

Dear all

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Your Path in Research – The NIHR’s new campaign to support your research journey

To support improved patient outcomes there is a need for health and care professionals to become more involved in research and expand their knowledge. The NIHR's new *Your Path in Research* campaign will give health and care professionals an opportunity to learn more about the research that can directly impact their everyday work, by highlighting a variety of ways they can take their first or next step in their research career.



Find out more [here](#)

Latest RDS blog – Latest RDS blog: Improving the efficiency of clinical trials with adaptive designs

Clinical trials have been very successful in evaluating the effectiveness of new treatments. However, over recent years the cost of trials has been steadily increasing, putting pressure on limited healthcare and research resources. The RDS blog this month talks about the adaptive design approach to improve efficiency.



Find out more [here](#)

Latest funding calls and other opportunities

Programme Grants for Applied Research – Competition 31

Details: Applications are invited for Stage 1 research proposals to develop individual programmes. Research funded through a Programme Grant typically consists of an interrelated group of high quality projects focused on a coherent theme and hence require multidisciplinary approaches, including clinical, health economics, statistics, qualitative and behavioural sciences, to ensure that research objectives can be met. The amount awarded and the length of the funding period will depend on the nature of the proposed work, in particular whether or not the proposal includes a substantial powered trial.

Applications to PGfAR are made with the support of an NHS body and other providers of NHS services in England. If an application is successful, a contract will be placed with that organisation for delivery of the research and all funds for the research will be paid to the NHS organisation or other provider of NHS services.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 27 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

Research for Social Care – Competition 2

Details: The RfSC call welcomes proposals for research which generates evidence to improve, expand and strengthen the way adult social care is delivered for users of care services, carers, and the public.

NIHR expect research proposals to demonstrate strong links to people with social care needs, to social care service users and carers, and to organisations which provide adult social care services. They also expect proposals to demonstrate strong and appropriate research expertise, with teams which can demonstrate a track record of relevant published research.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 22 January 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) – Call 3

Details: The NIHR Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) forms part of the UK government's commitment to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Through RIGHT, NIHR provides research funding to support cutting-edge interdisciplinary applied health research in key areas in ODA-eligible countries where a strategic and targeted investment can result in a transformative impact.

NIHR RIGHT Call 3 supports equitable partnerships between low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and UK researchers to generate new research knowledge and evidence on interventions to improve outcomes for people affected by multi-morbidities in countries eligible for [ODA funding](#).

Intention to submit: All applicants for RIGHT Call 3 are required to submit a mandatory 'Intent to Submit' form online by 1pm on 29 November 2019 to be considered for this call.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 15 January 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Health Services & Delivery Research (HS&DR) – New commissioned calls

Details: The HS&DR Programme aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence to improve the quality, accessibility and organisation of health and social care services.

The HS&DR Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to the following commissioned workstreams:

- [19/117 Adult social care partnership](#)
- [19/118 Non-medical workforce in urgent and emergency care settings](#)

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 16 January 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Clinical Lectureship (dental)

Details: The NIHR Clinical Lectureship (CL) is a post-doctoral award that provides a clinical and academic training environment for doctors and dentists to establish themselves as independent researchers and leaders.

As a CL you will spend:

- 50% of your time in specialist clinical training
- 50% in research or educationalist training

To be eligible for a CL you must:

- Be in higher speciality training (medicine)
- Have completed a research doctorate (PhD) or equivalent
- Show outstanding potential for continuing a career in academic medicine or dentistry

Deadline for applications: 26th November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (both medical and dental)

Details: The Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is aimed at anyone interested in developing a career in research alongside clinical training and successful awardees will have access to Masters-level research training.

Posts can be taken part-time as long as the academic component remains at 25% whole time equivalent.

As an ACF you will spend:

- 75% of your time in specialist clinical training
- 25% of your time in research or educationalist training

To be eligible for an ACF you must be:

- Medically or dentally qualified
- At the early stages of speciality training
- Able to demonstrate outstanding potential for a career in academic medicine or dentistry
- Able to meet the clinical specification for the advertised post.

Deadline for applications: 26th November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowship opportunities

NIHR Doctoral and Advanced Fellowships

Details: The NIHR Fellowship Programme support individuals on their trajectory to becoming future leaders in NIHR research.

