

Dear all

In this week's message:

Latest NIHR funding calls:

- Research for Patient Benefit highlight notice: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Invention for Innovation - Product Development Awards Call 21
- Health Services & Delivery Research Programme – Standard researcher-led

Funding calls from other bodies:

- Asthma UK: Asthma Health Technology Fund

Latest Fellowship opportunities:

- NIHR Doctoral Fellowship Round 5
- NIHR Advanced Fellowship Round 5
- British Skin Foundation Fellowship Award

News:

- NIHR establishes a Race Equality Public Action Group

Training and events:

- NIHR webinar: Creative problem solving
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midland

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).

Latest NIHR funding calls

Research for Patient Benefit highlight notice: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Details: The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme is inviting proposals for collaborative research projects to better understand and manage the health and social care consequences of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) under the COPD highlight notice. The call is particularly interested in populations in the North East of England (NE) where there is a high disease burden and which has been historically under-served by research activity.

The notice is open to researchers at all career stages from across England. NIHR are also keen to encourage fresh ideas from new researchers and appropriate proposals are welcomed from those with limited research experience (early career researchers) when supported by an experienced, strong and multi-disciplinary team. The call offers researchers considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic providing that it falls within the COPD highlight notice remit.

The call is for proposals up to £350,000 for a period of up to three years, which should be submitted to Competition 45 under the highlight notice.

Potential applicants for the COPD highlight notice **need to pre-register their interest**. Registered participants will be invited to participate in a call launch event on 7th December 2020 followed by a series of parallel structured networking events the same day.

Find out more [here](#)

Invention for Innovation - Product Development Awards Call 21

Details: The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme invites proposals to Call 21 of its researcher-led Product Development Awards (PDA). PDAs fund the development of disruptive early-stage medical technologies that address existing or emerging healthcare needs. They support translational projects developing medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and digital health technologies that are patient-focused and for ultimate NHS use.

In this competition, NIHR is partnering with ES/PRC, Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation to highlight our support for the development and adoption of asthma health technologies.

Deadline for proposals: 9th December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Health Services & Delivery Research Programme – Standard researcher-led

Details: The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence to improve the quality, accessibility and organisation of health and social care services. The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream on topics or research questions identified by researchers within the programme's remit. The aim is to fund research that will lead to improvements in health services that will be of greatest benefit to the NHS and to patients. We are interested in a range of types of research including primary research and evidence synthesis.

HS&DR are particularly keen to see large scale studies of national importance. This means primary research projects which:

- Address an issue of major strategic importance to the NHS, with the cost in line with the significance of the problem to be investigated
- Are likely to lead to changes in practice that will have a significant impact on a large number of patients across the UK
- Aim to fill a clear 'evidence gap', and are likely to generate new knowledge of direct relevance to the NHS
- Have the potential for findings to be applied to other conditions or situations outside the immediate area of research
- Bring together a team with strong expertise and track record across the full range of relevant disciplines
- Will be carried out across more than one research site.
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Deadline for proposals: 4th February 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

Asthma UK: Asthma Health Technology Fund

Details: Asthma UK, NIHR, EPSRC and the British Lung Foundation have come together to launch a multi-million pound fund to support the development and adoption of asthma health technologies. This fund has been designed to support innovation from concept stage through to scaling in the NHS.

The Fund will support innovation from the concept stage through to scaling in the NHS in the UK. It is split into two concurrent streams:

- Stream 1: Concept stage
- Stream 2: Translation and adoption stage

In addition to people already working in respiratory, Asthma UKI would also like to encourage applications from:

- Non-respiratory academics with an interest in health technology (e.g. software and hardware engineering, data science, behavioural science or perhaps other condition areas where health technology is more advanced/widely adopted)
- SMEs with existing technology that can be applied to asthma
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Deadline for proposals: See website for information on deadlines

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowship opportunities

NIHR Doctoral Fellowship Round 5

Details: The NIHR Doctoral Fellowship funds individuals from a range of health and social care professions to undertake a PhD in an area of NIHR research.

The Fellowship funds:

- full salary support, including protected time to concentrate on research
- PhD fees and research costs
- a bespoke training and development programme to meet individual needs

Applicants from clinical or social care practice are able to include up to 20% clinical time as part of the Fellowship, to ensure the maintenance of their clinical competence whilst undertaking the Fellowship.

Deadline for proposals: 21st January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Advanced Fellowship Round 5

Details: The NIHR Advanced Fellowship funds post-doctoral individuals from a range of health and social care professions who haven'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, you could be eligible to apply for an Advanced Fellowship.

The Fellowship funds:

- full salary support, including protected time to concentrate on research
- research costs
- a bespoke training and development programme to meet individual needs

Applicants who are active clinicians or social workers can request for up to 40% of their time to be dedicated to clinical service/development/practice, which will be covered by the Fellowship.

Deadline for proposals: 14th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

British Skin Foundation Fellowship Award

Details: There are one million people in the UK who suffer from psoriasis. At least 100,000 new cases of skin cancer are reported each year. 20% of all children have eczema. The number of people suffering from skin disease grows each day. The dermatological community acknowledges the significance of these figures and the urgent need to stem the growth of skin disease in the UK. The British Skin Foundation plays a vital role in addressing this issue by funding the work aimed at finding better treatments for all conditions.

The BSF will be welcoming applications for its Fellowship Awards from Monday 26th October. These awards will be made in early July at the 2021 British Association of Dermatologists annual conference.

Deadline for proposals: 5th March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

NIHR establishes a Race Equality Public Action Group

The NIHR has announced the establishment of a Race Equality Public Action Group (REPAG) focused on public partnership. Hosted by the NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination, the group aims to give people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities a stronger voice in shaping priorities for research, the design and delivery of research, the recruitment of BAME volunteers into studies, and the mobilisation of evidence into practice.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR webinar: Creative problem solving

What: Learn techniques to develop your creativity and achieve the best results when solving complex problems or discussing opportunities. This webinar will explore a range of strategies and different approaches you can apply to problem-solving, and the opportunities you have identified.

As technology develops and begins to deliver many tasks without people, creativity is needed more than ever to solve increasingly complex problems and drive innovation and change.

In this webinar you will learn:

- everyone has the potential to be creative and creativity can be developed through practice
- different techniques that introduce diversity in thinking styles to open up your options and ensure you effectively prioritise actions
- how to be in the right mindset to practice skillful creative thinking
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When: 13:00 on 4th November 2020

Where: Online

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/>

***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.**