

Dear all

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Latest RDS Blog - Using natural experiments to evaluate population health interventions



Our RDS blog this month tackles the approach of natural experiments to provide evidence for population health interventions and discussed the need to draw on a combination of methods to deliver results.

Find out more [here](#).

Latest NIHR funding calls

Potential NIHR research topic - Qualitative Research on Women's Experiences of Urogynaecological Health Services

Details: Through the Policy Research programme (PRP), the NIHR funds policy research to enable evidence informed policy making in health and social care.

The NIHR PRP plans to invite proposals for a single research project to explore women's experiences of urogynaecological health services in primary and secondary care. This topic is of significant interest to policy makers and so offers an important opportunity to inform policy choices and decisions in a highly sensitive area.

The research will use a qualitative design to gather a wide range of experiences and reflections from women regarding their interactions with urogynaecological health services and experiences following a diagnosis and treatment/intervention. The research provides a vital opportunity to meaningfully contribute to a limited pre-existing evidence base and potentially shape future policy.

Potential advert date: 27 February 2020

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

MRC Fellowships

Details: MRC's fellowships support the development of talented individuals to strengthen the UK research base and enable the scientific community to respond effectively to current and

future grand challenges in medical research.

The MRC are accepting applications for the following fellowship schemes:

- **[Senior Clinical Fellowship](#)**: The SCF supports talented medically and other clinically qualified professionals, with an effective track record of internationally competitive independent research, to make the transition to research leadership.
- **[Clinician Scientist Fellowship](#)**: The CSF develops talented medically and other clinically qualified professionals who have gained a higher research degree to lead their own research plans and establish their own research team to make the transition to independent investigator.
- **[Clinical Research Training Fellowship Post Doctoral opportunity](#)**: The CRTF supports clinicians, including (but not limited to) medics, surgeons, dentists, clinical psychologists, public health specialty trainees, allied health professionals, nurses, midwives and veterinarians, to undertake a PhD or other higher research degree. The scheme also provides a route for post-doctoral applicants who achieved their PhD some time ago but who have not been research active since due to clinical training commitments to reacquire research skills.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 1st April 2020

Find out more [here](#)

BBSRC Fellowships

Details: BBSRC works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

The following fellowship opportunities are available:

- **[David Phillips Fellowships](#)**: These provide support for researchers wishing to establish their first independent research group. The DPF will invest in scientists who can demonstrate that they are on an upward trajectory and are eager to lead their own fully independent programme of research. David Phillips Fellows strive for continuous personal and professional development and have a strategy for how they will develop themselves and their team over the lifetime of the award. As such, the DPF enables BBSRC to supply the UK with highly skilled, professional research leaders.
- **[Discovery Fellowships](#)**: The Discovery Fellowship (DF) provides support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills. The DF will support the transition of early stage researchers to fully independent research leaders. As such, the DF enables BBSRC to supply the UK with highly skilled, professional research leaders.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 12th May 2020

Find out more [here](#)

CRUK Early Detection Programme Award

Details: CRUK Early Detection Programme Awards fund long-term, integrated and renewable programmes of exceptional science to transform how and when early cancers and pre-cancerous states are detected.

Early detection (EDx) research seeks to identify cancer or pre-cancerous states at the earliest possible point at which an intervention might be made. such signals will detect, but may also underpin prognosis/stratification/prediction of response to therapy and prevention. EDx projects will support discovery and translational/clinical research which is mindful of the clinical and population context.

Deadline for proposals: 28 March 2020

Find out more [here](#)

News

UKRI consultation now open: How can we achieve Open Access to research publications?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has announced a nine week consultation to inform their proposed Open Access policy. Open Access aims to make the published findings of publicly-funded research freely available online as soon as possible, in ways that will maximise re-use. The consultation launched on 13 February 2020 and closes at noon on 17 April 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

Largest analysis of UK health research funding published

A report led by the MRC on behalf of the Clinical Research Collaboration has been published recently, which delivers the most comprehensive analysis of UK health research funding ever compiled. The report is the fourth in a series that charts changes in health research over the last 14 years. It notes that main areas to receive the highest increases in proportion of investment were research activities important for translation - research that aids translating scientific discoveries into new treatments and healthcare benefits. Early detection of disease and the development and evaluation of new treatments were the main areas that received increased funding, totalling £548 million over 14 years.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and Events

Keele University: A practical introduction to running randomised trials

What: This 4 day course will improve your knowledge and skills in the design, practical conduct, management and analysis of randomised clinical trials (RCTs). Combining talks and workshop activities, you will be guided through the principles, methodology and practical implementation of RCTs. The course is aimed at individuals who are planning to undertake or are undertaking clinical trials. This includes people with no previous clinical trials experience, those embarking on clinical trial research for the first time, or those who have some experience of designing and running trials. The course is suitable for individuals interested in clinical trials in a variety of settings including primary care, the primary/secondary care interface and secondary care.

When: 30 June to 03 July 2020

Where: Keele University

Cost: £600

Find out more [here](#)

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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