

Dear all

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



Our friends at 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](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network \(CRN\)](#).

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Latest NIHR funding calls

Pre-announcement of NIHR/UKRI call on long-term effects of COVID in non-hospitalised individuals

Details: This is a pre-announcement that the NIHR and UKRI will be advertising a joint research call in late October, for projects starting in the New Year. The primary aim of the call will be to fund ambitious and comprehensive research into the longer term, physical and mental effects, of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised individuals. The aim of the call will be to fund ambitious and comprehensive research into the longer term physical and mental effects of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised individuals. Funded projects will be expected to start in early 2021.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New commissioned calls

Details: The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme funds research about the clinical and cost-effectiveness and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care from NHS and social care services.

The HTA Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following topics, in the areas of primary research and evidence synthesis:

- **20/110 Prophylactic antibiotics in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**
 - **Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 31st March 2021
- **20/109 Shorter vs longer fixed-course antibiotic treatments**
 - **Deadline for proposals:** 1pm on 5th May 2021
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Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Global Health Research Centres Call 1 - Research and Institutional Capacity Strengthening in Non-Communicable Diseases

Details: The first call of the Global Health Research Centres programme will fund and designate NIHR Global Health Research Centres in non-communicable diseases. The Global Health Research Centres programme provides substantive funding to support research-driven partnerships between institutions in low and middle income countries (LMICs) and in the UK.

The first call will fund centres to undertake high quality research in non-communicable diseases and support the development of a critical mass of sustainable, competitive research capacity. Funding awards of up to £10 million over five years (with an option to add two extra years) are available to consortia made up of one UK institution and up to four LMIC institutions.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 31st March 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Potential advert dates for forthcoming NIHR funding

Details: The following funding programmes will soon be advertised by the NIHR:

- **NIHR Advanced Fellowship Round 5** (potential advert date: 22nd October 2020)
- **NIHR Doctoral Fellowship Round 5** (potential advert date: 22nd October 2020)
- **NIHR: Research into the longer term effects of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised individuals** (potential advert date: 12th November 2020)
- **NIHR Invention for Innovation - Product Development Awards Call 21** (potential advert date: 9th December 2020)
- **NIHR Research for Patient Benefit - Competition 45** (potential advert date: 24th March 2021)

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 research boards

Details: MRC research boards and panels are comprised of a group of leading scientists who play a key role in delivering MRC objectives across the portfolio. The research boards hold their own research budgets and review and manage scientific activity within their specialist areas.

You can apply to the Neurosciences and Mental Health Board through the following grant schemes:

- [Research grant](#)
- [Programme grant](#)
- [New investigator research grant](#)
- [Partnership grant](#)

The following MRC research boards are currently accepting applications:

- [Molecular & Cellular Medicine Board](#)
 - Deadline for applications: 12th January 2021
- [Infections and Immunity Board](#)
 - Deadline for applications: 13th January 2021
- [Population & Systems Medicine Board](#)
 - Deadline for applications: 20th January 2021
- [Neurosciences & Mental Health Board](#)
 - Deadline for applications: 27th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

MRC Health Systems Research Initiative Call 8 – Research Grant

Details: This Research Grant call funds research to strengthen and improve health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Applicants based at eligible research organisations (ROs) in LMICs and the UK are eligible to apply.

The funders welcome multidisciplinary, collaborative and multi-country/multi-site applications as well as focused in-depth applications, including those driven by social science questions.

Applicants should also ensure they embed research within relevant theoretical frameworks. Teams should also ensure engagement of researchers with strong health systems expertise and demonstrate knowledge of, and potential contribution to, relevant health systems empirical literature.

Research funded through this call could:

- engage with the contextual dynamics that shape and/or undermine effective health systems in developing countries
- offer practical solutions to implement health care improvements
- evaluate the health system at scale
- illustrate how the research findings can contribute to increasing knowledge and to the discourse for addressing other health challenges.

Deadline for proposals: 19th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Alzheimer's Research UK: Dementia Consortium

Details: The Dementia Consortium will provide funding, resources and expertise to both increase the number of, and capitalise upon, new drug targets emerging from across the academic sector that hold promise of bringing patient benefit. The Dementia Consortium is a private-charity partnership between Alzheimer's Research UK, the pharmaceutical companies Abbvie, Astex Pharmaceuticals, Eisai, Johnson & Johnson, Lilly and MSD and the partner research organisations Charles River Laboratories and Evotec.

