering from COVID-19 disruptions and the impact they've had on sleep and respiratory services. Part of this is to provide solutions as the NHS pushes to move patient care closer to home by accelerating the uptake of digital technology to enhance the treatment and monitoring of patients. The pandemic is altering the clinical landscape and we're innovating and adapting at lightning speed to deliver the technology needed.

The strongest, most insightful argument for the adoption of digitised healthcare is found when looking at how ResMed's Air Solutions, such as AirView™, have been adopted across many NHS hospitals. When in place it's changing the way patients receive healthcare. A hospital in North-West England, for example, boosted the capacity of the hospital's *sleep and respiratory clinic* to serve existing patients and treat new patients within the requisite referral period. It also increased efficiency and patient satisfaction through remote monitoring . The time savings realised allowed the clinicians to allocate more time to patients with more complex conditions that required more urgent or extensive attention.

We are certainly at the precipice of a massive transformation in the medical field, and digital healthcare is the means by which this will be achieved. The NHS has set forth its 'NHS Long Term Plan' to make digitally-enabled primary and outpatient care mainstream. ResMed's mission is aligned with that and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have witnessed the need for an accelerated implementation of these plans.

One example we're really proud of is the acceleration of the launch of AirView™ for ventilation by several months which has helped healthcare professionals deliver quality care to patients while maintaining social-distancing measures. It enables clinicians to remotely access detailed respiratory information from ResMed ventilators which are used for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, as well as patients with chronic respiratory diseases who require regular check-ups.

The pandemic has also propelled us to become flexible in terms of our production; as demand for ventilators increased dramatically, we increased our production almost three-fold in order to meet demand.

We were able to deliver thousands of ventilators and consumables to support the UK central government's national response plan, alongside our services to existing customers. said 'I am genuinely proud of the whole team for the incredible way they've dealt with the workload and stress to make sure our existing patients continued to get what they need while we scaled up to support the response to the crisis'. The pandemic has, if anything, further cemented our commitment to being highly innovative, adaptive, and responsive.

We're driven to innovation by our dedication to the *preservation* of life and to the enhancement of *quality* of life. For respiratory patients, cloud connecting the devices used to deliver care for sleep apnoea, COPD, and other conditions delivers real steps towards both of those goals. It means that clinicians and even patients are able to constantly monitor therapy experiences, allowing care to respond to real data and improve outcomes for patients. Digital healthcare also allows larger numbers of patients to be diagnosed and treated without the need to travel to clinics or hospitals.

As with any business, there have been a few challenges in our success journey and a big one for us is the large patient population that remains unaware, undiagnosed, and untreated for their condition. We are always working with clinicians, industry groups, patient associations, and campaigns to improve awareness that these conditions exist and are treatable.

Our other obstacle relates to digital change. Implementing change in the way healthcare is delivered is not a small feat but digital healthcare solutions can easily be adopted. While there is always resistance to change, moving towards connectivity has the potential to help clinicians deliver optimised quality care and achieve enhanced patient outcomes. We've seen that the benefits of implementation are often immediate.

Bearing in mind our ambitious goals being on campus at Harwell has really helped us position ourselves as a global leader in digital. The Harwell Campus hosts an array of companies which have similar outlooks and this has helped us further establish our presence as a progressive, innovative company as well as allow for collaboration with those at the cutting edge of science.

In terms of the physical set-up, the central location of the Harwell campus has provided us with ample space and convenient facilities where we can run our commercial and logistics operations to supply the NHS and private patients with masks, devices, and other products. Our offices, main warehouse, and one of our clinics are located within the same vicinity, further facilitating some of our work.

Looking to the future, Technology is the means by which we can alleviate pressure on the NHS, reduce costs, and increase efficiencies, and it is our goal to help bring about positive change to NHS clinicians and patients. We're looking forward to doing that, building on the astonishing resilience and innovation I've witnessed within our team during the Pandemic, it was a team effort and I couldn't be prouder.