EPSRC DRIVE-Health
Centre for Doctoral Training in Data-Driven Health

Partner engagement, September 2025

KING'S College LONDON

DRIVE-Health
EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Data-Driven Health

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

DRIVE-Health – How it started

- 2020-2023: DRIVE-Health pilot with seed funding from King's, 30 PhD students
  - Leveraged £1.8M partnership funding
  - Established a growing network of partners (pharma, NHS, health tech, charities) to meet their skills and research needs

Our vision

DRIVE-Health trains the next generation of health data scientists/computer scientists, healthcare software developers and systems engineers, and AI/machine learning researchers to deliver data-driven, personalised, sustainable healthcare for 2030 and beyond.

Co-created with the NHS, patients, health tech and pharma, DRIVE-Health will deliver the EPSRC strategy for Transforming Health and Healthcare.

We aim to create innovative therapies, drive healthcare system transformation, and step-change improvements in health outcomes and quality of life.

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DRIVE-Health students at our 2024 Symposium

Our impact

- Awarded £8.9M UKRI/EPSRC funding to 2032
- Projected partner contributions bring the total investment to £17M
- 36 EPSRC students onboarded since October 2024
- Multidisciplinary, cross-campus training programme and a strong community identity
- **Partner-based delivery is key to our vision, and our portfolio is growing at a pace**

8 partner-funded studentships in 2024

12 partner-funded studentships in 2025

Why co-fund a studentship?

- Partners collaborate on projects and research roadmaps
  - Drives innovation through co-creation
  - Aligns academic research with emerging market and policy priorities, making outputs more commercially and clinically relevant
  - Positions you as a thought-leader in your research domain
  - Opportunities for joint publications, conferences, and public recognition
  - Fast-track academic access to explore the potential and solutions to your project(s)

- Partners build credibility and visibility
  - Brand can be woven into symposia, seminars, public engagement events, social & recruitment campaigns
  - Demonstrates corporate social responsibility and investment in collaboration

- Partners see real impact of investment and low-risk way to scout emerging talent
  - Your student is part of an inclusive, high-performing community attracting top-tier candidates

Our partner engagement strategy

Through our diverse partners across the health data science ecosystem, we aim to:

- Attract outstanding doctoral students who aim to be leaders as well as health data scientists, by providing a range of training, research, and placement opportunities
- Enhance the doctoral training experience and provide access to an expanded range of training, technologies, and facilities through partnerships
- Foster and provide an experience of genuine research collaborations with partners and to increase the impact of academic research
- Offer experience in product development, entrepreneurship, leading-edge milestone-driven research, and in working in multidisciplinary teams in diverse environments
- Promote co-design of translational research projects across industry, the NHS, public and third sectors

