

Dear all

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COVID-19: Info, updates and resources

Government support for research related to COVID-19

COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research is being prioritised to gather the necessary clinical and epidemiological evidence that will inform national policy and enable new diagnostic tests, treatments and vaccines to be developed and tested for COVID-19.

Government support is available to prioritise, coordinate and deliver these studies, regardless of sponsorship and funding source. This support includes expedited identification of sites to ensure appropriate geographical distribution of Urgent Public Health Research to maximise recruitment and minimise over-commitment of resource.

Find out more [here](#)

COVID-19 Living Map of the Evidence

The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre) is based in the Social Science Research Unit in the Department of Social Science, UCL Institute of Education, University College London. It is a specialist centre for: (i) developing methods for systematic reviewing and synthesis of research evidence; and (ii) developing methods for the study of the use research. In response to the current crisis, the EPPI-Centre are maintaining an up-to-date map of the current evidence that they partition into broad domains for easy exploration.

The Living Map of the Evidence can be [accessed here](#)

National Office for Clinical Research: Can you help to identify biostatisticians?

In order to support the NIHR's response to the COVID-19 situation, the National Office for Clinical Research are looking to rapidly identify biostatisticians (as defined in **Zapf, Rauch and Kieser, 2020**) who are working within the NIHR community. The results will be used to support collaboration opportunities. The NIHR community are defined as those who are funded/supported through NIHR Programmes and Infrastructure – including but not limited to NIHR Biomedical Research Centres, Medtech and In Vitro Diagnostic Co-operatives, Applied Research Collaborations, Schools, Health Protection Research Units, Policy Research Units, Research Design Services and UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) Network).

The survey can be accessed at the [following link](#). Completion time is approximately 5 minutes

NIHR: UK's top doctors urge recruitment of COVID-19 patients for vital scientific research

The UK's four Chief Medical Officers and NHS England and Improvement's National Medical Director have written a joint letter to every NHS Trust in the country asking that all efforts are made to enrol patients into nationally prioritised clinical trials on COVID-19. These trials are taking place in primary care, hospital and ICU settings. The trials now need

patients recruited as quickly as reasonably possible, as “the faster that patients are recruited, the sooner we will get reliable results,” the letter states. [Read the letter here](#)

NIHR: Getting involved in COVID-19 research (and the impact coronavirus has had on current studies)

NIHR has updated its resource for patients and the public – the **Be Part of Research** website – with new information and links about COVID-19 and research underway into the condition. The website also contains information about the impact of COVID-19 research into other conditions, as many trials and studies have had to be put on hold at this time. There is information for people who are interested in taking part into studies as well as other ways that people can support the health service at this time. For more information, visit www.bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk

Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources



RDS London have put together a really useful webpage, which is updated frequently with the latest funding calls and resources for researchers looking at COVID-19.

Visit the website [here](#)

Latest COVID-19 funding opportunities

ELRHA: Research to support COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings

Details: Elrha is a global charity that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. The research and innovation they support equips the humanitarian community with the knowledge of what works, so people affected by crises get the right help when they need it most. Elrha is launching an urgent funding call for research proposals to support the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings. The call aims to fund public health research that will produce robust findings that will contribute to the effectiveness of the current humanitarian response and increase the evidence base for future responses to similar infectious disease outbreaks. This Call focuses on identified priorities related to the current COVID-19 outbreak in humanitarian settings in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Deadline for proposals: 13th April 2020
Find out more [here](#)

British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy: COVID-19 funding call

Details: BSAC is launching a COVID-19 funding call to support researchers in better understanding and addressing COVID-19 outbreak.

Deadline for proposals: Expression of interest to be submitted by 17th April 2020.
Find out more [here](#)

Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: Small grants programme

Details: This programme aims to support those early in their careers, based anywhere in the world, to undertake their own clinical or scientific research or fieldwork, as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project. They are ideally for those who have not received funding in their own name before.

The grant awards are up to £5,000 each and can be used for research in tropical medicine or global health in the lab, at translation, in implementation or at policy level. There are many areas of research they would like to see as ideas for small grants, one of which being coronavirus.

Deadline for proposals: 27th April 2020

Find out more [here](#)

UK Research and Innovation: Funding for ideas that address COVID-19

Details: Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

UKRI will support excellent proposals up to 18 months duration which meet at least one of the following:

- new research or innovation with a clear impact pathway that has the potential (within the period of the grant) to deliver a significant contribution to the understanding of, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts.
- supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential
- gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use

Deadline for proposals: None

Find out more [here](#)

Latest NIHR funding opportunities

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls

Details: The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme funds research about the clinical and cost-effectiveness and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care from NHS and social care services.

The HTA Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following primary research topics:

- [20/18 Minimally invasive operative interventions for bladder outlet obstruction due to benign prostatic hyperplasia](#)
- [20/19 Nasal decolonisation of MRSA](#)
- [20/20 Imaging in paediatric osteomyelitis](#)
- [20/21 Subcutaneous vs oral methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis](#)
- [20/23 Diagnostic tools to establish the presence and severity of peripheral arterial disease in people with diabetes](#)
- [20/24 Psychological intervention for complex post-traumatic stress disorder](#)
- [20/25 Guided self-help for depression in adults with autism spectrum disorder](#)
- [20/26 Antifungal stewardship in haemato-oncology](#)
- [20/27 Management of ankle fractures in children](#)

Deadline for the above calls: 29th July 2020

The HTA Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following primary research topics:

- [20/29 Interventions for Fibromyalgia-related sleep problems](#)
- [20/33 Reducing overtreatment](#)

Deadline for the above calls: 23rd September 2020

The HTA Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following primary research topics:

- [20/28 Repair and rehabilitation of hand flexor tendon injury](#)

Deadline for the above call: 6th January 2021

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– 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/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

Funding calls from other bodies

2020 Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF)-Cancellation

Given the challenges caused by COVID-19, we wanted to inform you that the 2020 CLDF £10,000 research grant round has been cancelled and we will no longer be accepting applications.

This was an incredibly difficult decision for the organisation and we understand it is disappointing news for researchers and all those affected by a childhood liver condition. The decision was taken by the Board of Trustees with the support of our Scientific Committee Chair and Medical Director.

The charity faces unprecedented financial challenges and we are also aware that many potential applicants and scientific committee members will not have the capacity to make applications or provide governance for the grant round. Further information can be found here: <https://childliverdisease.org/2020-cldf-10000-research-grant-round-cancellation/>

Blogs and Articles

ARC West Midlands: Conducting social care research

In this blog from the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands, research fellow Sarah Damery shares some lessons learned about doing research in care homes.

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

SPCR: Tips on holding virtual PPI meetings

The SPCR have published an FAQ page with researcher-facing tips & tricks on their website on holding virtual PPI meetings.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR INVOLVE: Determining who might be involved in your research

INVOLVE have provided some latest guidance to help determine who might be involved in your research.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and Events

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Until further notice, the NIHR Clinical Research Network is pausing the site set up of any new or ongoing studies at NHS and social care sites that are not nationally prioritised COVID-19 studies. This will enable our research workforce to focus on delivering the nationally prioritised COVID-19 studies or enabling redeployment to frontline care where necessary. These studies are enabling the clinical and epidemiological evidence to be gathered to inform national policy and will enable new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines to be developed and tested. The complete focus of the NIHR Clinical Research Network will be on delivering these highest priority COVID-19 studies.

If you do need to get in touch with us please use the following 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/>

***We have sent you this email because we believe it may be of interest to you, if you do not wish to receive future emails from us please email me by return at k.biddle@bham.ac.uk and I will remove you from my contact list.**