

Dear all

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**Latest RDS blog: Public involvement during a pandemic: how we are supporting researchers**

Public involvement is a vital ingredient in any research funding application. But in a lockdown many of our go-to methods have become redundant. This month's RDS blog is a supportive guide on how to continue to do public involvement during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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

**CRN Business Intelligence: New COVID-19 Setup Times dashboard in Open Data Platform**

The NIHR CRN BI have created a new dashboard in the open data platform to monitor and report on site setup times for COVID-19 Urgent Public Health research. This will allow the CRN to demonstrate how quickly they are responding to the need to set up these studies.

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

Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources



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 Artificial Intelligence for Multiple Long-Term Conditions (AIM)

**Details:** The NIHR will soon launch a new funding call: Artificial Intelligence for Multiple Long-Term Conditions (AIM), which will spearhead the use of advanced data science and AI methods, combined with existing methodology and expertise in clinical practice, applied health and care research and social science, to systematically identify or explore clusters of disease and trajectories to develop insights for the prevention, identification, management and treatment of multiple long-term conditions (multimorbidity) or MLTC-M.

The call is organised into two main funding streams:

1. Research Collaborations: up to £2.5m is available for Research Collaborations delivered over a period of up to 30 months.
2. Development Grants: up to £150k for up to 9 months is available to undertake preparatory work to develop a future programme of research (e.g. develop collaborations, data access and linking, proof of concept/feasibility work) but broader ranging development work is permitted.

A third funding stream is expected to be included to establish an expert Research Support Facility that will provide centralised technical (e.g. AI focussed), methodological and organisational support to successful applicants.

The draft specification can be found [online](#).

The NIHR is hosting 2 virtual events / webinars (19 and 21 May 2020) to introduce the call to the research community and interested stakeholders and to seek input to finalise the commissioning brief. You can register your interest in attending the events [here](#).

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 Methodology Research Programme

Details: The MRC Methodology Research Programme funds research that includes at least one of the following:

- Research primarily targeting underpinning methodologies, to create generalizable learning. Research must extend beyond a single case-study or application.
- 'Methods in research', the development of methods for their implementation in research standards, with the aim of improving quality and consistency in practice, for example consensus statements.
- Research framed within a pathways to disseminate the developed methodology, or associated learning, such as to maximise implementation and adoption. This can be comparative to test and evaluate methodology or translational to create step changes in utility or uptake.
- Research that is led by the methodological needs of a breadth of researchers, where research outputs are designed to maximise the informative value and utility across this breadth.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 17th June 2020

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

### Dunhill Medical Trust: Co-funded Advanced (post-doctoral) Fellowship (NIHR)

Details: The Joint NIHR DMT Advanced (post-doctoral) Fellowship is aimed at anyone with a PhD who hasn't yet been awarded a chair. Whether you are someone who has recently been or about to be awarded a PhD, or someone with several years of post-doctoral experience. the scheme is particularly suited to:

- Individuals who have recently completed or soon to be awarded a PhD but haven't yet established themselves as an independent researcher.
- Individuals either starting to establish themselves as an independent researcher, or who are already established as an independent researcher but are not yet recognised as an international leader in their field.
- Individuals looking to transition into applied health research from a basic science or non-health research background.
- Individuals who are seeking to re-establish their research career following a significant career break.

Deadline for proposals: 29th July 2020

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

## News

### New charity partnerships for NIHR Academy

Two new charities join four others to provide NIHR Charity Partnership Fellowships for researchers. Wellbeing of Women and Dunhill Medical Trust are now providing career development opportunities for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers through the NIHR

Academy's Fellowship Programme. The other charities include Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Charitable Trust, Kidney Research UK, Moorfields Eye Charity and Castang Foundation.

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

## Training and Events

### **NIHR Webinar: Learn about the NIHR Global Health Research Training Programme**

**What:** The NIHR Global Health Research (GHR) Training Programme provides academic research training opportunities, career development and support to those who are already being invested in by NIHR GHR programmes. This will be a pre-recorded webinar presentation with the chance to ask questions of the presenters live at the end. It will provide a comprehensive overview of the NIHR GHR Training Programme managed by the NIHR Academy. You will also hear from NIHR colleagues who manage the NIHR GHR programmes (NIHR GHR Units, Groups and RIGHT Call).

**When:** 12:30-13:30 on 26th May 2020

**Where:** Online

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

### **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.**