The health technology industries in the UK are amongst the most dynamic and competitive globally, yet the National Health Service (NHS) is frequently regarded as very slow to adopt new technologies. Persistent calls by policy makers, health practitioners and industry for the NHS to be more open to innovation have grown in the face of mounting demand and constrained resources. In the last decade there have been sustained efforts to address the problems faced by the NHS in embedding innovation into its organizations. These have included reducing the fragmentation of the health system, speeding the adoption pipeline for priority technologies, tackling payment and reimbursement issues, and putting in place an infrastructure of innovation support organizations. Using examples, the talk will explore the impact of these efforts on the health technology sector and the NHS. It will also consider the types of innovation that are most needed to address short- and medium-term challenges for the NHS and the potential for disruption by new participants.

James has been a Professor of Technology and Innovation Management at Imperial College Business School since 2003. Other posts include the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, and the Policy Studies Institute. He was educated at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

James’ work focuses on innovation in healthcare from creation to adoption. He is particularly interested in the complex relationship between innovation in health technologies, services and infrastructure. Current research includes work on the development and adoption of GM mosquitoes for malaria eradication, work on the deadoption and re-adoption of home haemodialysis technology, and an evaluation of the pharmaceutical industry’s response to antimicrobial resistance.

James has led or been involved in many research projects and has extensive experience advising and consulting for government and industry. His current roles include Associate Director of Research for Imperial College Health Partners and President of the International Academy for Design and Health. He is responsible for several MSc and MPH courses, teaches on various MBA and executive MBA programs in the UK and abroad, and has supervised many PhD students. James has published widely in journals including Organization Science, Research Policy, Health Affairs, Social Science & Medicine, California Management Review, and the Bulletin of the WHO. His latest book is Managing Innovation in Healthcare, published in January 2017 by World Scientific.