

Dear all

**In this week's message:**

- [Supporting clinical academic researchers in the recovery and restoration from the COVID-19 crisis](#)
- [RDS WM post award support](#)

**Latest NIHR funding calls:**

- NIHR Programme Development Grants - Competition 28
- NIHR PRP Research call to evaluate the use of the ICON programme in its purpose to prevent instances of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in infants

**Funding calls from other bodies:**

- MRC: Experimental Medicine Funding Call
- The Academy of Medical Scientists: Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers
- Diabetes UK: Project Grants
- British Society of Periodontology: Research grants

**News:**

- HRA: Making health research findings available to the public to benefit patients, researchers and policy makers

**Blogs and articles:**

- NIHR blog: Evolving NIHR's Programme Development Grants
- Wellcome Trust: How could COVID-19 change research culture for the better?

**Patient and Public Involvement:**

- RDS South East: That Co-production Podcast – That Jeremy Taylor Episode Pt 1

**Resources:**

- HRA podcast series: Innovative trial design

**Training, events:**

- NIHR webinar: Tips for applying for a Development and Skills Enhancement Award
- BigSurv20: Big Data Meets Survey Science
- National Centre for Research Methods: Key data – Qualitative and mixed methods data
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midland

**The Council of Deans of Health: Supporting clinical academic researchers in the recovery and restoration from the COVID-19 crisis**



The **Council of Deans of Health** represents the UK's university faculties engaged in education and research for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. As the COVID-19 crisis eases, many organisations are rethinking how to collectively support clinical academic researchers as they return to their clinical academic research contracts and pick up projects, many of which have been on hold for several months. The recording of the Council of Deans of Health's webinar "Supporting clinical academic researchers in the recovery and restoration from the COVID-19 crisis" is now available to view online.

Watch the video on [YouTube here](#)

**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 Programme Development Grants - Competition 28

**Details:** NIHR Programme Development Grants (PDG) are designed to enable a research team to carry out targeted preparatory work to develop a competitive Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) funding application. They can also be used to further develop an existing or ongoing PGfAR-funded programme of research.

Individual awards are for a maximum of £150k over a period of 12 - 24 months. The amount of funding awarded, however, is determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted.

Applications to PDG are made with the support of an NHS body and other providers of NHS services in England. If an application is successful, a contract will be placed with that organisation for delivery of the research and all funds for the research will be paid to the NHS organisation or other provider of NHS services.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 23rd September 2020

**Find out more** [here](#)

### NIHR PRP Research call to evaluate the use of the ICON programme in its purpose to prevent instances of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in infants

**Details:** The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) funds policy research to enable evidence informed policy making in health and social care.

Proposals are invited for a single research project to design and deliver an evaluation of the ICON programme in England. ICON is a programme designed to prevent infant head trauma by helping parents and carers cope with a crying baby.

Both an impact and process evaluation is envisaged. We are requesting a two-phase project, with a breakpoint after Phase 1. The first Phase is to design a robust plan for the evaluation of the ICON programme in England, including highlighting any limitations. Phase 2 would be carrying out the evaluation itself.

Please be advised that this is a Single Stage (full) Application Process.

The online application form will be available from 04 August 2020.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 8th September 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: Experimental Medicine Funding Call**

**Details:** The Experimental Medicine Funding Call addresses gaps in our understanding of the causes, progression and treatment of human disease through experimental intervention, or challenge, in humans.

You can apply for academically-led experimental medicine projects, conducted in humans, based round a clearly articulated gap in understanding of human pathophysiology, with a clear path to clinical impact. These grants will produce new mechanistic insights, identifying opportunities to modify disease pathways and enabling novel therapeutic or diagnostic approaches for future development.

All disease areas and interventions are welcomed by the Panel.

**Deadline for proposals:** 4pm on 16th September 2020

**Find out more** [here](#)

#### **The Academy of Medical Scientists: Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers**

**Details:** Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers offer funding of up to £30,000 to cover the cost of research consumables. The grants allow research-active Clinical Lecturers to gather data to strengthen their bids for longer-term fellowships and funding.

The grants provide modest 'starter' funds to enable research active Clinical Lecturers to pursue their research work. Clinical Lecturer posts provide a salary but often do not come with the funding to support the costs of the research. This scheme was designed to help bridge this gap by providing Clinical Lecturers with access to modest research funds for up to two years. It gives them experience of preparing a research grant application and helps them establish their research portfolios by providing funding for research consumables.

**Deadline for proposals:** 3pm on 8th September 2020

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **Diabetes UK: Project Grants**

**Details:** Diabetes UK Project Grants fund high quality, hypothesis driven diabetes research projects, lasting up to five years and costing less than £500,000.