Multi-disciplinary Partner Ecosystem

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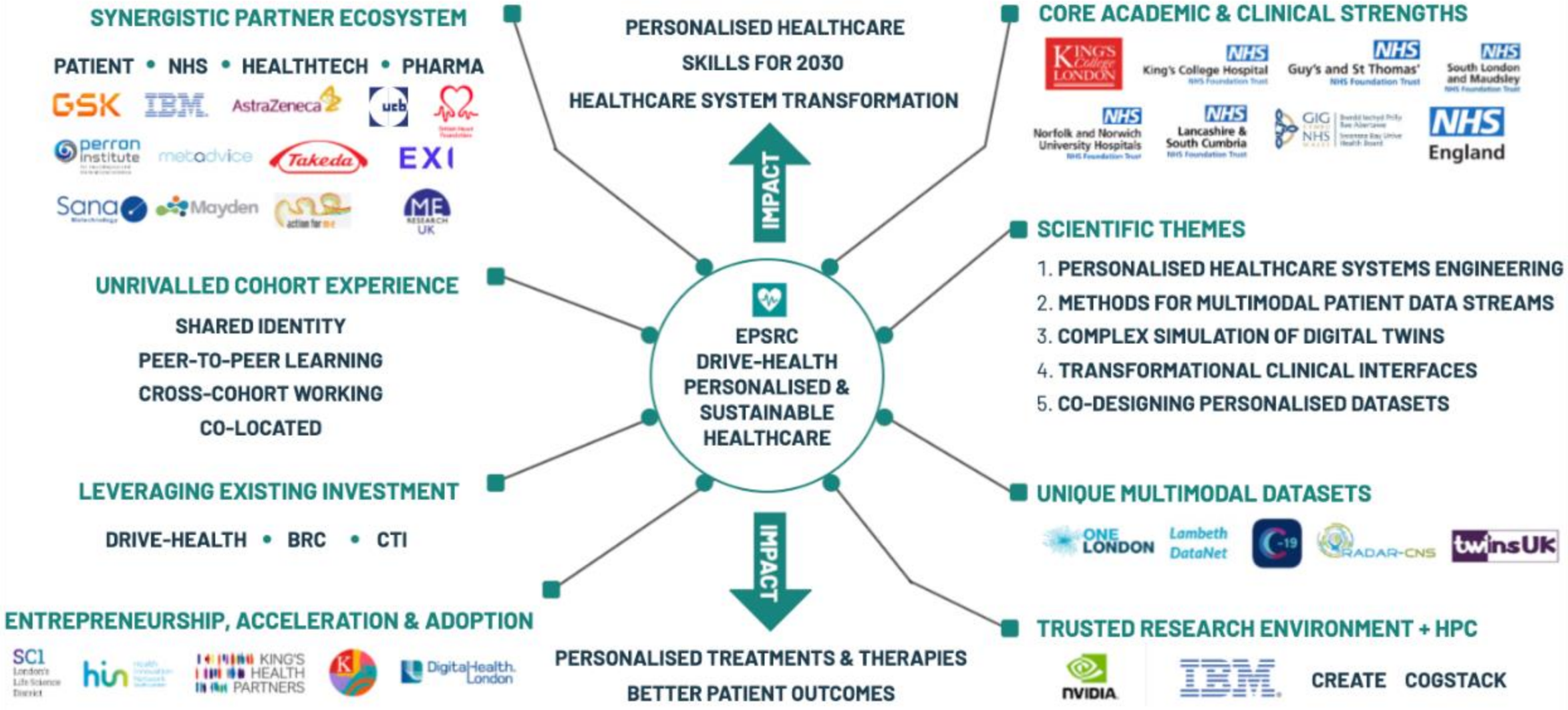

EPSRC DRIVE-Health CDT in Data-Driven Health

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Scientific Themes (flexible)

1

Sustainable Healthcare Data Systems Engineering

Theme 1 (T1) investigates methods and frameworks for developing scalable and secure data-driven software systems:

interoperable software architectures, scalable workflow analytics, clinical decision support, systems sustainability.

2

Multimodal Patient Data Streams

Theme 2 (T2) will enable the vision of a highly heterogenous data environment where device data from wearables, patient-generated content and structured/unstructured information from electronic health records can combine seamlessly:

machine learning from heterogenous data, time series analytics, natural language processing, deep phenotyping.

3

Complex Simulations and Digital Twins

Theme 3 (T3) focuses on the paradigm of building simulated environments, including healthcare settings or virtual patients, to enable training machine learning and AO models:

predictive analytics, systems simulation, casual inference.

4

Next-Generation Clinical User Interfaces

Theme 4 (T4) will place usability front and centre to ensure health data science applications are usable in clinical settings and are aligned with users' workflows:

knowledge representation, designing for usability, voice and video interfaces.

5

Co-designing Impactful Patient-Centric Healthcare Solutions

Theme 5 (T5) is a cross-cutting exploring co-production and co-design, stakeholder engagement, evaluation techniques and maximising impact:

public and patient involvement, co-production and co-design, medical device and data regulation, productising academic software, and health economics and evaluation.

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DRIVE-Health Management Team

Professor Richard Dobson
Co-Director

"The team brings an appropriate mix of supervisory, technical, clinical and leadership expertise, enabling it to effectively manage the academic, professional support, financial, and partnership resources for an outstanding cohort-based PhD programme"

