

Dear all

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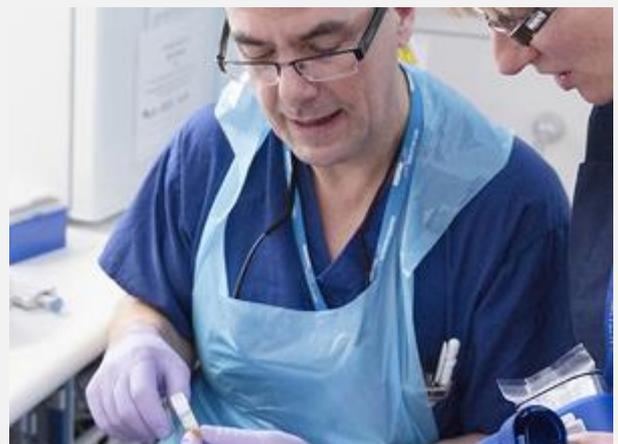
Training and events:

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**Health Research Authority – COVID-19
guidance for sponsors, sites and researcher**

The HRA has produced new guidance for sponsors, sites and researchers about the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance covers the setup of new studies, amendments to existing studies and changes being made by sponsors. The guidance will be updated regularly.

Access the guidance on the [HRA website here](#)



Latest NIHR funding opportunities

NIHR Public Health Research programme - Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Team call

Details: The Public Health Research Programme are accepting Expressions of Interest from Local Government for research ideas for the Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams (PHIRST). The purpose of this call is to identify and prioritise local authority initiatives which have the potential to impact on health, and which require research input.

The following initiatives will be prioritised:

- Those that are likely to lead to important impacts on population health
- Those that are likely to be widely generalisable
- If there is an identified need for the initiative
- If the initiative is readily evaluable
- Where the source of the initiative funding is identified and preferably secured
- Where research will provide timely evidence to underpin policy or practice

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 5th May 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

Fight for Sight: PhD Studentships

Details: Fight for Sight's mission is to stop sight loss by funding the highest quality medical research. Fight for Sight PhD Studentships are highly prestigious awards made on a fully competitive and peer reviewed basis. Up to £100,000 is offered to applicants proposing research projects which are hypothesis driven, innovative, involve high quality scientific methodologies and are supported by robust preliminary data.

Applications are particularly encouraged in the areas of the Strategic Programmes:

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Glaucoma
- Inherited eye diseases
- Sight loss linked to other diseases (Multi-morbidities)

Deadline for proposals: 11th June 2020

Find out more [here](#)

MRC New Investigator Research Grants

Details: MRC New Investigator Research Grants (NIRG) are aimed at researchers who are capable of becoming independent Principal Investigators and who are now ready to take the

next step towards that goal. Applicants are expected to combine time spent on the NIRG with a portfolio of other activities, such as time spent on other research grants or clinical duties, teaching, administration duties, or other time spent in faculty (this list is not exhaustive). As such, applicants are normally expected to request up to, but no more than, 50% of their contracted working time on the NIRG.

The following Boards are accepting applications for New Investigator Research grants:

- [Molecular & Cellular Medicine Board \(deadline: 4pm on 5th May 2020\)](#)
- [Infections and Immunity Board \(deadline: 4pm on 13th May 2020\)](#)
- [Population & Systems Medicine Board \(deadline: 4pm on 20th May 2020\)](#)
- [Neurosciences & Mental Health Board \(4pm on 27th May 2020\)](#)

Deadline for proposals: [See above](#)

Asthma UK Programme Development Grant: Use of data from smart inhalers for asthma management in adults

Details: The intent of this award is to fund the development phase of a larger Programme Grant seeking to link real-time data from connected asthma inhalers (smart inhalers) to improve routine asthma care for adults. The ambition is to generate sufficient evidence to achieve guideline body (NICE) and regulatory body endorsement. Please note that Asthma UK is unlikely to be able to fund the larger Programme Grant, but will work with successful development grant holders to support funding applications elsewhere.

Research question: ***Can data generated from smart inhalers be used to reduce emergency healthcare use in adults with mild-moderate asthma as part of UK routine asthma care?***

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 10th June 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Queen's Nursing Institute: Complex Needs in Primary Care Fund for Innovation

Details: The Queen's Nursing Institute is inviting applications to support 10 nurse-led projects that focus on the health improvement of people with complex needs in a primary care setting.

Your project can focus on any issue relating to improving the health, care, and wellbeing for people with complex needs in primary care. Applications from nurses looking to utilise digital technology and remote monitoring of conditions will be encouraged as well as from those seeking innovative approaches to supporting more people to be cared for at home.

Deadline for proposals: 7th April 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Scar Free Foundation: Conflict Wound Research Call

Details: The Scar Free Foundation (SFF) is a medical research charity whose mission is to achieve scar free healing within a generation and transform the lives of those affected by disfiguring conditions. Conflict Wound Research is one of several areas, including burns and cleft lip/palate research which the Foundation invests in to deliver its Scar Free Strategy.

The SFF has £150,000 allocated to Conflict Wound Research to be used to fund pilot, small-scale projects (£10,000- £50,000). Projects may include systematic reviews, pilot, feasibility or other studies.

Funding can be used to cover salaries, equipment, travel, consumables, open access publication, dissemination and public involvement costs.

Projects should be of up to 24 months in duration and must take place in the UK.

Deadline for proposals: 5pm on 8th May 2020

Find out more [here](#)

News

UK Government commits £12million to research into preventable diseases

The UK Government has committed an extra £12million to the National Institute for Health Research in 2020/21 for research into preventable diseases. Heart disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancer are all linked to preventable causes and contribute to slowing improvements in life expectancy, and regional and socio-economic inequalities in health outcomes. This new investment will be directed particularly towards Local Authorities, helping them grow and support their research capabilities so they can work further to solve a range of major preventable health challenges. The aim is that this will support the Government's work to increase healthy life expectancy by 5 years by 2035, while narrowing the gap between the experience of the richest and poorest.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and Events

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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