

Dear all

In this week's message:

- **** RDS and COVID-19 ****
- **COVID-19: Info, updates and resources**
- **Latest COVID-19 funding calls**

Latest NIHR funding opportunities:

- NIHR Global mental health seed funding
- Potential advert dates for Global Health Research awards

Funding calls from other bodies:

- ESRC: ISCF Healthy Ageing Challenge Social, Behavioural & Design Research Programme
- Cancer Research UK: Programme Foundation Awards
- Cancer Research UK: Science Committee Programme Awards

News:

- NIHR: Supporting the restart of paused NIHR research activities
- Wellcome Trust report: What researchers think about the culture they work in

Blogs and Articles:

- NIHR blog: Increasing research in Real World Implementation
- RDS South East blog: Interdisciplinary research and neglected areas
- HRA blog: Ethics review during a pandemic

Patient and Public Involvement:

- NIHR: Strengthening commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion and patient and public involvement and engagement

Training and events:

- NIHR Statistics Group Annual Conference 2020

- NIHR webinar: Learn about the NIHR Global Health Research Training Programme
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midland

COVID-19: Info, updates and resources

NICE guidelines for COVID-19

It is worth keeping an eye on the rapid guidelines for the active management of COVID-19 infection, which are being developed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Some of the latest guidelines cover community-based care of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), acute myocardial injury, and children and young people who are immunocompromised.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR: Highlight notices - COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2) research on transmission, risk factors and seroprevalence and priority groups

Research to understand the epidemiology of COVID-19, including its prevention and control, will be critical for mitigating the severity of the pandemic. Rapid progress in addressing this depends upon a coherent and integrated response from researchers, industry, the health and care systems, and the public.

To address this need, NIHR and UKRI have launched a [rolling call for rapid research](#) proposals that address emerging priorities and have potential to deliver public health impacts within 12 months, or sooner if feasibly and scientifically possible.

This call has a number of highlight notices against it to seek research proposals on specific topics:

- Highlight notice - COVID-19 and ethnicity
- Highlight notice - COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2) research on transmission
- Highlight notice - COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2) research on priority groups: transmission, risk factors and seroprevalence

These highlight notices will be supported through the joint UKRI-NIHR COVID-19 rapid response rolling call. Details of this call, including eligibility and how to apply, are available on the [NIHR website](#).

Find out more [here](#)

Latest COVID-19: funding calls

NIHR new cross-government research response to tackle COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries

Details: The NIHR has launched a new call for global health research to tackle COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), in partnership with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The new cross-government call will use UK aid funds to support applied health research to understand the pandemic and mitigate its health impacts in LMICs. The new Global Effort on COVID-19 (GECO) Health Research funding call will focus on four priority COVID-19 research topics highlighted by the World Health Organization: epidemiology; clinical management; infection prevention and control; and social sciences in the outbreak

response.

As well as research addressing the direct impacts of COVID-19, the call also seeks to fund projects investigating the indirect consequences of the pandemic on health issues, such as mental health, domestic violence, and maternal and neonatal health.

Deadline for proposals: **12pm on 28th September 2020**

Find out more [here](#)

ESRC: ISCF Healthy Ageing Challenge Social, Behavioural & Design Research Programme

Details: The Healthy Ageing Social, Behavioural and Design Research Programme (SBD RP) is part of the ISCF Healthy Ageing Challenge portfolio of activities. The SBD RP will provide £9.5m (100% fEC) to fund interdisciplinary academic-led teams to carry out research into social, behavioural and design aspects of healthy ageing. The Programme will contribute to the Challenge mission to, 'ensure that people can enjoy at least five extra healthy, independent, years of life by 2035, while narrowing the gap between the richest and poorest' by enhancing our understanding of the aspirations, preferences and needs of the ageing population.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 7th July 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 Global mental health seed funding

Details: The NIHR and Grand Challenges Canada have launched seed funding for proof-of-concept global health research into innovations that focus on the mental wellbeing of young people in low- and middle-income countries.

This new funding call is seeking research proposals that have the potential to transform mental health services for young people aged 10 to 24 in low- and middle-income countries. The innovative approaches should seek to enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services, while accounting for the complex social and environmental factors that contribute to young people's mental health and wellbeing.

The funding call is also open to innovators that have already established proof-of-concept to scale-up their mental health innovations, through the transition-to-scale programme.

Deadline for proposals: 8pm on 17th July 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Potential advert dates for Global Health Research awards

To help you prepare for Global Health Research awards that you may wish to apply for in future, the NIHR have listed the likely advert dates for the following funding schemes:

NIHR Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) Call 4

These awards will provide funding to address the global burden of unintentional injuries and accidents (including but not limited to road traffic accidents, falls, burns and drowning), and urgent and emergency care in low- and middle-income countries through high quality, interdisciplinary applied health research. This funding opportunity is open to lead applicants from UK or LMIC institutions.

Potential advert date: 01 November 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

Institutional Research Capacity Strengthening for NCDs

These awards will provide substantive funding to strengthen research capacity in LMICs to undertake and manage high-quality research to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Consortia will include an LMIC lead institution, a UK administering institution and up to three further partner LMIC HEIs, working together with relevant local and national stakeholders.

Potential advert date: 31st October 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

Global Health Systems and Policy Research - Researcher-led call

These awards will provide funding to research consortia to deliver global health research to improve whole health systems and health services for people in LMICs through equitable partnerships. Consortia will include Joint UK and LMIC Lead institutions and up to an additional three partner institutions in LMICs and the UK.