The following Fellowship awards are open for applicants:

- **[NIHR Advanced Fellowships](#)**: This award is for those at a post-doctoral level and can be utilised at several specific points of a researcher's career development. The fellowship is between 2 and 5 years and can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis - between 50% and 100% whole time equivalent (WTE).
 - **Deadline for applications:** 3 December 2019
- **[NIHR Doctoral Fellowship](#)**: This three year full-time award supports individuals to undertake a PhD in an area of NIHR research. This fellowship may also be taken up on a part-time basis of between 50% and 100% whole time equivalent (WTE).
 - **Deadline for applications:** 1pm on 17 December 2019

Find out more [here](#)

British Heart Foundation: Research Training Fellowships for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

Details: BHF Research Training Fellowships provide a foundation in research training in an established research institution in the UK for healthcare professionals, leading to the award of a PhD. The research proposed should usually be related to the improvement of care and outcomes for people with cardiovascular disease.

Deadline for proposals: 25 October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

Stroke Association: Postgraduate Fellowships

Details: Stroke Association Postgraduate Fellowships enable outstanding graduates to obtain a postgraduate research qualification (MPhil or PhD), giving them the required skills to ultimately undertake an independent career in stroke research. The Stroke Association supports Fellows who plan to conduct stroke research into clinical and applied health, including social care research. This includes research that is conducted to answer specific questions relating to day-to-day practice in health services or community settings, and which has the potential to have an impact on the health or well-being of people affected by stroke. A clear trajectory to patient benefit is essential.

Deadline for proposals: 5pm on 1 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

CRUK: Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowship

Details: The Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowship supports outstanding postdoctoral researchers to develop their careers in the field of population research. Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowships can be awarded in the areas of:

- Early diagnosis
- Prevention
- Epidemiology

Deadline for proposals: 14 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

Kidney Research UK Fellowships

Details: Kidney Research UK are dedicated to improving the understanding of kidney disease, its causes, its treatments and ultimately, looking for a cure.

The following Fellowships are available:

- **Senior Fellowships:** Senior Fellows should have extensive post-doctoral experience and already have demonstrated a sustained ability to conduct independent research.

- **Intermediate Fellowships (non-clinical):** The purpose of the award is to enable a two to three-year post-doctoral scientist to specialise in renal research.
- **Allied Health Professional Fellowships (clinical):** The purpose of the award is to enable nurses and allied health professionals to undertake a renal research study and obtain a higher degree (Masters, DPhil or PhD). The successful applicant will be intending to undertake patient-focused, clinical research that will have a significant impact on current patients and in a short timeframe.

Deadline for proposals: 5pm on 20 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

Latest funding opportunities from other bodies

Alzheimer's Society: Accelerator programme

Details: The Accelerator Programme invests in innovations to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. The idea could be a simple product that makes an everyday task easier for a person living with dementia, or it may be an innovative idea for a new service or way of working for care home staff. The Accelerator Programme offers a 12 month partnership including:

- bespoke business support and investment up to a value of £100,000
- an expert innovation buddy from Alzheimer's Society to develop their idea during a 12-month partnership.

Deadline for proposals: 11.59pm on 7 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

MRC: Methodology Research Programme

Details: The MRC supports methodology development through a variety of mechanisms: embedded within broader research proposals considered by our Boards and Panels, programmatically within Units and Institutes and development of underpinning methodologies via the MRC-NIHR Methodology Research Programme. Methodology research maximises benefits for researchers, patients and the general population, and ensures health research and policy are built on the best possible evidence.

The MRC-NIHR Methodology Research Programme is structured to respond to the underpinning methodological priorities in health research across the entire MRC and NIHR remit.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 13 November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

MRC: Transforming the UK food system for healthy people and a healthy environment call and workshops

Details: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in partnership with government have announced a £25 million call for research to fundamentally transform the UK food system, by placing healthy people and a healthy natural environment at its centre. Proposals are invited for interdisciplinary research consortia to take a systems approach, linking healthy and accessible diets with sustainable food production and supply to help drive food system transformation. This programme aims to address health, environmental and social challenges simultaneously, bringing together researchers, policymakers, business and civil society to develop evidence for multi-pronged and simultaneous action across the food system.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 26th November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

MRC/AHRC/ESRC Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind: Engagement Awards

Details: Engagement Awards are awards of up to 12 months aimed at building and strengthening a cross-disciplinary community in the research area of Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind. These are flexible awards focused on establishing new collaborations, exploring innovative new research directions and building relationships with key stakeholders.

Engagement Awards can be used by a multidisciplinary applicant team to fund pilot projects, strengthen existing collaborations and create new ones, build partnerships with key stakeholders and facilitate knowledge exchange. It is expected that this call will support a range of awards that are focused on key research challenges in Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind.

