

Dear all

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



Our friends at 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](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network](#) (CRN).

Latest RDS blog: qualitative research and PPI

Some similarities, quite a lot of differences! Have you ever wondered, or been asked, about the differences between patient and public involvement (PPI) activities, and qualitative research? Our RDS blog this month explores the differences.

Read the blog [here](#)



THIS Institute fellowship: COVID-19 – care homes and primary care

The COVID-19 crisis has brought with it many challenges, but few have been as striking as those facing care homes. Working in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners, THIS Institute is seeking to appoint a fellow to lead a study aimed at co-producing a vision for high quality primary care for

people who live in care homes and a theory of change for how it might be achieved within current structures and resources.

The successful applicant will remain employed by their own university or organisation, and will be part of a vibrant professional learning community supported by THIS Institute. The fellowship should be completed in 12-15 months, and can be undertaken full-time or part-time (minimum 0.6 FTE). It is expected that the fellowship will begin during Spring 2021.

Find out more [here](#).

Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR EME Programme: Commissioned call into Mechanisms of action of health interventions

Details: The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions with potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care. Within these studies, EME supports research in the mechanisms of diseases and treatments. EME is a partnership between the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the NIHR.

The EME Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following funding opportunity:

- [20/139 - Mechanisms of action of health interventions](#)

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR EME Programme: Researcher-led workstream

Details: The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions with potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care. Within these studies, EME supports research in the mechanisms of diseases and treatments. EME is a partnership between the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the NIHR.

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream. The EME Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions that have the potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care. Within these studies EME supports research to improve the understanding of the mechanisms of both diseases and treatments.

The programme supports translational research evaluating a wide range of novel or re-purposed interventions. The interventions may include diagnostic or prognostic tests and decision-making tools, drugs or biological compounds, psychological treatments, medical devices, and public health initiatives delivered within the NHS.

Deadline for proposals: 13th April 2021

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

Cancer Research UK: Current funding awards

Details: The following CRUK awards are open for applications:

- **Prevention and Population Research Project Awards:** Prevention and Population Research Awards provide support for focused research proposals centred on key questions in prevention and population research (**deadline 14th Jan 2021**)
- **Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Award:** Fund science to drive transformational change in how and when early cancers and pre-cancerous states are diagnosed (**deadline 14th Jan 2021**)
- **Early Detection and Diagnosis Primer Award:** Supports researchers at all stages to develop early, novel and outside-the-box ideas and collaborations to build and make progress in the ED&D field (**deadline 1st March 2021**)
- **Early Detection and Diagnosis Programme Award:** Funds long-term, integrated and renewable programmes of exceptional science to transform how and when early cancers and pre-cancerous states are diagnosed (**deadline 1st March 2021**)
- **Prevention and Population Research Programme Awards:** Provides long-term support for broad, multidisciplinary research with transformative potential in prevention and population research (**deadline 11th March 2021**)

Find out more [here](#)

Parkinson's UK: Project grants

Details: Parkinson's UK funds groundbreaking research to advance the understanding of Parkinson's and improve treatments. The project grant scheme tackles major research challenges. Funding is awarded for projects designed to answer a single question or a small group of related questions.

Parkinson's US are looking for applications in the following areas:

- to better understand the causes of Parkinson's
- drug discovery at all stages of the drug discovery pipeline
- cohort studies
- early clinical investigations looking at biomarkers
- pilot clinical trials

Deadline for proposals: 3rd February 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Pain Relief Foundation: Research Grants

Details: The Pain Relief Foundation is a UK charity which funds research into the causes and treatment of human chronic pain and is concerned with education of health professionals about pain management. Applications for small grants will be particularly welcomed from people in the early stages of their research careers. The grants may be held in the Pain Relief Foundation's Pain Research Institute in Liverpool, or at other approved centres.

Deadline for proposals: 16th February 2020

Find out more [here](#)

British Renal Society & Kidney Care UK: Kidney Patient Research Partnership

Details: Applications are invited from health care professionals for grants to fund patient-centred, multi-professional clinical research in the field of kidney disease and its treatment. The grant round will prioritise high quality applications across these research themes:

- Psychosocial care
- Patient choice
- Patient involvement

The award will be given to projects that have an immediate impact on patient care in line with these research themes. Studies aligned to these themes that focus on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will be given the highest priority.

Deadline for proposals: 12th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales Trust: Grants

Details: The specific focus of the call for 2021 is on "Learning from the Covid 19 pandemic in health and social care: Implications for nursing practice". Applicants are encouraged to identify an appropriate research methodology to address their research question.

Deadline for proposals: 1st March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

Wellcome Trust: Research Fellowships for Health Professionals

Details: This scheme offers practising health professionals the opportunity to carry out humanities or social science research, in any area of health.

Deadline for proposals: 5th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

The Royal Society: Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship

Details: The scheme seeks to provide opportunities for experienced academic researchers to focus on full-time research for up to one year, by relieving them of all their teaching and administrative duties during that period. Preference will be given to candidates who, as well as demonstrating scientific excellence, can show that such relief is particularly needed and timely. Applications from mid-career candidates are particularly encouraged. Research must be within the Royal Society's remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.

Deadline for proposals: 13th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

Health Research Authority: Fast-track ethics review

A new fast-track research ethics review pilot is opening in January. The pilot will test a rapid research ethics review for global clinical and phase I trials for any disease area.

The pilot – which will run between 4 January and 30 March 2021 - will test whether the Health Research Authority, on behalf of the UK, can establish a sustainable model for providing rapid research ethics review. It builds on our work providing fast-track ethics review for COVID-19 research.

The pilot aims to provide a final opinion on applications within 15 calendar days, excluding the time for applicants to respond to any requests for further information after initial review. The analysis of the pilot will include a review of timelines with and without clock stops.

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Training workshops

The NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre, NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility and Wessex Applied Research Collaboration event, in collaboration with the Wessex Public Involvement Network and supported by Southampton Academy of Research, are hosting five practical and interactive sessions focussed on different aspects of PPI delivery.

The sessions will help you to:

- Identify how the public can meaningfully contribute to your work
- Manage group discussions and get the most out of the conversations
- Work successfully with members of the public
- Communicate in plain English

The sessions will cover the following topics:

- **Session 1:** What is the right way to involve people. Where the public influence your research. Ways in which you can work together.
- **Session 2:** Recruiting and keeping members. Who you should be involving in your research How to maintain positive relationships with those you involve.
- **Session 3:** Getting the most out of your PPI activities. How to ensure that people can contribute. The importance of planning to ensure your activity is effective and successful.
- **Session 4:** Managing group discussions. Strategies to get the most out of group discussions. Tips to manage more challenging personalities.
- **Session 5:** Communicating in lay language. How to write and talk in a lay language and working with jargon.

The sessions will take place from 10am-12pm on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March 2021.

Register [here](#) (closing date for registration 21st December 2020).

Training and events

NIHR webinar: Designing health research using routine data

What: Find out how routine data can be safely and rigorously used to address important questions in applied health research.

This two-hour webinar, organised by the NIHR Incubator for Methodology, is aimed at

people from different academic and professional backgrounds, and will be looking at the 'evidence' of a gap in capacity development for people interested in 'designing health research using routine data'.

It will consider evidence from the perspective of a judge of funding applications for the NIHR Advanced Fellowships, and the Research Design Service who provide or signpost expert methodological advice.

When: 2pm on 7th December 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service 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. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

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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