A golden triangle of research and innovation excellence

*Digital eye.
Source: Shutterstock.*

World's leading hub?

The UK isn't an easy market in which to get a foothold, but indisputably worth the effort. The country has powerful clusters, incubators and programmes blending data, digital, research and health. The levels of convergence and concentration in the London-Oxford-Cambridge 'golden triangle' make it arguably the world's leading digital health hub. With 4 of the world's top 10 universities and 5 of Britain's 7 Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs), not to mention the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult and Precision Medicine Catapult.

The Wellcome Genome Campus for genomics and computational biology in Cambridge is one of Europe's strongest clusters. Oxford has the Harwell HealthTech cluster and London is the AI growth capital of Europe. The square mile round 'Silicon Roundabout' is one of the world's most connected technology hubs. The nearby Kings Cross Knowledge Quarter has over 100 academic, medical, research and scientific organisations, large and small, including: University College London (UCL), UCL Hospital, Google, MSD, IQVIA, the Francis Crick Institute, Alan Turing Institute, British Medical Association, Digital Catapult, Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of General Practitioners, BenevolentAI and the Wellcome Trust.

UNITED KINGDOM

Gateway to connections and capital

There are innumerable NHS institutes, the world's largest single-payer health system, including several National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Biomedical Research centres. The NHS also has its own expert team at MedCity, providing a gateway to the region by facilitating introductions, connections and capital.

Innovation culture

The UK scores high on availability of trained talent funding; its open regulatory environment and evidence standards; and its innovation culture and scale-up support, including mentoring, with the most tech.

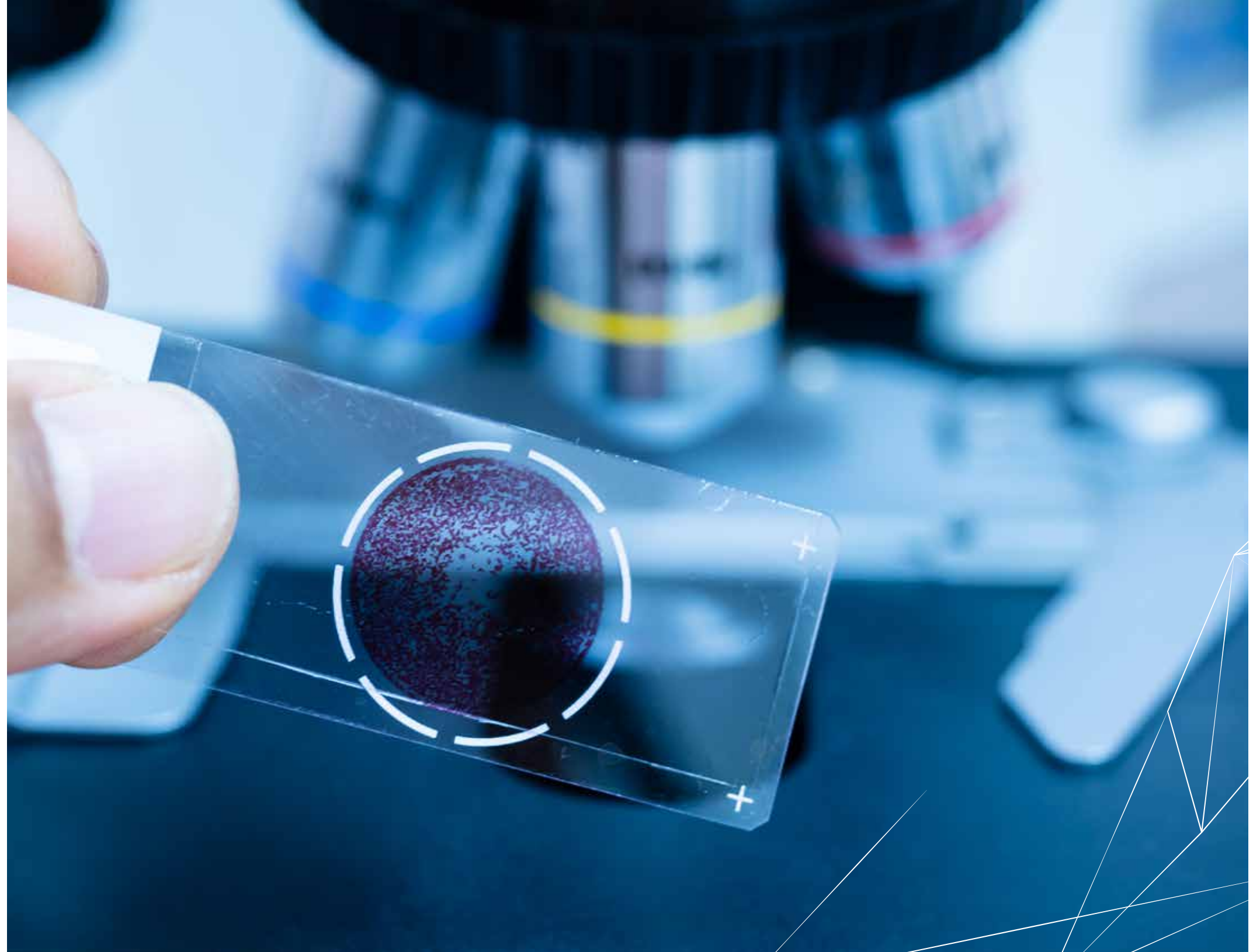## In 2020, the UK ranked #2 globally on AI readiness

Much of this is down to significant funding and a government focus on innovation to create an environment conducive to AI adoption. In 2020, Oxford Insights and the IDRC ranked the UK #2 in the world on AI readiness (#1 in 2017, #2 in 2019), just behind the US.

The NHS is again important here. Unrivalled as a single payer test-bed, it has a distinguished track-record as a proving ground for technology.

The UK also has its own innovation agency, Innovate UK, and the NIHR, which fund both clinical research and health service research geared to real-world implementation.

Data sets

The availability of high-quality longitudinal data sets, combined with public support for research, gives the UK a global competitive advantage. The UK also offers world-leading transparency on data collection

and a deep focus on ethics, with bodies like the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) and the Ada Lovelace Institute.

All the above factors combine to make the UK attractive to AI in health investors from around the world, particularly Silicon Valley, which in turn is an added attraction for any company thinking of setting up in the UK.

Learn more…

The NIN UK in collaboration with the Netherlands Business Support Office Manchester will be publishing a detailed

market report on AI in Health in the UK at the end of 2020, also highlighting the opportunities available that can lead to closer collaboration in areas such as health data research, clinical pathology and imaging.

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