

Dear all

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## RDS and COVID-19

Despite the ongoing situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19) RDS West Midlands will continue to support clients who are developing applications for health and social care research. We will, however, not be offering face to face meetings but our specialist researchers across the region will be happy to meet via greater use of email, telephone and videoconferencing.

Support requests should be submitted in the usual way via the request form

You can also contact us via our e-mail – [rds.wm@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.wm@nihr.ac.uk)



## NIHR: Prioritising funding and support for COVID-19 research across the UK

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, the NIHR is funding and helping to deliver a range of “rapid response” research to better understand and tackle COVID-19, including research into vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests, and real-time collection of samples and data from people undergoing treatment in hospitals.

Government support is available to prioritise, coordinate and deliver these studies, regardless of sponsorship and funding source. This support includes expedited identification of sites to ensure appropriate geographical distribution of Urgent Public Health Research to maximise recruitment and minimise over-commitment of resource.

Please do not contact Local CRNs, R&D Departments or healthcare sites directly with any new COVID-19 studies. Central, coordinated communications via the NIHR will enable the most effective delivery of the collective COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research.

Find out more [here](#).



## Latest NIHR funding opportunities

**NIHR Global Health Research Programme:** Small grants for early career researchers in tropical medicine or global health

**Details:** The NIHR Global Health Research programme has partnered with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) to fund small grants to early career global health researchers worldwide. The purpose of the small grants, which are up to £5,000 each, is to enable early career researchers and global health professionals to undertake clinical or scientific research or fieldwork, as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within larger projects.

The grants are aimed in particular at researchers in tropical medicine or global health who have not received funding in their own name before.

**Deadline for proposals:** 5pm on 27th April 2020

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

### [NIHR Global Health Research Workshop Fund Award Pilot](#)

**Details:** The NIHR Global Health Research (GHR) Workshop Fund scheme funds awards of up to £10,000 per individual. It allows NIHR Academy members (PhD and post-doctoral only) based in the NIHR GHR Programmes the opportunity to plan and lead a workshop with a defined output, on a topic that is pertinent to them as an individual and relevant to other participants.

The scheme is designed to enable GHR NIHR Academy Members (PhD and post-doctoral only) to develop the skills they will need to be a successful research leader; bringing individuals together for a common aim, to enhance their exposure to multi-disciplinary working, as well as building networks and providing peer support. It is expected that the NIHR GHR Workshop Fund will contribute to enhancing the GHR Programmes' outcomes in achieving direct and primary benefit for patients and populations in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

**Deadline for proposals:** 1st December 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/AHRC/ESRC Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind](#)

**Details:** The Medical Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council invite outline proposals for innovative and ambitious interdisciplinary programmes of original empirical research in adolescence, mental health and the developing mind. This £24M call will support a range of substantive flagship programmes, each of up to 4-year duration and up to £4M.

The overarching aim of this initiative is to deliver ambitious interdisciplinary research advances, generating evidence that underpins approaches for improving adolescent wellbeing, educational attainment, sense of identity and social functioning as well as our ability to prevent, address or reduce mental health problems. These advances will leverage

understanding of how the adolescent mind is shaped by the complex interplay between genetic, physiological, psychological, social and cultural factors, and the key concepts and values involved in these explanations, such as mental health/illness, optimal development and autonomy. Moreover, this initiative creates an opportunity to inspire a positive vision for the unique contribution adolescents can make to culture and society, in contrast to a common narrative that characterises adolescence as a period of vulnerability or risk.

**Deadline for proposals:** 4pm on 15th September 2020

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

## News

### [NIHR: Industry partnership aims to tackle key areas of health research](#)

An exciting partnership between the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and biopharmaceutical company Pfizer UK is aiming to support health and care research leaders of the future.

Launching in April, the partnership will see Pfizer UK co-funding NIHR Doctoral and Advanced fellowships with a focus on research in alopecia areata, chronic pain and atopic dermatitis. The fellowships will complement the already successful career development awards offered by the NIHR Academy whilst building capacity and capability in these key areas of health research.

The application process for all NIHR doctoral and advanced fellowships, including those co-funded by Pfizer, will open on 1 April 2020. For more information regarding the fellowships visit [www.nihr.ac.uk/fellowships](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/fellowships) or email [academy-awards@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:academy-awards@nihr.ac.uk)

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

### [NIHR partners with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene to fund global health early career researchers](#)

The NIHR has partnered with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) to fund small grants to early career global health researchers worldwide.

The NIHR Global Health Research programme will provide funding for up to 100 small grants to researchers in tropical medicine or global health, as part of RSTMH's 2020 small grants programme.

The purpose of the small grants, which are up to £5,000 each, is to enable early career researchers and global health professionals to undertake clinical or scientific research or fieldwork, as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within larger projects. The grants are aimed in particular at researchers who have not received funding in their own name before. The deadline for applications is 5pm 27 April 2020.

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

### [Interactive Costing Tool \(iCT\)](#)

The new web-based interactive Costing Tool (iCT) provides a framework for transparent cost display and calculation to support swift local site budget negotiations when planning commercial trials in the NHS.

From 1st April 2020 all new Commercial Contract Research should be costed using the

interactive Costing Tool. The roll-out of the interactive Costing Tool has not been impacted by COVID-19 and will continue as planned. Resources are available to support its use on the NIHR website.

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

## Resources

### [NIHR INVOLVE: Interactive course for get your Patient and Public Involvement right first time](#)

NIHR INVOLVE have produced an interactive course for new and experienced reviewers of health and social care research, which has been produced by a team of public reviewers and patient and public involvement professionals with the NIHR.

The course covers reviewing in all contexts for NIHR research funding programmes, plus skills and activities required at different levels and stages of research. It is designed for public contributors who are committee members as well as public reviewers.

Researchers may also find this resource useful when writing research funding applications. It can be used as a tool to understand how to get your Patient and Public Involvement right first time!

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

### [Moz Academy: Search Engine Optimisation courses](#)

The Moz Academy provides easy-to-access search engine optimisation (SEO) education through an online platform. They have over a dozen on-demand courses to level up your SEO skillset, including:

- SEO Fundamentals
- Keyword Research
- Page Optimization
- How to Use Moz Pro

From now until 31st May 2020, Moz are making courses in Moz Academy free.

**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.**