

Dear all

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**COVID-19: Info, updates and resources**

**Latest RDS blog: Diversity and Inclusion during COVID-19**

The RDS blog for this month highlights the importance of promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in research, how these issues have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the RDS can help you to address these crucial issues in your research plans.

**Read the blog [here](#)**



### **Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on research activity**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has commissioned CRAC/Vitae, supported by UKRI and Universities UK, to gather evidence to understand the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities of researchers and research groups. Within this CRAC/Vitae is running an online survey to record a snapshot of experiences of researchers in terms of how the pandemic and mitigating strategies, such as social distancing, are impacting on their work. Critically we are also interested in their perceptions of the implications for them and their research teams for the months ahead.

If you would like to complete the survey, you can do so [here](#) (the deadline to complete it is 9th June).

Information behind the survey can be found [here](#)

### **Reaching under-represented public members in a virtual world**

The Wessex PPI regional network (Wessex PIN) has had to suspend or delay its projects which were aimed at offering opportunities for under-represented public members to influence research; this is because they were all based on face-to-face relationship building. But the groups who face additional barriers to accessing research are also the groups who are experiencing disproportional affects from COVID-19.

The Wessex PIN are therefore organising two sessions to bring together individuals interested in exploring how we can reach out to new under-represented public members virtually. The first session will take place on Weds 10th June, 10:00-11:30 (second session to be confirmed shortly).

To register:

- Register for session 1 via [Eventbrite](#) (you will automatically be invited to the second session when the date is confirmed).

If you are unable to attend session 1 but would like to register your interest in session two, please leave your email on this [google form](#)

### **DHSC review process for COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research**

The NIHR have updated the webpage that gives information on the UK-wide portal for applying for funding and/or prioritised support for urgent public health research into COVID-19.

Read the updated information [here](#)

### **Updated Q&A on the impact of COVID-19 on research funded or supported by NIHR**

The NIHR have recently updated the Q&A section of their website relating to COVID-19 research.

Read the updated Q&As [here](#)

### **Latest COVID-19 funding opportunities**

#### **NIHR boosts its support for research to tackle mental health effects of COVID-19**

**Details:** The NIHR is ramping up its support for research on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health, by seeking to fund new research on the acute mental health effects of the pandemic and offering priority delivery support for research on severe mental health problems.

The NIHR has issued a new call for research proposals on rapid identification and mitigation of the acute mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). This [highlight notice](#), which forms part of NIHR's rapid response rolling funding call with UKRI, seeks research proposals on how the measures imposed to reduce the spread of the virus could affect immediate mental health and the role of other factors, such as stigma, isolation, bereavement and trauma (including trauma following intensive care treatment in COVID-19 patients with severe illness).

**Deadline for proposals:** 21st December 2020

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

### **The Health Foundation: COVID-19 Research Programme**

**Details:** This research programme seeks to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in two distinct areas: service change in the health and social care system and health inequalities. The Health Foundation are prioritising funding for UK-focused projects that explore:

- how health and social care service delivery has changed in light of COVID-19
- the impact of COVID-19 on health inequalities and the wider determinants of health.

This programme aims to fund highly applied research that has direct relevance to policy and practice and welcomes applications from multidisciplinary teams combining expertise from a broad range of disciplines. The Health Foundation want the findings of this research to inform policy and/or service delivery decisions about the future of health and care services, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications involving patients, the public and people with lived experience are strongly encouraged.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30th September 2020

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

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 NIHR funding opportunities**

#### **NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 33**

**Details:** NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) funds collaborative, multidisciplinary programmes of applied research to solve health and social care challenges. Applications are invited for Stage 1 research proposals to develop individual programmes of research. Research funded through a Programme Grant typically consists of an interrelated group of high quality projects focused on a coherent theme and hence require multidisciplinary approaches, including clinical, health economics, statistics, qualitative and behavioural sciences, to ensure that research objectives can be met. The amount awarded

and the length of the funding period will depend on the nature of the proposed work, in particular whether or not the proposal includes a substantial powered trial.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 29th July 2020

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

### **NIHR Public Health Research Programme – New commissioned calls**

**Details:** The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health.

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

- **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**

**Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 17th November 2020

### **NIHR Global Health Research Groups / Units**

**Details:** The NIHR Global Health Research Units and Global Health Research Groups awards form a key part of the NIHR Global Health Research commitment to ODA. The Global Health Research Units and Global Health Research Groups offer is unique for NIHR in that it provides funding to support not only delivery of research that will improve health outcomes for people living in LMICs, but also strengthens crucial research capability in resource-poor settings, in particular, training and capacity-building in both academic research and programme support functions. Together these provide a vital and sustainable platform for future research in those countries.

The following Global Health research opportunities are open for applications:

- **Global Health Research Groups** will be either new to delivering applied health research globally or wish to expand an existing partnership. Global Health Research Groups will address unmet global health needs through equitable research partnerships and must have Joint UK and LMIC Lead applicants, clear plans to strengthen research capacity and support future sustainability of research in partner countries.
- **Global Health Research Units** will have an existing track record of delivering internationally recognised applied global health research and wish to consolidate and expand this work. Units will address unmet global health needs through equitable research partnerships and must have Joint UK and LMIC Lead applicants, clear plans to strengthen research capacity and support future sustainability of research in partner countries.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 18th November 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:

#### **Alzheimer's Research UK: David Hague Early Career Investigator of the Year Award**

**Details:** The David Hague Early Career Investigator of the Year Award, worth £25,000 in research expenses with a £1,500 personal prize, is presented each year to the most outstanding early career researcher in the field of biomedical dementia research. The Award is judged by an external panel of prominent international researchers, who look for excellence in scientific research, a significant contribution to the field and quality of scientific writing in an essay. Entries should demonstrate excellence across all areas of the Alzheimer's Research UK's [Early Career Research Framework](#).

**Deadline for proposals:** 25th September 2020

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

#### **Cancer Research UK: Prevention and Population Research Project Awards**

**Details:** CRUK Prevention and Population Research Awards provide support for focused research proposals centred on key questions in prevention and population research.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30th July 2020

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

#### **Cancer Research UK: Prevention and Population Research Programme Awards**

**Details:** CRUK Prevention and Population Research Programme Awards provide long-term support for broad, multidisciplinary research with transformative potential in prevention and population research.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30th July 2020

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

## Patient and Public Involvement

### **NIHR: New handbook demonstrates the UK Standards for Public Involvement in action**

A [new handbook](#) has been published sharing the stories of organisations that tested and implemented the UK Standards for Public Involvement in their research as part of a pilot programme. Last year a four-nations partnership, including the NIHR, [released a set of UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) in research, which aimed to help researchers and organisations improve the quality and consistency of public involvement in health and social care research.

A new handbook has been launched sharing the experiences of **10 projects** that have implemented the standards. The stories are designed to give a glimpse of the different ways

the standards were implemented and integrated into 'business as usual' research, or as part of special projects.

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