

Dear all

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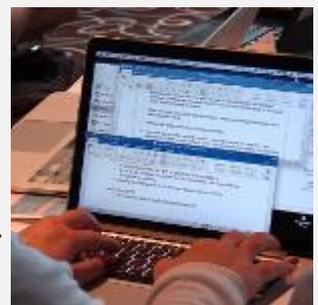
RDS working practices in light of COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, RDS West Midlands have temporarily suspended holding face-to-face meetings.

However, we will be aiming to respond to requests for support as usual.

Our advisors will continue to arrange meetings, but these will be held remotely (either by teleconference or videoconference).

Please take care and stay safe



DHSC issues guidance on the impact of COVID-19 on research funded or supported by NIHR

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.



Regular updates will be [posted here](#)

You may also be interested in a series of Q&As on the impact of COVID-19 on research funded or supported by the NIHR, which have been [published here](#)

Latest NIHR funding opportunities

NIHR Fellowships – Extension to deadlines

Details: As a response to COVID-19 and the additional pressures that it may place upon those applying for Fellowships, the NIHR have extended the deadline of a number of Fellowship programmes.

The following have a new deadline of 1pm on Wednesday 6th May 2020:

- ICA Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF)
- ICA Clinical Lectureship (CL)
- ICA Senior Clinical Lectureship (SCL)

The following have a new deadline of 1pm on Thursday 9th April 2020:

- NIHR In-Practice Fellowship 2020
- ICA Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship

The following have a new deadline of Thursday 9th April 2020:

- Pre-doctoral fellowship round (i.e. the pre-doctoral fellowship for methodologists).

The following have a new deadline of 14th April 2020:

- Development and Skills Enhancement Award

NIHR Public Health Research Programme: Studying mental health and wellbeing in HS2

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.

HS2 Ltd wish to commission research to assess the potential mental health and wellbeing effects of the HS2 development. On behalf of HS2 Limited, the Public Health Research Programme (PHR) is accepting Stage 1 applications to this commissioned call for research.

- 20/14 Studying mental health and wellbeing in HS2

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 22nd May 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Programme Development Grants - Competition 27

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.

PDGs are designed to increase the rate and number of successful applications for a full Programme Grant by supporting the completion of the necessary preparatory work to suitably position the research team to submit a competitive Programme Grant application. 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 13th 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

CRUK Accelerator Award

Details: The purpose of the Accelerator Award is to enable progress in translational cancer research through the development of tools, platforms and skills that form the foundations of such research.

CRUK fund ambitious programmes which typically have multiple strands. These may include:

- Producing datasets, tissue banks, cell lines or models
- Developing methods, protocols, software and standards
- Training, skills and knowledge sharing
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Deadline for proposals: 26th May 2020

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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