Potential advert date: 1st March 2021.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Global Health Research Units

These awards will provide funding to a well-established, equitable research partnership or network of universities and research institutes in LMICs and the UK with an existing track-record of delivering internationally recognised applied global health research. Units will deliver large scale, ambitious programmes of applied health research which consolidate and expand their existing work. A Unit must have Joint UK and LMIC Lead applicants, clear plans to strengthen research and research management capacity and support future sustainability of research in partner countries.

Potential advert date: 2nd June 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Global Health Research Groups

These awards will provide funding to collaborations of specialist researchers within universities and research institutes in LMICs and the UK who wish to establish new programmes of applied health research. Groups will be either new to delivering applied health research globally or wish to expand an existing partnership. 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.

Potential advert date: 2nd June 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Global Research Professorships

These 5 year personal awards aim to fund research leaders of the future to promote the effective translation of research for the primary and direct benefit of people in low-and middle-income countries. The Professorships facilitate research leadership and capacity strengthening by providing an extensive support package including support posts and a leadership and development programme.

Potential advert date: 1st September 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: COVID-19 rapid knowledge mobilisation

Details: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world for adolescents has changed profoundly. While many adults face similar challenges, this is arguably a particular challenge for adolescents. The Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind programme are inviting proposals to support rapid knowledge mobilisation of current needs in adolescent wellbeing and mental health in light of the impact of COVID-19. This is expected to result in the development of a portfolio of multimedia resources that will address the current challenges and concerns adolescents are experiencing in response to COVID-19, create practical advice and promote evidence-based strategies that meet the needs of young people during, and after, the pandemic, and that can be used to provide advice and recommendations to policy makers and professionals involved in supporting young people.

Deadline for proposals: 12pm on 1st June 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Cancer Research UK: Programme Foundation Awards

Details: CRUK Programme Foundation Awards support group leaders who have a salaried independent position to further develop their own research programme and build their reputation as a world leader. Programme Foundation Awards can fund:

- Basic biological research relating to cancer

- Preclinical studies that will generate biological data to underpin therapeutic development
- Biomarker research
- Imaging research
- Radiotherapy research
- The application of engineering and physical sciences to cancer

Deadline for proposals: 20th August 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Cancer Research UK: Science Committee Programme Awards

Details: CRUK Science Committee Programme Awards provide long-term support for broad, multidisciplinary research where the aim is to answer questions spanning basic and translational research.

Applications will be considered in the following areas:

- Basic biological research: Any area of basic biological research relating to cancer. Studies may include the use of model systems (e.g. yeast, worm, fly, zebrafish, mouse), cell lines (animal or human) or primary tumour material
- Preclinical studies: Research that will generate biological data to underpin therapeutic development
- Biomarkers
- Imaging
- Radiotherapy research
- The application of engineering and physical sciences to cancer

Deadline for proposals: 20th August 2020

Find out more [here](#)

News

NIHR: Supporting the restart of paused NIHR research activities

With the number of new cases of COVID-19 declining, the NIHR is now working towards the restoration of a diverse and active portfolio of research funded and/or supported by the NIHR - including both non-COVID-19 research and important COVID-19 research which does not meet the NIHR's urgency criteria. To help initiate this process, the NIHR has developed a '**Framework for restart**', which is a guidance document to support local decision-making.

Find out more [here](#)

Wellcome Trust report: What researchers think about the culture they work in

The Wellcome Trust has undertaken a survey of more than 4,000 researchers and has conducted nearly 100 in-depth interviews, asking researchers for their perspectives on and experiences of research culture. Wellcome have published a report on their finding.

Wellcome has published a report on the findings, which is available for **[download here](#)**

Blogs and Articles

NIHR blog: Increasing research in Real World Implementation

Martin Hunt, Programme Director of NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i), writes about the i4i Challenge Award on Real World Implementation to support design and delivery evaluations of medtech innovations in real-world healthcare settings.

Find out more [here](#)

RDS South East blog: Interdisciplinary research and neglected areas

As an early career researcher, Rebecca was inspired to write this blog following a lecture delivered by Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty.

Find out more [here](#)

HRA blog: Ethics review during a pandemic

By the middle of May, 118 COVID-19 studies and 160 COVID-19 amendments had been processed, with turn-around times measured in days rather than weeks. In this blog, Andy Hall, Emeritus Professor and Research Ethics Committee Chair, reflects on the work of ethics committees and the staff of the HRA. As they deal with a very different landscape during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

NIHR: Strengthening commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion and patient and public involvement and engagement

The NIHR is keen to accelerate the pace at which research is carried out so that its benefits reach services and treatments, and the patients and public who use them more quickly. NIHR want to make things simpler and faster. Therefore, they have shortened and simplified the standard application form which is used when research teams apply for funding from the NIHR. The NIHR is committed to actively and openly supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. The standard application form guidance now includes improved requirements and advice for EDI and patient, public involvement and engagement (PPIE).

Find out more [here](#)

Training and Events

NIHR Statistics Group Annual Conference 2020

What: Due to COVID-19, this year's NIHR Statistics Group Annual Conference will be held online. It is suitable for statisticians who are associated with NIHR research, which includes researchers/trainees partly- or fully-funded by an NIHR grant, or those involved in an NIHR infrastructure (e.g. RDS, CTU, BRC, ARC, MIC). Non-statisticians who are interested in statistics are welcome to attend.

The programme is as follows:

Thursday 11th June

- 10:00 – The NIHR Statistics Group: who we are and what we do.
- 11:30 – Making adaptive designs more accessible
- 14:00 – Twitter as a tool for promoting statistical literacy

Friday 12th June

- 10.00 – The flipped classroom

- 11:30 – Visualisations to communicate adverse event information in RCT
- 14:00 – The NIHR Statistics Group: how to get involved.
-

When: Thursday 11th and Friday 12th June 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

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. The webinar 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

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 and I will remove you from my contact list.**