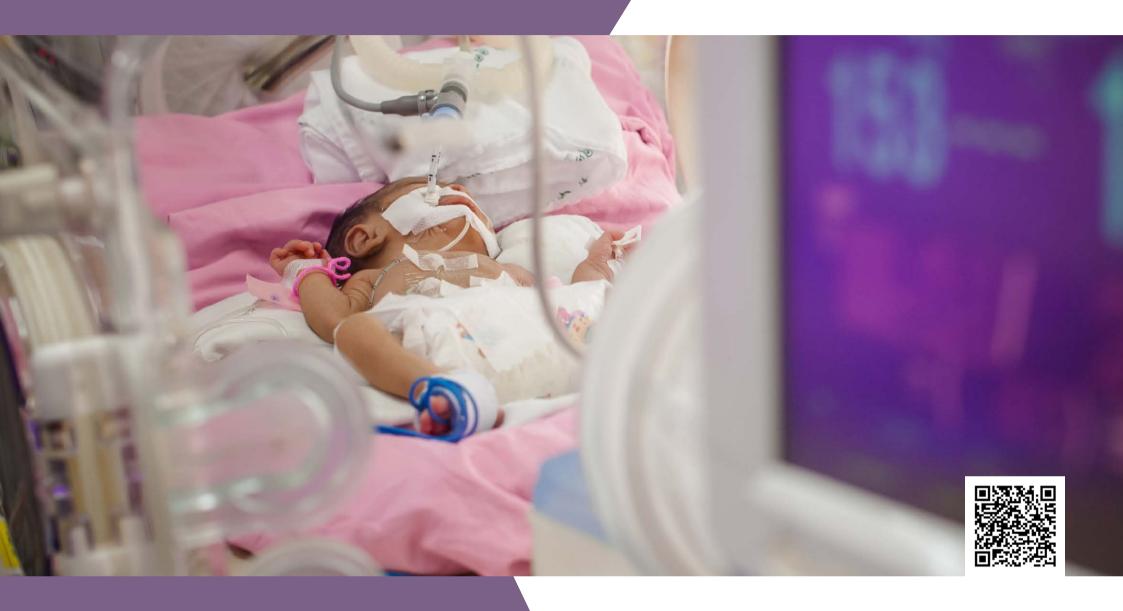
## TOUCH FOR LIFE: NEW INSIGHTS FOR ITS ROLE IN PRETERM INFANTS

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

## **LJMU ACADEMICS**

PROF FRANCIS MCGLONE
DR SUSANNAH WALKER
DR RALPH PAWLING
DR PAULA TROTTER