

Dear all

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COVID-19: Info, updates and resources

Latest information from NIHR

The latest information from the NIHR on COVID-19 can be found on the [NIHR website](#).

Involving Patients and the Public during COVID-19

The NIHR has published information on COVID-19 research for patients and the public on the [Be Part of Research website](#). The NIHR is also supporting a new website by UKRI called [Coronavirus: the science explained](#), which lays out the evidence and the facts about the virus, the disease, the epidemic and its control.

NIHR reaffirms its support for patient and public involvement, engagement and participation during the COVID-19 pandemic

The NIHR has highlighted its continuing commitment to ensuring patients, carers and the public have a say in and help to shape health and care research during the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with its long standing commitment to patient and public involvement, engagement and participation (PIE) in health and care research.

Despite this current rapidly changing context for health and care research, the NIHR remains strongly committed to PIE during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NIHR Public Involvement

Senior Leadership Team - which includes leads for public involvement across NIHR Coordinating Centres, public members and partners - has agreed new commitments for PIE during the pandemic.

Find out more [here](#)

Innovative solutions invited for COVID-19 testing challenges

In addition to efforts to scale up existing methods of COVID-19 testing, new and novel solutions are being sought via a new, **open testing methods platform**. The platform is open to share and build on experiences and ideas, although ideas can also be submitted in confidence on the platform. The platform is a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Bioindustry Association, British In-vitro Diagnostics Association and the Royal College of Pathologists.

NIHR researchers are invited to help where possible with any of the four specific challenges below:

- Dry swabs for use in virus detection
- Transport media that inactivates the virus
- Desktop PCR equipment for point of care testing
- RNA extraction: new methods

The testing methods platform is live at: <https://testingmethods.crowdicity.com>

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

NIHR | Research Design Service London

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

MRC COVID-19 Rapid Response Rolling Call

Details: Building on the initial calls of their Initiative, DHSC, through the NIHR, and UKRI are jointly launching a rolling call for proposals for rapid research into COVID-19. As this is a rolling call there is currently no fixed end date to the call, we are open to applications and will aim to review complete proposals within 4 weeks of submission.

For UK-led academic, SME and wider industry research that will address a wide range of COVID-19 knowledge gaps/needs, and which will lead to a benefit in UK, potentially international, public health within 12 months.

Deadline for proposals: 1st April 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest NIHR funding opportunities

NIHR: Cystic Fibrosis

Details: The NIHR is interested in funding high-quality, ambitious research applications addressing the important questions in Cystic Fibrosis with a call for research likely to be advertised in late December 2020 with the following NIHR programmes participating:

- [Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation \(EME\)](#)
- [Health Services and Delivery Research \(HS&DR\)](#)
- [Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\)](#)
- [Invention for Innovation \(i4i\)](#)
- [Programme Grants for Applied Research \(PGfAR\)](#)
- [Research for Patient Benefit \(RfPB\)](#)

While this funding opportunity is likely to be advertised in late 2020, please note this may be subject to change.

Potential advert date: 31st December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Invention for Innovation: Product Development Awards Call 20

Details: The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme will invite proposals to Call 20 of its researcher-led Product Development Awards (PDA). PDAs fund the development of disruptive early stage medical technologies that address existing or emerging healthcare needs. They support translational projects developing medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices. PDAs also support projects that use and develop techniques or technologies from other industry sectors that could have a potential impact if applied in a healthcare setting.

The Stage 1 round launches on 22 April 2020 and the deadline for this call is on 3 June 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Invention for Innovation: Challenge Awards Call 10

Details: The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme will invite proposals to Call 10 of its researcher-led Challenge Awards on Real World Implementation (RWI). The RWI Challenge Award will fund investigations of medtech innovations in healthcare settings. The aim is to shorten the evidence gap between the safety/efficacy typical of a newly or nearly CE marked technology and what is required for decisions by commissioners and regulators. At the same time, this will de-risk the product for follow-on investment.

The Stage 1 round launches on 22 April 2020 and the deadline for this call is on 5 June 2020 (1pm BST).

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 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

Versus Arthritis: Fellowships

The following Fellowship opportunities are available from Versus Arthritis:

- **Foundation Fellowships:** Foundation fellowships aim to retain the best postdoctoral researchers in areas of research relevant to arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases and provide an opportunity for fellows to develop independent research ideas at an early stage in their career.

Deadline: 17th June 2020

- **Career Development Fellowships:** Career development fellowships aim to attract and retain talented postdoctoral basic scientists, vets, nurses and allied health professionals in research relevant to arthritis and related musculoskeletal conditions, and provide them with the opportunity to develop an independent research career and progress towards higher-level appointments.

Deadline: 9th September 2020

- **Senior Research Fellowships:** Senior research fellowships are our most prestigious fellowship grants. They're awarded to outstanding medical, veterinary, nurse and allied health professional or science graduates committed to a research career in any discipline relevant to arthritis and related musculoskeletal diseases with the expectation of securing higher-level appointments.

Deadline: 9th September 2020

- **Joint Funded MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship:** These fellowships allow talented medically and other clinically qualified professionals, who have gained a higher research degree to lead their own research, establish a research team and make the transition to independent investigator. The clinical scientist fellowship (CSF) provides either four year or five years' support, covering personal salary costs, together with support for research staff, consumable expenses, travel costs and capital equipment appropriate for the research project.

Deadline: 2nd September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Diabetes UK: RD Lawrence Fellowship

Details: The RD Lawrence Fellowship is a career development fellowship to enable postdoctoral researchers to establish their independence in diabetes research. Applicants are expected to have proven research experience and plan to maintain a long-term interest in diabetes.

Deadline for proposals: 30th October 2020

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.**