

Dear all

In this week's message:

- **RDS WM post award support**

Latest NIHR funding calls:

- NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition 43
- NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls (primary research topics), with the option of Australian collaboration
- NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls (evidence synthesis topics)

Funding calls from other bodies:

- MRC: Preparing for Future Clean Air Challenges – Interdisciplinary research and innovation consortia
- MRC grants: Research grant, Programme grant, New investigator research grant, Partnership grant
- Prostate Cancer UK Movember Major Awards in Curative Treatments
- The Cure Parkinson's Trust: Research Grants
- Claire Wand Fund: Research Grants For GPs

Fellowship opportunities:

- MRC: Clinician Scientist Fellowship
- MRC: Clinical Research Training Fellowship
- Epilepsy Research UK: Emerging Leader Fellowship Award
- Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK: SRUK/MRC Jointly Funded Clinical Research Training Fellowship

News:

- NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry is launched

Blogs and articles:

- NIHR blog: Research for Patient Benefit - a journey of 1,000 projects

Resources:

- Trials Methodology Research Partnership: New webpage to raise awareness and understanding of trials methodology research

Training, events:

- Trials Methodology Research Partnership: Use of Routine Data in Trials in the UK
- COMET Initiative: Are you still troubled by research waste?
- NIHR Public Health Research Programme – Current Commissioned Calls webinar
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midland

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 NIHR funding calls

NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition 43

Details: The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme funds health, public health and social care research covering a wide range of health service challenges. The aim of the programme is to fund topics and research methodologies that increase the effectiveness of NHS services, provide value for money and benefit patients. RfPB also runs an annual competition specifically for social care proposals - Research for Social Care (RfSC).

Applications are invited for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service staff, and which have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS. As a response mode researcher-led programme, Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) does not specify topics for research, but encourages proposals for projects which address a wide range of health service issues and challenges.

The programme aims to fund high quality quantitative and qualitative research with a clear trajectory to patient benefit. It particularly encourages applications that have a strong element of interaction with patients and the public, and which have been conceived in association with a relevant group of service users.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 11th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls (primary research topics)

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.

Australian collaboration

Australian collaborations are welcome for the following calls. The Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will invest up to \$3 million AUD to cover the Australian component of the research projects selected for funding under this call. NHMRC will provide funding for the Australian-based CI in accordance with standard NHMRC funding agreement and the NHMRC-NIHR Collaborative Research Grant Scheme guidelines. UK-only applications are also welcome.

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

- [20/72 Oxybutynin for the treatment of vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause](#)
- [20/73 Surgery for endometrioma in women undergoing IVF](#)
- [20/74 Antidepressants for post-stroke emotionalism](#)
- [20/75 Conservative management of primary spontaneous pneumothorax](#)
- [20/76 Reverse vs conventional shoulder replacement for adults with osteoarthritis](#)

Deadline for the above calls: 1pm on 2nd December 2020

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

- [20/77 Treatment of recurrent patella dislocation](#)

Deadline for the above call: 1pm on 31st March 2020

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls (evidence synthesis topics)

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 evidence synthesis topics:

- [20/78 Pharmacological treatment and prevention of chronic migraine](#)
- [20/79 Anti-VEGF drugs compared with laser photocoagulation for the treatment of diabetic retinopathy](#)
- [20/80 Endoscopic treatments for obesity](#)
- [20/81 Perioperative Oxygen Therapy: An overview of systematic reviews and meta-analyses](#)

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 23rd September 2020

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: Preparing for Future Clean Air Challenges – Interdisciplinary research and innovation consortia

Details: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites proposals for interdisciplinary research and innovation consortia under the second wave of the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) Clean Air Programme.

The aim of the second wave of SPF Clean Air Programme funding is to equip the UK to proactively tackle new and emerging air quality challenges related to changing emissions and exposure patterns and health impacts on groups of people most at risk.

With this in mind, the purpose of this call is to fund solution focussed, interdisciplinary consortia in the area of the indoor/outdoor air quality interface which will deliver new knowledge that:

- provides critical foresight on emerging air pollution challenges and associated health risks and impacts; and

- enable an increased understanding and quantification of human behavioural change and practices in order to develop and assess interventions, that limit harmful exposure to mitigate negative health impacts individuals most at risk.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 15th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

MRC grants: Research grant, Programme grant, New investigator research grant, Partnership grant

Details: MRC research boards and panels are comprised of a group of leading scientists who 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.

