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## Media Release

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### **RUH Consultant launches life saving 'app' for iPhone**

**A consultant at the Royal United Hospital in Bath has developed what is currently one of the iPhone's most popular medical applications and one which could also save a life. Almost two and a half thousand people (mainly UK doctors) downloaded it in the first week and since then, it has been downloaded at the rate of over 1200 per week.**

In collaboration with the Resuscitation Council (UK) and iMobileMedic.com, Dr Daniel Low, consultant anaesthetist has produced an application which guides the user when resuscitating critically ill patients in cardiac arrest or near cardiac arrest.

Although clinicians are trained to know what to do when someone suffers a cardiac arrest, this application functions like a checklist and has been built in the context of a clinical scenario. Depending on the age, and condition of the patient, the user will follow certain algorithms (or prompts) to remind them of what to do next. A more basic version can also be downloaded and used by people with first aid training or those who are Community Responders.

Daniel's invention was inspired by working alongside ex-military, air ambulance helicopter pilots. He saw that during in-flight emergencies, these highly trained airmen would refer to instruction cards (flight reference charts) which guided them through the crisis and helped to reduce the margin for human error. Daniel realised that a similar system could also assist medics when they are faced with a cardiac arrest. He says, "Even though doctors and nurses are trained to deal with someone having a cardiac arrest, it's not a situation they will face every day and I thought both medics and patients would benefit from an application such as this."

The app, called iResus is the result of a close collaboration with the Resuscitation Council – the nationally recognised organisation which produces resuscitation guidelines for healthcare professionals and first aiders.

Dr Jerry Nolan, also an anaesthetist at the RUH and former chairman of the Resuscitation Council (UK), says it's an invaluable tool,

"Lots of people now have smart phones of one kind or another and to be able to have a device like this, which is constantly updated, accessible within seconds and which automatically replaces old guidelines with new, is fantastic. Daniel's work with the Resuscitation Council shows how medicine and patient care is embracing day to day technology to maximum effect."

It took Daniel, who joined the RUH as a Registrar in April 2009, 8 months to develop iResus with a business partner, an expert in computer software design. He believes other medical conditions could also benefit from applications of this type,

"We have already had inquiries from specialists in fields such as stroke, asthma and anaphylaxis and we are keen to work with other professional bodies to see if we can adapt iResus to distribute their guidelines onto the iPhones of their members."

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**Both Dr Low and Dr Nolan are available for interview on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.** If you are interested, please call the Communications Team directly on 01225 825849.

**Notes:**

iResus is provided free of charge by the Resuscitation Council (UK) to provide its most up to date guidance in the hands of those who need it, be they medical professionals providing emergency care in a hospital environment, or those with an interest in first aid.

For more information, go to

<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/iresus/id335355440?mt=8>

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