

Dear all

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RDS blog: [Less is more! The power of the Plain English Summary](#)

A good quality plain English summary (PES) provides an overview of the whole of your research study, so that readers can understand the first time they read it. It sounds easy doesn't it, yet many applications fall at this first hurdle. This month's RDS blog, written by Helen McGregor of RDS South East, looks at how to improve your PES and catch the funding stream's eye.

Read the blog [here](#)



Latest funding calls and other opportunities

NIHR: Research Activity and Patient Outcomes in general practice

Details: The NIHR, on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), invites outline proposals for a single research project to find out whether research activity in general practice is associated with better outcomes for patients. This is an under-researched area, and findings will significantly influence the policy and practice for supporting research in general practice and the wider primary care setting.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 8th October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Policy Research Programme: Adverse medical incidents and outcomes - understanding the experience, contexts, motivation and decision-making journey of patients who do and who do not make legal claim

Details: The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for a single research project that will develop a detailed understanding of the experience of patients who feel that they have had an adverse medical incident or outcome. The focus of the study should be on developing a robust understanding of the motivation, contexts and decision-making journey of those who have and who have not taken legal action.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 8th October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Policy Research Programme: Health Inequalities Research Initiative: Call 3

Details: The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications to undertake health inequalities research to support policy makers in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in the following areas:

- Assessing how to improve existing population wide policies aimed at improving health outcomes so that they so they also reduce health inequalities and/or do not exacerbate
- inequalities
- Identifying which existing health system interventions that are specifically designed to reduce socio-economic health inequalities are effective and cost-effective
- Assessing the effectiveness in reducing health inequalities of whole system approaches to improving the health of deprived communities
- Identifying opportunities and risks presented by advancements in digital technology, and practical measures to ensure such technology does not exacerbate socio-economic health inequalities.

There is an overarching interest in understanding how to maximise the effectiveness of existing policies so that they can improve the health of the poorest fastest, as well as understanding the reasons why some local areas do well, and some less well, on health inequality measures.

Projects may draw on a range of methodologies, which may include, but not limited to: documentary analysis, evidence reviews, secondary analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, and primary data collection e.g. qualitative research with stakeholders and users.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 8th October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Policy Research Programme: Policy Relevant Research

Details: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for a number of research projects to further develop current NIHR investments within the context of policy making.

This innovative call has the specific objective of establishing and building fruitful connections between NIHR funded research and current and emerging policy priorities.

Between £50k-£150k will be made available to existing NIHR investigators to deliver small scale projects, lasting between 6-12 months, with clear policy relevance and building on existing NIHR funded work.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 8th October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR HS&DR Programme: Researcher-led workstream

Details: The Health Services and Delivery Research (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 are accepting stage 1 applications to the following researcher-led workstream:

- [19/103 Health Services and Delivery Research Programme \(standard researcher-led\)](#)

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 9th January 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Asthma UK/Innovate UK: Projects grants – Diagnostics themed call

Details: Asthma UK's vision is to stop asthma attacks and cure asthma, and Innovate UK supports UK businesses to develop and commercialise new products and services to tackle some of the biggest global health challenges.

The focus of this call is to develop tools for quick, accurate, effective, non-invasive, scalable and low-cost diagnostics in primary care to prevent the over-, under- and mis-diagnosis of asthma. Research can be focused at any stage of the innovation pathway; however, a clear pathway to adoption or commercialisation must be articulated (including estimated timescales). Any collaboration with partners who can drive research outputs to adoption/commercialisation must be evidenced, and projects which are likely to achieve impact for people with asthma in the short to medium term (5-10 years) will be prioritised.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 9th October 2019

Find out more [here](#)

CRUK Affordable Approaches to Cancer

Details: CRUK are partnering with the Indian government's Department of Biotechnology for a £10m research initiative focused on finding affordable approaches to cancer. This innovative initiative will build on the scientific strengths of India and the UK.

The bilateral Advisory Panel has set seven research challenges under the theme of affordable approaches to cancer. CRUK are calling on researchers in India and the UK to join forces to tackle these challenges. Bilateral teams will be able to apply to tackle one of the research challenges. All proposals must:

- Build on the complementary research strengths in both India and the UK
- Address a cancer of high unmet need in India, the UK and/or globally
- Clearly address the key theme of 'affordable approaches to cancer'
- Aim to produce outputs that are readily translatable to patients
- Be innovative and involve multidisciplinary work e.g. proposals that utilise affordable technology alongside biomedical research
- Be feasible within the constraints of the funding and time available.

Deadline for proposals: 4th 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

SSRN article: Early-Career Setback and Future Career Impact

The Social Science Research network (SSRN) have released an article about near misses in funding for early career researchers. It examines whether an early-career setback may augment or hamper an individual's future career impact.

Find out more [here](#)

MRC boards and panel vacancies

The MRC's research boards and panels are comprised of leading scientists that play a key role in delivering MRC objectives across the portfolio. The research boards hold their own research budgets and review and manage scientific activity within their specialist areas.

Applications are invited from scientists with the relevant experience and expertise to become members of MRC boards and panels from April 2020. The MRC are seeking to fill up to 28 vacancies across their four research boards and 22 vacancies in five of their six panels.

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

New NIHR centre to lead public involvement and research dissemination

Work has begun on developing a single NIHR centre that will lead public involvement and research dissemination for NIHR from April 2020. The new centre will look to improve research relevance for all by combining the strengths of current NIHR approaches to research dissemination and to patient and public involvement, engagement and participation (PPIE). The new centre will enhance the ways that patients, carers, and the public can partner with the NIHR to advance research. This will enable health and care professionals,

researchers, policy makers and the public make better use of the broad range of research evidence that the NIHR generates.

Find out more [here](#)

THIS Institute report: Involving patients and the public in research

The Healthcare Improvement Studies (THIS) Institute has published “Involving patients and the public in research”, a report that aims to build a better understanding of the role of patient and public involvement (PPI) in research, thereby helping ensure meaningful involvement that has tangible impacts and mitigates against undesired consequences.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and Events

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) social care funding roadshow events

Our [Research Design Service \(RDS\)](#) is running regional events which will offer an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of RfSC funding. Attendance at these events is FREE and refreshments will be provided.

Researchers currently developing, or considering developing, a proposal for submission to RfSC for funding are invited to take advantage of a one-to-one appointment to discuss their proposed research idea or study.

When and where:

Location	Date	Registration and contacts
Bristol	30 th September 2019	Bristol registration form rds.sw@nihr.ac.uk 01392 726724
Manchester	8 th October 2019	Manchester registration form rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk 01524 593209
London	14 th October 2019	London registration form info@rdslondon.co.uk 020 7848 6782
York	17 th October 2019	York registration form rds-yh@sheffield.ac.uk 0114 222 0828
Birmingham	22 nd October 2019	Birmingham registration form (places are limited please register soon) rds@contacts.bham.ac.uk 0121 414 8533

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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