Professor Vasa Curcin
Co-Director

Professor Angus Roberts
Training Lead

Dan Seorici
Centre Administrator

Jo Dobson
Centre Partnerships and Communications Lead

Recruitment in progress

Centre Manager

Dr Lucie Burgess
Partnerships Development Director

Dr Alex Dregan
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Lead

Leads

Professor Alfredo Iacoangeli

Academic Lead for Trusted Research

Dr Divya Parmer

Patient Public Involvement & Engagement Lead

Dr Lisa Harper

Entrepreneurship/Translation Lead

Professor James Teo

Clinical Lead

Theme 1

Dr Zina Ibrahim

Sustainable Healthcare Data Systems Engineering

Theme 2

Dr Nicholas Cummins

Multimodal Patient Data Streams

Theme 3

Dr Steffen Zschaler

Complex Simulations and Digital Twins

Theme 4

Dr Timothy Neate

Next-Generation Clinical User Interfaces

Theme 5

Professor Claire Steves

Co-designing Impactful Patient-Centric Healthcare Solutions

Partner commitments

Partners typically contribute:

- Financial funding at 50% or higher
- 3-month unpaid student placement
- In-kind contributions such as talks, seminars, data access

Standard commercial IP options available:

- Option of an exclusive licence to the research IP, subject to a 40% premium of the total studentship cost
- Option to a non-exclusive licence to the research IP, subject to a 30% premium of the total studentship cost
- Option to an assignment of the research IP, subject to royalty payments

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Costs

	Starting October 2026	Home Status
Total Studentship costs for a four-year PhD		
	Tuition fees*	£21,570
	Stipend*	£105,545
	Research Training Support Grant (RTSG)	£16,000
	100% Studentship Cost	**£143,115**
Commmitment splits		
	90%	**£128,804**
	75%	**£107,336**
	50%	**£71,558**
Additional Project-specific Costs		
	Commercial IP rights as agreed	TBA
	Specialist equipment	TBA

Stipend and RTSG remain the same for everyone, regardless of tuition fee status.

**Final figures confirmed early 2026.*

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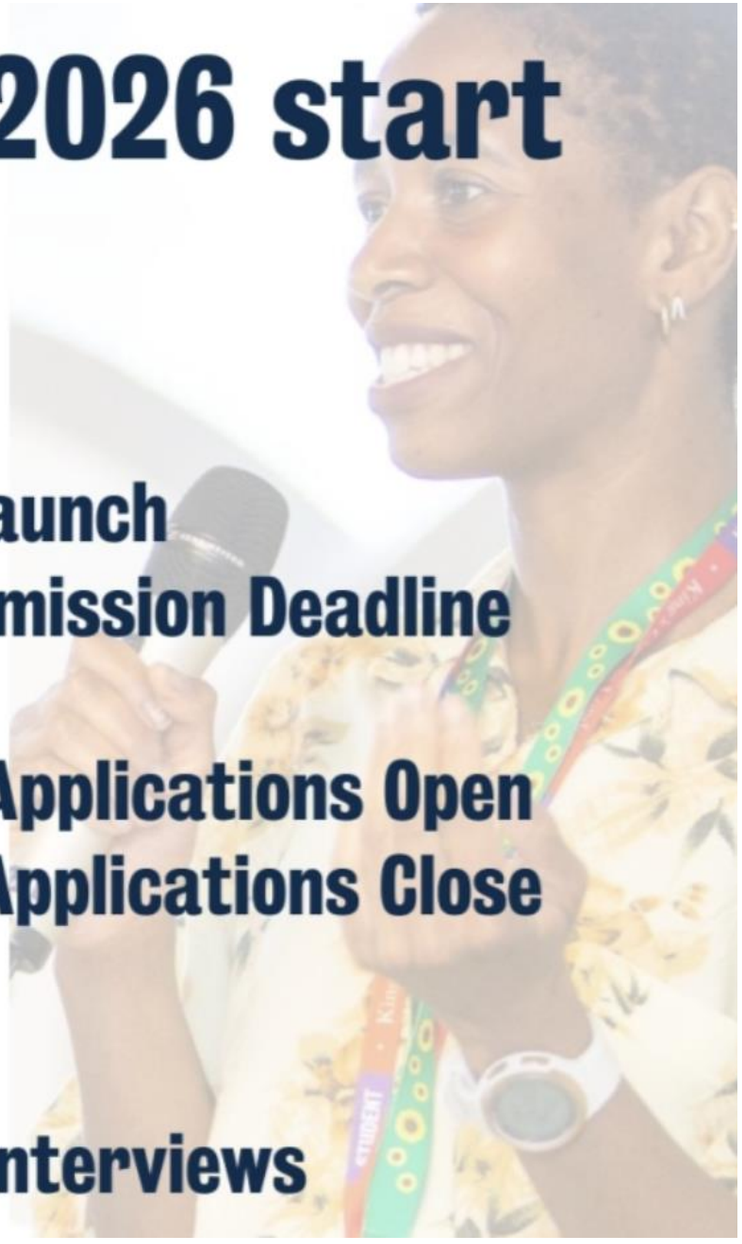
Timings – October 2026 start



