



ELAROS: A Research Active Company

A case study highlighting the research activities that ELAROS engages in and the benefits gained.



Background

The NHS 10 Year Plan highlights an ambition to “transform the NHS into a global research and innovation powerhouse”

Research active companies such as ELAROS through collaboration with NHS researchers, academia and other companies, can help achieve that ambition.

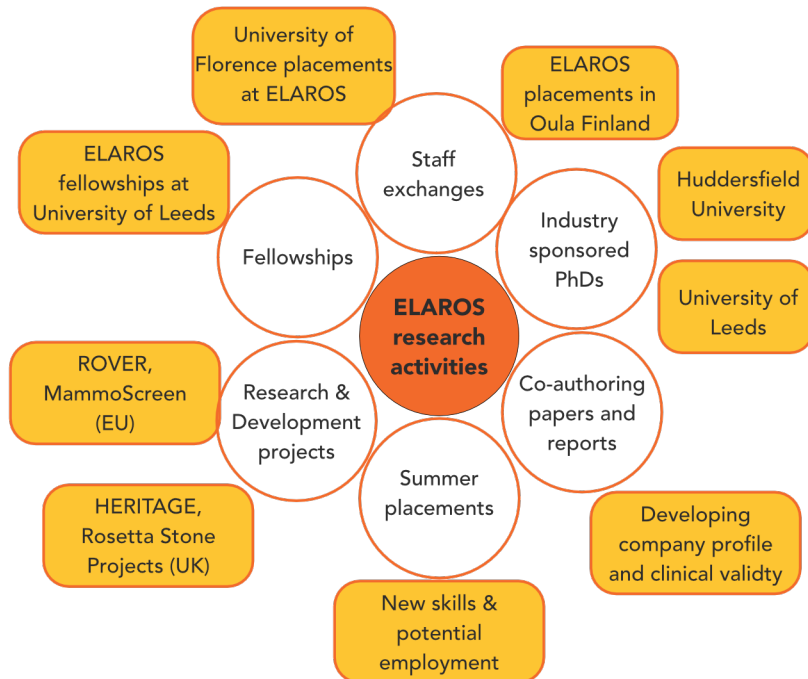
This case study highlights the research activities that ELAROS engages in and the benefits gained.



Introduction

ELAROS has been successful in obtaining funding from Innovate UK, NIHR, SBRI and has partnered in two Horizon 2020 projects, ROVER and MammoScreen.

ELAROS takes a variety of roles in research projects including lead investigator, work package leader, patient, public involvement and engagement (PPIE) lead and technology lead. The company brings its expertise in developing digital platforms and apps to its collaborations which are applicable across a variety of clinical themes.



Research projects involving ELAROS			
	Project	Summary	Funder
2016	Sleepy Fox	An easy-to-use app, developed by ELAROS for parents to manage their child's sleep	SBRI
2017	Dysphagia Guide	A digital knowledge resource co-designed with care home staff and experts in dysphagia	Innovate UK
2019	Digital Bladder Diary	A CE-marked medical device for the assessment and diagnosis of people with bladder conditions	Innovate UK
2020	ROVER	Wireless applications for healthcare in collaboration with 13 national and international partners	EU Horizon 2020
2021	LOCOMOTION	Co-development of a clinical web portal and patient app for data collection for optimising treatments and services for people experience Long Covid	NIHR
2021	Neu-Restore	A digital hub for stroke survivors, clinicians, healthcare staff to aid rehabilitation	Innovate UK
2022	MammoScreen	Co-development of a clinical portal and app to support people with breast screening appointments	EU Horizon 2020
2023	Open-OH	A digital workplace support solution for people with long-term conditions	SBRI
2025	Adjustments by Open-OH	A solution to support mental health in the workplace	SBRI
2025	NROL	A digital platform to support virtual therapy groups for neuro-related conditions	SBRI
2025	MoRIS	A digital platform for the early diagnosis of autism in children	NIHR
2026	Rosetta Stone	To understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms that may drive Long Covid and ME/CFS	ME Association
2026	HERITAGE	Exploring the cost effectiveness of existing healthcare models for ME/CFS and long covid to improve quality of care for both	NIHR

Benefits to ELAROS of being Research Active and partnering with ELAROS

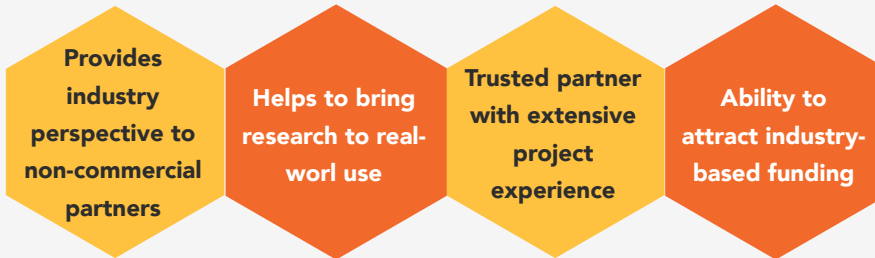
For ELAROS, there are many benefits to being research-active for the company itself, and its team members.

Benefits of being research active



For academic and clinical colleagues involving ELAROS in research projects brings reciprocal benefits.