The following research boards are accepting applications:

- **Neurosciences & Mental Health Board:** Responsible for the MRC's investments in disorders of the human nervous system. This includes, and is underpinned, by fundamental research into the human nervous system, its normal development and function, which informs our understanding of the mechanism of disease.
Deadline for applications: 4pm on 24th September 2020
- **Infections and Immunity Board:** Responsible for the MRC's investments in infectious human disease and disorders of the human immune system. This includes and is underpinned by fundamental research into human pathogens, as well as the normal development and functioning of the human immune system, which informs mechanism of disease.
Deadline for applications: 4pm on 16th September 2020
- **Molecular & Cellular Medicine Board:** Focuses on basic biological mechanisms or technologies relevant to human health and disease, including understanding the aetiology of disease and developing treatments. This includes specific responsibility for the MRC's cancer research portfolio, including basic biology, epidemiology and early translational research.
Deadline for applications: 4pm on 2nd September 2020
- **Population & Systems Medicine Board:** Supports mechanistic and applied research related to the physiology and pathophysiology of all the major organs and systems with the exception of the brain and the immune system. Its remit also reaches forward to population health and the impact of environmental factors, including the social environment, on health and development across the life course.
Deadline for applications: 4pm on 23rd September 2020

You can apply to the above boards through the following grant schemes:

- [Research grant](#)
- [Programme grant](#)
- [New investigator research grant](#)
- [Partnership grant](#)

Prostate Cancer UK Movember Major Awards in Curative Treatments

Details: This joint initiative between Movember and Prostate Cancer UK aims to fund research that can improve the outcomes for men treated in the curative setting. This can be research that helps men select the most appropriate treatment for them, research aimed at

increasing the effectiveness of initial treatment in terms of cancer control, or research focused on reducing side effects from initial treatment, without reducing cancer control.

Deadline for proposals: 12pm on 19th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

The Cure Parkinson's Trust: Research Grants

Details: The Cure Parkinson's Trust funds laboratory or clinical research projects with potential to cure Parkinson's. By "cure", they mean disease-modifying therapy or therapies: to slow, stop or reverse underlying disease progression. In particular, they prioritise research which has potential to translate into the clinic within five years. They do not fund research which is directed only to symptomatic relief.

Deadline for proposals: Grants applications are typically assessed four times per year, prior to scheduled Research Committee meetings when corresponding decisions will be taken. The next application deadlines are as follows:

- 1st October 2020 (in advance of meeting 22nd October 2020)
- 10th December 2020 (in advance of meeting 7th January 2021)

Find out more [here](#)

Claire Wand Fund: Research Grants For GPs

Details: The Claire Wand Fund is a trust established to provide scholarships and grants for research and the further education of doctors working in general practice.

Projects Awarded Grants Include:

- **Research for dissertations leading to a higher degree.**
- **Audit.**
- **Research projects initiated by General Practitioners, with ethical committee approval and appropriate support and indemnity.**
- **Course fees where the course will lead to the development of new clinical services within the applicants practice.**
- **Travel for the study of general practise in different cultures.**

The idea of the fund is to help improve general practice generally rather than the individual practitioner in particular.

Deadline for proposals: 28th September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Fellowship opportunities

MRC: Clinician Scientist Fellowship

Details: 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. A CSF provides funding for a challenging research programme, and an ambitious programme of research training which offers accelerated personal and career development.

Applications are welcome across all areas of the MRC remit. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research; however, it is expected that applicants' clinical work helps to inform and strengthen their research work.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 2nd September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

MRC: Clinical Research Training Fellowship

Details: 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.

Applications are welcome across all areas of the MRC's remit to improve human health. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research, and may address research questions from disease-specific mechanistic hypotheses through to research in priority areas such as population health, public health and molecular pathology as outlined in MRC's strategic plan. Applications addressing global health issues resulting in primary benefit to those living in low and middle income countries (LMIC), or those proposing interdisciplinary approaches are also welcomed.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 2nd September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Epilepsy Research UK: Emerging Leader Fellowship Award

Details: Applications are invited for awards of up to £300,000, over 1-4 years. Fellowship awards provide research funding for epilepsy researchers planning to develop a track record in epilepsy research and seeking to transition into research leadership. Funds will cover the Fellow's salary, support staff costs, and project running costs.