Funding will be provided to establish new, high-value collaborative activities/capabilities, including those that add value to high quality scientific investments that are already supported by the funders. It is not designed to fund stand-alone, hypothesis-driven research projects, or continuation/extension of existing grants, which may otherwise be eligible for standard research grant type funding from the partner Councils.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 17th December 2019

Find out more [here](#)

MRC: UK Nutrition Research Partnership (UK NRP) – Nutrition Hot Topics Workshops

Details: The UK Nutrition Research Partnership (UK NRP) for health and disease is a partnership between the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The UK NRP wishes to strengthen the UK nutrition research base by attracting new expertise and new partners into the field. The overall objective is to provide novel and robust insights into human nutrition, with the potential of transforming the long-term health of the population.

Researchers based within the UK are now invited to respond to a UK NRP Call for funds to organise hot topic workshops, each addressing an important multidisciplinary challenge in nutrition research.

Broad hot topic areas have been identified by the UK NRP. Applicants should either propose a workshop clearly related to one of the identified topics, or may suggest a hot topic of their own. All workshop topics proposed must be highly relevant to human nutrition.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 6th November 2019

Find out more [here](#)

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding – please complete our online [Request for Support](#) form to gain access to our advice.

NIHR Funding deadlines calendar

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/current-funding-opportunities/>

News

£12 million funding call from NIHR Global Health programme

Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, has announced a £12m funding call from the NIHR Global Health Research programme. This will support the next generation of health policy and systems research collaboration. Partnerships between researchers in low and middle-income countries and the UK will produce high quality, relevant research, supporting the achievement of UHC ambitions.

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and articles

NIHR blog: Launching the NIHR's annual Research for Social Care call

Following the success of the first RfPB social care call, NIHR recently announced that they will be continuing to invest in social care research via the Research for Social Care (RfSC) call.

This annual call will enable the high quality research we need to understand how to improve social care for everyone. Social care research can change lives by supporting quality of life and independence, and build a social care system that works for everyone.

Find out more [here](#)

Wellcome Trust: Building a better research culture

The Wellcome Trust has been looking at the UK's research culture, with the intention of pushing towards one that is creative, inclusive and honest. Jeremy Farrar, director of Wellcome, has [written an article](#) on why we need to reimagine how we do research, and the Wellcome Trust have [outlined the changes that they think are needed](#) in research culture.

Wellcome are keen to hear your thoughts on research culture. Please feel free to share your views via their [online survey](#).

Find out more [here](#)

The Health Foundation: Driving forward changes in policy and practice

Funding is only part of the research process. In this blog, Ushma Boolaky looks at the ways the Health Foundation are seeking to increase the impact of the research they fund, which will in turn support the sustainability of the NHS and social care, and promote better health.

Find out more [here](#)

Article: How qualitative researchers use and choose pseudonyms for their research participants (Ros Edwards)

Ros Edwards (Professor of Sociology at the University of Southampton, and Co-director of ESRC National Centre for Research Methods) has just published an article looking at the pseudonyms that UK-based family sociologists have used to refer to and discuss

participants in writing up their studies from the post-war to the present day. The article was written for the journal Families, Relationships and Societies.

Read the article [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

NIHR blog: How I've kept patients at the heart of my research career

Caroline Nicholson is an HEE/NIHR Senior Clinical Academic Lecturer who works across St Christopher's Hospice in London and the University of Surrey. She is also one of the NIHR Training Advocates. In this blog, Caroline talks about her decision to include research in her nursing career path, as well as giving hints and tips to any new early career researchers.

Read the blog [here](#)

Training and Events

NIHR webinar: Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation - Call 3

What: The NIHR Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) is holding webinars for applicants to its funding call for research on interventions to improve outcomes for people with multimorbidities in low and middle income countries. Webinars for RIGHT Call 3 will be held to provide applicants with information on the aims, scope and eligibility of the call. Participants in the webinar will have the opportunity to submit written questions during the session.

When: 10:00 - 11:00 GMT (UK time) and 15:30-16:30 GMT (UK time) on 22nd October 2019

Where: Webinar

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR webinar to support applicants to the PHR Programme

What: NIHR Public Health Research have a webinar scheduled to support two of their recently opened calls:

- [19/106 Changes to welfare reform](#)
- [19/107 Health effects of onshore oil and gas exploitation](#)

Both calls close on 17 March 2020.

Following the webinar it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for potential applicants to attend a virtual clinic with members of the PHR secretariat and both committees to aid the development of proposals.

When: 15:00-16:00 on 25th October 2019

Where: Webinar

A registration form for the webinar can be found on the above two links.

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Please note that support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Early Contact Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT*), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying

and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target.

*Please find attached information on our SoECAT Clinics which provides dates to access support open to anyone working on a specific study.

For more information or support. Please contact Kirsty Hunter or Ellen Edwards.
email: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk

Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

Find out more about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

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