The Dementia Consortium is a global initiative that sees Alzheimer's Research UK partner with the pharmaceutical industry to validate novel targets for the diseases that cause dementia. The Dementia Consortium is seeking innovative academic proposals, which aim to robustly demonstrate target relevance to human disease. Targets should have some preliminary supporting data and targets with a genetic link to dementia and/or tool molecules to support target validation are particularly welcome.

Deadline for proposals: 30th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

Details: Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund is the national charity dedicated exclusively to supporting research to improve diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer. The aim of the project grant scheme is to support scientific excellence and innovative research into pancreatic cancer.

Given that early detection, diagnosis and successful treatment of pancreatic cancer are still major challenges, the charity is making these its priority areas for research funding. They are interested in innovative, high-quality studies to develop novel therapies and diagnostics. In particular, they are looking to support research with high potential translational impact and aimed at bringing new lab findings quickly to the clinic.

Deadline for proposals: 11th December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

CRUK Postdoctoral Research Bursary for Clinical Trainees

Details: This award offers funding for clinical trainees to undertake a research project after completion of a PhD.

Deadline for proposals: 25th March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowship opportunities

Stroke Association: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Details: Stroke Association Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended to provide outstanding postdoctoral candidates with the necessary skills and training for the development of an independent career in academic stroke research.

The Stroke Association supports Fellows who plan to conduct stroke research into clinical and applied health, including social care research. This includes research that is conducted to answer specific questions relating to day-to-day practice in health services or community settings, and which has the potential to have an impact on the health or well-being of people affected by stroke. A clear trajectory to patient benefit is essential.

Deadline for proposals: 15th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Alzheimer's Research UK: Race Against Dementia Fellowship

Details: Race Against Dementia (RAD) Fellowships are designed to power outstanding early career scientists in their pursuit of innovative solutions to the big questions in dementia research.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- To accelerate progress towards research breakthroughs through innovative and ambitious dementia research.
- To provide outstanding early career dementia researchers with a unique package of flexible funding and developmental opportunities to fast-track their progress towards becoming independent research scientists.
- To facilitate diverse secondments that foster interdisciplinary and inter-institutional interactions on a global scale.

Deadline for proposals: 20th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

The Royal Society: Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship

Details: This scheme offers a recognised first step into an independent research career for outstanding postdoctoral scientists and engineers who require a flexible working pattern due to personal circumstances, such as caring responsibilities or health issues. Research must be within the Royal Society's remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.

Deadline for proposals: 10th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

News

NIHR: Associate Principal Investigator Scheme opens to more specialties

Details: Following a successful pilot in Surgery, the Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme is now available to studies in additional specialty areas. The Scheme aims to develop doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who do not undertake research as part of their usual role, to help them become the PIs of the future while helping to deliver studies to time and target.

The NIHR is expanding the Scheme to include the following specialty areas:

- Cancer
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Gastroenterology
- Hepatology
- Surgical

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and Articles

Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England: Mental Health Research Goals

"Mental health research is essential, and has made considerable progress, but arguably more slowly than many other areas of health. To go further it is essential we have a shared

view of the challenges and priorities for mental health research which can be used by all those involved in mental health, and research funding bodies. These mental health research goals are the outcome of a collective approach across the mental health research community including people living with mental health problems, funders of mental health research, academics and clinicians, and show the areas where we need to focus our efforts and attention in mental health over the next ten years.

On World Mental Health Day, NIHR co-lead and Chief Medical Officer for England Chris Whitty sets out our mental health research goals.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR: Tomorrow's Leaders Educational Workshop 2020

What: This year NIHR is joining forces with the National Research Collaborative Meeting (NRCM) to run a series of webinars, as well as the Tomorrow's Leaders Educational Workshop 2020. The aim of the workshop is to equip the next generations of surgeons with the skills and tools needed to recruit to and lead NIHR Portfolio studies.

It is scheduled to run over two consecutive Friday mornings:

- Friday 4 December 2020, 9am - 12.15pm
- Friday 11 December 2020, 9am - 12.15pm

The programme is a mixture of interactive sessions in small 'rooms' and plenary lectures and will be delivered via Zoom (a video communications platform).

It is aimed at:

- Trainees in surgical specialties with an interest in oncology
- Early years consultants within five years of CCT

Sessions include:

- Different trial designs - platform, window of opportunity, immuno-oncology trials
- New trainee initiatives
- Building a cancer trials portfolio as a trainee and as a consultant
- Integrating surgical oncology trials into a busy NHS department
- Impact of COVID-19 on NIHR Portfolio research
- Accessing NIHR Clinical Research Network support
- Breakout sessions hosted by the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Research Groups

Find out more [here](#)

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service 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. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study. Please note

that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

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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