The Institute will focus on new technologies enabling health care and provision away from hospitals and institutions to facilitate independent living. It aims to revolutionise the health service efficiencies in Scotland and at the same time improve patient experiences, as well as ensuring Scotland remains at the forefront of the sector.

Scottish universities and industry partners are supporting the Institute from the outset, including staff from GCU’s Institute for Sustainable Engineering and Technology Research (ISETR) and the Institute for Applied Health Research (IAHR).

Led by the University of Edinburgh, partners include NHS24, Philips, Vodafone, IBM and CISCO.

John McClelland, Scottish Funding Council chair, said: “This is the first of a planned series of Scottish Funding Council investments to establish Innovation Centres for Scotland’s key industries. These Centres will harness academic and entrepreneurial innovation to create jobs and accelerate economic growth in Scotland.”

Glasgow Caledonian University’s Interactive and Trustworthy Technologies Research Group investigates new technological challenges and opportunities and the impact that they have on people and society in terms of factors such as convenience, performance, security. Along with GCU colleagues in the School of Health and Life Sciences, the group is currently working on pioneering research that could improve rehabilitation after stroke, speed up recovery from joint replacements and prevent falls in older people.

Funded by Lifelong Health and Wellbeing (LLHW), a cross-research council initiative in partnership with the UK health departments and led by the Medical Research Council (MRC), Envisage is a £1.5 million project which involves engineers, scientists, designers and healthcare professionals from across the UK joining forces with members of the public to convert powerful biomechanical data into simple, computer-generated animations to help patients visualise how their bodies move.

Professor Lynne Bailie, Interactive and Trustworthy Technologies Group in the ISETR, has a strong track record of working with colleagues in the NHS. She said: “We are excited about starting projects very soon with the NHS, partner universities and companies in Scotland.
to create new technologies that will benefit patients and improve the health of the Scottish people.”

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) is responding to the developing world of digital healthcare through actively embedding telehealthcare within the undergraduate curricula across practice fields, developing a research portfolio commensurate with national strategy, and launching a unique MSc in Telehealthcare.

GCU is also a partner in the Supporting Young Carers Through Technology project, which is managed by the Scottish Centre for Telehealth and Telecare and supported by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Carers Scotland and The University of Edinburgh. The project supports action points in the Scottish Government’s Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015 to support young carers with new technologies.

The Digital Health Institute is one of three Innovation Centres announced by First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond MSP. The others are the University of Glasgow’s Stratified Medicine Innovation Centre and the Sensor and Imaging Systems Innovation Centre.

First Minister Alex Salmond said: “Scotland has always been a world leader in innovation and this new funding of £30 million, made through the Scottish Funding Council, for the innovation centres reinforces the Scottish Government’s commitment to Science and technology and secures Scotland’s place as a world leader in life sciences, innovative technology, ideas and development.

“This is an exciting new collaboration between all parts of public life, with Scottish industry, Higher Education institutions, multinationals, our small and medium sized enterprises and our public sector partners working together to provide solutions to demand-led problems facing industry in Scotland by supporting innovation for future growth.

“Innovation Centres offer game changing opportunities for collaboration between our academic and business base. The investment and partnership model is unique and their potential for growth is huge.”

“In their first five years, the three centres are projected to create more than 2,000 jobs.

At Glasgow Caledonian University, we work with industry and public sector partners to ensure our expertise responds to the need for realworld innovation. GCU’s strategic business development and knowledge transfer teams work with academic experts in our Schools and Research Institutes to support businesses with a problem-solving approach.

Contact us to find out more about building a brighter future with GCU at www.gcu.ac.uk/business.

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