Key dates:

22 August 2025 – Project Call Launch

13 October 2025 – Projects Submission Deadline

Mid-November 2025 – Student Applications Open

Early January 2026 – Student Applications Close

Key Dates:

March/April 2026 – Candidate Interviews

DRIVE-Health in action!

Student successes and impact

Dr. Julianna Olah

Juli is co-founder and CTO. She received her PhD from King's College London for research on artificial intelligence (AI) in mental health. Her leading work on voice biomarkers has been published in top journals & conferences. Prior to Psyrin, she started the largest digital therapy marketplace in Hungary, which has facilitated over 10,000 sessions. Get in touch here.

A Start-up Founder's Story: Psyrin

Cohort 2020

Psyrin raises $1 million to advance its pioneering approach to mental health assessment using voice biomarkers

October 29, 2024

SPARKS digital health founder & ICURE Explore Award winner 2024

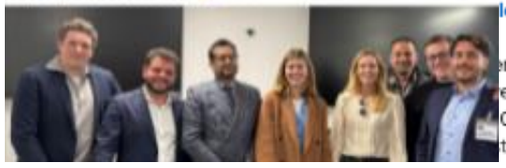
"The highlight of the Accelerator has been the opportunity to connect with so many different companies and researchers who can help us make our technology succeed. They have brought new light into the project. This, combined with the invaluable perspective from the UHE team makes me confident that there is a practical future for our technology and it's not going to be just a research project confined to a series of papers! I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to explore the real-world feasibility of our technology, after working on it for so many years."

MIQUEL SERRA PASCUAL

Cohort 2020

The Physiological Society Prize winner announced

Cohort 2020



Lapis AI
370 followers
1mo • Edited •

Cohort 2020

Congratulations to our #CTO and #Founder, Davide Ferrari, MA MS PhD, on receiving his Doctor of Philosophy award from King's College London! ...more

Davide Ferrari, MA MS PhD · 1st
Fundraising Pre-seed Round at Lapis AI Studio: developing human-centric AI ...
1mo •

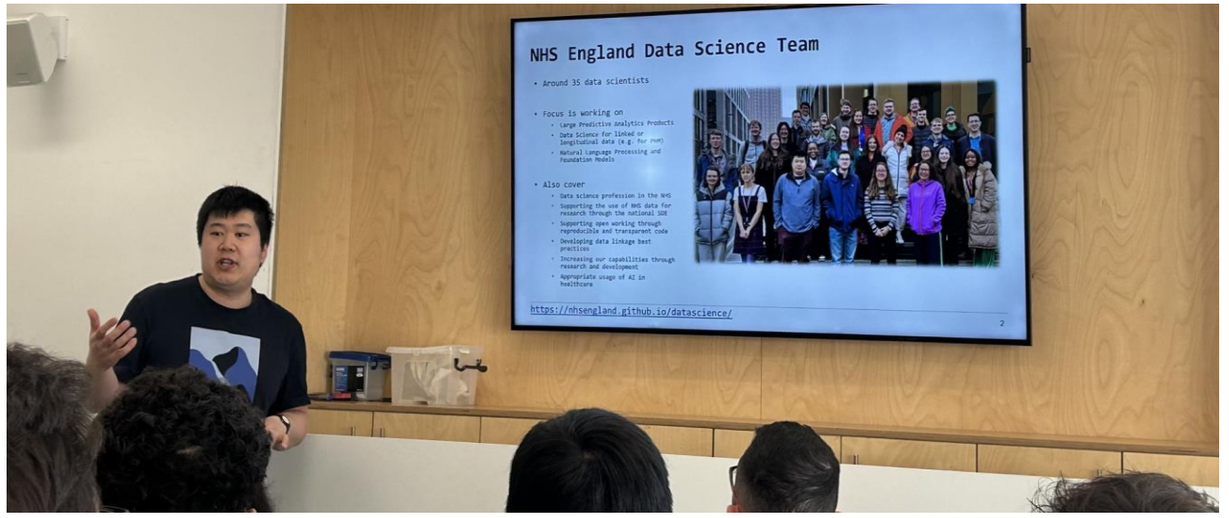
Exciting News! 🎉
s morning, I officially received my Doctor of Philosophy award from King's
lege London! 🎓