For 2020-21 Epilepsy Research UK are partnering with Young Epilepsy to offer a Fellowship in epilepsy research that addresses important epilepsy questions relevant to an under 25-year-old population. Applications for the ERUK and YE Fellowship who are unsuccessful may be automatically considered for an ERUK Funded Emerging Leader Fellowship.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 28th September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK: SRUK/MRC Jointly Funded Clinical Research Training Fellowship

Details: SRUK funds essential scientific and medical research that aims to make life better for everyone living with scleroderma and Raynaud's.

The SRUK-MRC Joint Fellowships support researchers in areas such as project reporting, presenting work at meetings and professional networking. Applications are open for projects that will help deliver progress in one of the four key areas identified in the Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK research strategy:

- early diagnosis
- precision medicine
- quality of life
- understanding the cause.

Deadline for proposals: 2nd September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

News

NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry

The **NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry** has been launched today. It will help people across the UK sign up for information on the new COVID-19 vaccine studies.

The registry has been developed as part of the government's **Vaccine Taskforce**, in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), NHS Digital, and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Governments. The registry is also collaborating with ZOE, the company behind the Covid-19 symptom study who have 3.5 million UK users of their app, to work together to enrol their volunteers onto vaccine trials.

It will help large numbers of people be recruited into the studies over the coming months, potentially leading to an effective vaccine being identified and made available to the UK public against coronavirus earlier.

How does it work?

Working with the NHS, the aim is to recruit over half a million people onto the new COVID-19 vaccine research registry, which will allow people to be put in touch with the vaccine trials in the coming months. Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK, including both people with or without existing health conditions, to take part in vaccine studies, to make sure that any vaccines developed will work for everyone.

The service is available to anyone aged 18 or over, living in the UK. To register, users need to fill in some personal and contact details, and answer a series of basic health screening questions on an **NHS.UK** website form. The service is highly secure, with personal data and permissions held in a NHS system managed by NHS Digital.

By registering through the service, users are not signing up to take part in a specific trial or study. Instead, researchers working on vaccine studies supported by the NIHR will be able to search for volunteers who have signed up to the service. Signing up is an individual choice.

Blogs and articles

NIHR blog: Research for Patient Benefit - a journey of 1,000 projects

Sue Ziebland is Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme Director and Professor of Medical Sociology in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford. Here she reflects on reaching the milestone of 1,000 projects supported by NIHR's RfPB funding programme.

Find out more [here](#)

Resources

Trials Methodology Research Partnership: New webpage to raise awareness and understanding of trials methodology research

The Trials Methodology Research Partnership have launched a new webpage with resources describing the benefits of trials methodology research for patients. The webpage includes specific trial examples and a blog post from Derek Stewart (TMRP, PPI&E lead), highlighting the importance of trials methodology research from a patient viewpoint. A full report from the MRC HTMR Network funded 'Actively involving Patients in Trials Methodology Research' workshop is also accessible from the page.

Find out more [here](#)

Training

Trials Methodology Research Partnership: Use of Routine Data in Trials in the UK

What: Andrew Mckay (University of Liverpool) and Sharon Love (UCL) will present an online webinar focusing on the use of routine data in trials in the UK. A recording of the webinar will be made available after the event.

When: 12pm on Thursday 20th August 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

COMET Initiative: Are you still troubled by research waste?

What: In this webinar, Hywel Williams will reflect on the reasons why undesirable behaviour patterns persist in research waste, and will suggest some solutions going forward – including how the NIHR are trying to tackle the problem through adding value in research strategy.

When: 12:00-13:00 on 8th October 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Public Health Research Programme – Current Commissioned Calls webinar

What: The NIHR Public Health Research team will be holding a webinar on their current commissioned calls:

- [20/46 Health impacts of housing led interventions for homeless people](#)
- [20/47 Interventions to improve the uptake of the Influenza vaccination in carers](#)
- [20/48 Food insecurity – health impacts and mitigation](#)
- [20/68 Targeted mass media interventions for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic populations](#)

To request a place at the webinar please complete the form, which can be found using the above links.

When: 15:00-16:00 on 31st July

Where: Online

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

As you may be aware, the NIHR CRN portfolio, which was paused since the start of the pandemic to allow full focus on COVID-19 research, has recently restarted. 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. 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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