Benefits to project partners



Professor Paul O'Brien, CEO, ELAROS

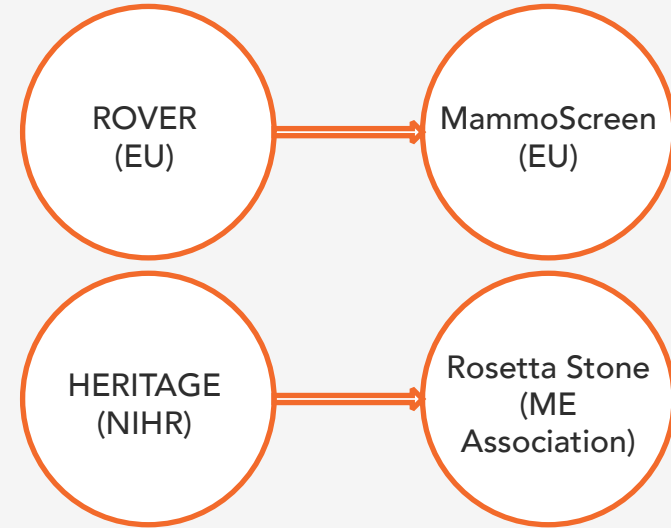
"We provide an industry perspective to our academic colleagues in universities and the importance of always ensuring that research is applied and worldly.

ELAROS is able to attract industry-based funding which can be used to develop exciting new research, which is often locked away in universities.

We bring a different set of skills to those of our academic colleagues which enables us to work together to develop powerful joint teams to take research forward"



Being a trusted partner has brought benefits in that ELAROS has been included in follow-on projects and that the company is able to introduce its expertise into new clinical areas.



A non-exhaustive list of research areas ELAROS is involved in

Building Trust Between Organisations Through Staff Exchanges

Román Rocha Lawrence, Commercialisation Director, ELAROS



Arianna Conti, Masters Student in Management Engineering, from the University of Florence to ELAROS



"As somebody who joined a micro SME straight out of university, the Staff Exchange with the University of Florence, through ROVER, was a fantastic opportunity to experience working closely with and for an organisation much bigger than ELAROS. It gave me an insight into how large institutions work at a different pace to us, with similar but different aims and ways to demonstrate impact and success, as well as understanding the importance of funding to progress new research and development.

My staff exchange was focused on knowledge transfer and exploring prospective early-stage areas of collaboration between the University and ELAROS, to leverage each other's networks and technical and academic skillsets. This delivered some great outputs including the opportunity for students from Florence to take placements at ELAROS as part of their Bachelor's / Masters degrees.

The Staff Exchange helped build foundational trust between the organisations, to submit applications for new funding grants together."

"During my time at ELAROS, I became acquainted with different areas of the company such as research and development, project management and commercialisation which allowed me to deeply understand how a private digital company operates in such a dynamic and rapidly growing environment.

This was my first work experience and it enabled me to understand what it means to work in a team, to collaborate with different people and to take responsibility for tasks and to respect deadlines. I developed skills in conducting research, gathering information on digital health and writing reports.

Working across different company areas and through collaboration with international partners I developed in-depth knowledge of digital health technologies and strengthened my strategic thinking and communication skills"

Development of future Team Members through the Summer Placement Programme

ELAROS' Summer Placement programme is a competitive programme that invites undergraduates and post-graduates from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University to spend a summer at ELAROS. The programme has been running since 2018 and gives candidates the opportunity to learn about the company, and to work on a particular programme of work aligned to their own interests. This provides students with valuable work experience and also helps to advance ELAROS' products and programmes of work.



Blesson Ezra, Research and Development Manager, ELAROS

Blesson became involved in the Summer Placement Programme after connecting with ELAROS at a University of Sheffield industry showcase. During his placement at the company, he explored potential avenues for the expansion of ELAROS' C19-YRS system into other chronic conditions, analysing clinical pathways and identifying where digital solutions could improve patient care.

In 2024, following his graduation from the University of Sheffield with an MEng in Bioengineering, Blesson rejoined ELAROS where his role evolved to support early stage research and development projects, ParkinSense and MoRIS.

Blesson also holds responsibilities for regulatory affairs and has led a wearable integration project with the Open-OH digital health platform, creating a roadmap towards technical feasibility.

Progressing ELAROS' Research through Fellowships

Román Rocha Lawrence, Commercialisation Director, ELAROS



Roman received ESRC funding to work part time at the University of Leeds to progress research which ELAROS was already collaborating on, but from an academic perspective to contribute to data analysis and publications to advance the scientific field of Long Covid.

In total, the Fellowship lasted 18 months, thanks to a project ELAROS was commissioned to do by NHS England, conducting a national service evaluation of NHS Long Covid Services using data from the ELAROS platform. This went on to support the recommissioning of NHS services in England.

"The Fellowship was an incredible unique opportunity for any researcher and a career highlight for me at ELAROS."



Career advancement



Skills development



Work experience

About ELAROS

ELAROS is a globally connected digital health SME based in Sheffield, UK, that was incorporated in 2010, backed by private investors and with four NHS organisations as shareholders.

ELAROS is a health company rather than a technology company. Its work is collaboration driven and unmet needs led, rather than technology push.

The company is agile, small enough to respond quickly but big enough and connected enough to be able to deliver nationally and internationally.

"Ideas and opportunities come from everywhere and nowhere in particular. It's all about being proactive" Professor Paul O'Brien, CEO ELAROS.

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