r the past four years at the DRIVE-Health CDT, I dedicated myself to
eloping innovative and impactful Machine Learning methodologies, leading
0 peer-reviewed publications—including journal and conference papers,
ters, and book chapters. This gifted me with four unforgettable ...more

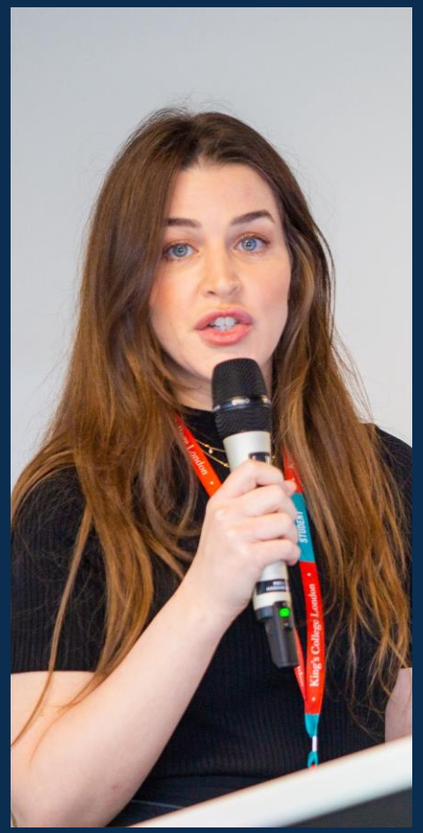
Events

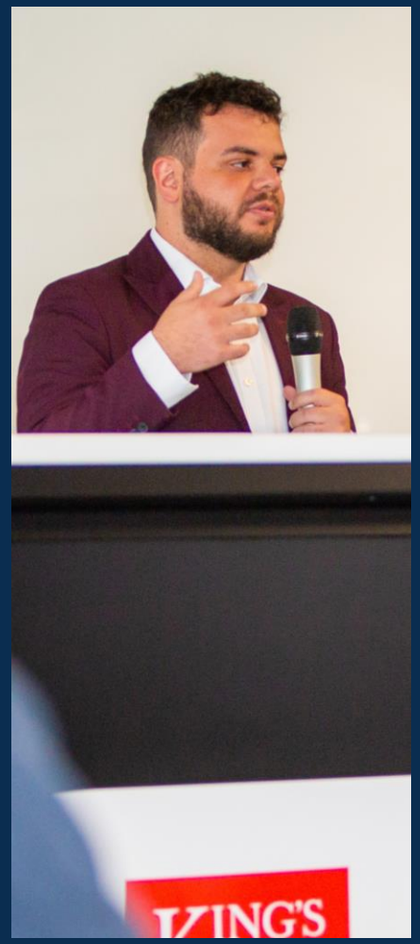

Thank you!
Questions?


Current Challenges Faced
Integration Issues
The NHS struggles with integrating new technologies into existing systems, leading to inefficiencies and frustration.
Funding Constraints
Limited funding creates barriers for the NHS to invest in new technologies and improve existing services.
Resistance to Change
Healthcare professionals often resist changes due to fear of the unknown or perceived threats to their roles.


NHS England Data Science Team
• Around 35 data scientists
• Focus is working on
• Large Predictive Analytics Products
• Data Science for linked or longitudinal data (e.g. for PHM)
• Natural Language Processing and Foundation Models
• Also cover
• Data science profession in the NHS
• Supporting the use of NHS data for research through the national SDE
• Supporting open working through reproducible and transparent code
• Developing data linkage best practices
• Increasing our capabilities through research and development
• Appropriate usage of AI in healthcare
https://nhsengland.github.io/datascience/
2

Student Lightning Talks





DRIVE-Health students

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Our 2024 Welcome Week