

IMPACT AREA: Impacts on the health and wellbeing of people

TOUCH FOR LIFE: NEW INSIGHTS FOR ITS ROLE IN PRETERM INFANTS

Professor Francis McGlone, a neuroscientist in LJMU's Somatosensory and Affective Neuroscience Group, is a leading figure in the study of touch and its stimulus of the brain.



His 'back in the sac' project has created a prototype incubator to recreate the type of tactile environment pre-term infants usually experience *in utero*.

IMPACT ON THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Working with the Liverpool Women's Hospital, he is trialling the incubator to understand how by putting affective touch back into the baby's life, we can make significant improvements in the way its brain and immune system develops.

The importance of touch for cognitive development in preterm birth  [YouTube](#)



THE INCUBATOR HAS PROGRESSED OVER MANY DECADES BUT THIS COULD BE THE FINAL COMPONENT OF ITS EVOLUTION. WITH PRE-TERM INFANTS NUMBERING AROUND 15 MILLION GLOBALLY, FROM A MARKET PERSPECTIVE IT'S HUGE; IF YOU LOOK AT IT FROM A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, IT'S ALSO HUGE.



PROFESSOR MCGLONE

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