#### **Highlight notice:**

Diabetes UK has a highlight notice of “New glucose monitoring technologies in inpatient care”. Diabetes UK welcomes research proposals which evaluate the introduction of new glucose monitoring technologies in an inpatient setting, to develop the case for changing practice across the UK.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1st December 2020

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **British Society of Periodontology: Research grants**

**Details:** The BSP Research Grant is designed to support postgraduate research development and training with a value up to £5,000. The primary purpose is to enable the successful applicant(s) to undertake research projects with a clear application in periodontology. Research Grants are available by competitive application.

Applicants must be members of the British Society of Periodontology who will normally have been clinically qualified for less than 10 years at the time of application, unless there is a valid reason why the length of time from graduation is more than 10 years.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1st January 2021

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **News**

#### **HRA: Making health research findings available to the public to benefit patients, researchers and policy makers**

The Health Research Authority has launched a new strategy to ensure information about all health and social care research – including COVID-19 research – is made publicly available to benefit patients, researchers and policy makers. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of sharing details of research taking place - to understand the virus and find the tests, treatments and vaccines - so that results can inform best quality care and preventive measures. This also means researchers do not duplicate efforts and can build on each other's work while the public can see what research is going on. Now the new Make it Public strategy aims to build on this good practice and make it easy for researchers to be transparent about their work.

The NIHR is committed to transparency and supports the HRA's new transparency strategy.

**Find out more on the** [HRA website](#) **and in the following** [NIHR news article](#)

### **Blogs and articles**

#### **NIHR blog: Evolving NIHR's Programme Development Grants**

Professor Elaine Hay, Director of NIHR's Programme Grants for Applied Research, explores how Programme Development Grants are evolving to support further work based on previously funded programmes of research.

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **Wellcome Trust: How could COVID-19 change research culture for the better?**

COVID-19 is transforming every aspect of society – and research is no exception. But how can we use what we've learned in the past six months to build a better research culture? Ben Bleasdale, Senior Policy Adviser for Wellcome, addresses this question in his latest article.

**Find out more [here](#)**

## **Patient and Public Involvement**

### **RDS South East: That Co-production Podcast – That Jeremy Taylor Episode Pt 1**

RDS South East Strategic PPI Lead Dr Gary Hickey is producing 'That Co-production Podcast!' – a six part series in partnership with NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination. Parts 1 and 2 are available on the RDS South East website.

**Find out more [here](#)**

## **Resources**

### **HRA podcast series: Innovative trial design**

The HRA is launching a new series of podcasts to explore innovative trial design and delivery - working with the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The podcasts look at changes to the clinical research landscape as clinical trials evolve to find new, faster and more efficient ways to bring new treatments to patients. A new episode will be released every Wednesday during July and August.

**Find out more [here](#)**

## **Training**

### **NIHR webinar: Tips for applying for a Development and Skills Enhancement Award**

**What:** Gain insights into the NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement Award and find out what makes a successful application. The post-doctoral level award supports NIHR Academy Members to gain specific skills and experience to underpin the next phase of their research career.

This webinar will help you to:

- discover what makes a good application
- find out what key mistakes to avoid in an application
- learn about good examples of successful application

**When:** 12:15-13:15 on 19th August 2020

**Where:** Online

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **BigSurv20: Big Data Meets Survey Science**

**What:** During the conference, attendees, panelists, and presenters will engage in a variety of online discussions on the practical applications for employing Big Data and data science to improve the quality of statistics production and use. With a focus on how researchers and practitioners can successfully combine traditional survey and qualitative data with new data sources, such as registers, social media, apps, and other forms of digital data, the

conference will explore different perspectives stemming from computer science, social science, and other disciplines.

**When:** Fridays in November and December 2020

**Where:** Online

**Cost:** Free. Attendees will need to register to access the virtual conference materials. Registration will open in September 2020

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **National Centre for Research Methods: Key data – Qualitative and mixed methods data**

**What:** This introductory webinar is intended for anyone who wants to learn about the qualitative or mixed-methods data available from the UK Data Service. The UK Data Service provides access to a range of qualitative and mixed-methods data including Peter Townsend's Last Refuge and Neighbourhood Boundaries, Social Disorganisation and Social Exclusion. These collections cover many topics and most of them can be downloaded after a short registration. They can be used for research or for teaching.

The webinar will cover:

- An overview of key features of qualitative data and where our data come from
- Some examples of UK and international qualitative data and how they have been used
- Some key issues when using qualitative data • Access conditions and getting further help

**When:** 26th October 2020

**Where:** Online

**Cost:** Free

**Find out more** [here](#)

### **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](mailto: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/>

**\*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](mailto:k.biddle@bham.ac.uk) and I will remove you from my contact list.**