Dear all

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

NIHR | Research Design Service London

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).



**REGISTRATION OPEN**
**Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow**
Online event

What is the NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call? Is it for you? If so, how do you apply? What are the panel looking for? Join us on 7th October to find out.

Topics include:
- Introduction to Social Care Research
- Overview of RfSC scheme
- PPI and plain English
- What makes a good application?
- Preparing for an RfSC application
- Social care context and research approaches - information for health researchers and social care practitioners

Registration is open for the NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow. For more information and to register, please visit the **EventBrite page**

## Latest funding opportunities

### The Novo Nordisk UK Research Foundation – Research grants
**Details:** The Novo Nordisk UK Research Foundation is an independent registered charity that supports research and education in diabetes. Research grants are for clinical research or clinically relevant research in the UK, and intended primarily as finance towards an existing project for researchers working in the field of diabetes mellitus (rather than the full funding of projects or salaries of established research workers).

**Deadline for proposals:** 10th December 2020
**Find out more here**

### Psoriasis Association – Small grants

**Details:** The Psoriasis Association is a national charity and membership organisation for people affected by psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in the UK. The Psoriasis Association funds and promotes research into the causes, nature and care of people with psoriasis.

The Psoriasis Association will consider applications that have clear relevance to its aim 'to promote and fund research into the causes, nature and care of psoriasis and to publish and disseminate the results of that research'. A small grant of up to £10,000 from the Cecil King Memorial Foundation available for psoriasis research projects where the lead researcher is under 35 years of age or within the first five consecutive years of their first permanent independent academic research post or a named limited-tenured/fixed-term academic research post in the UK or Ireland.

**Deadline for proposals:** 4th December 2020
**Find out more here**

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**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.

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### 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/**

### News

### NIHR responds to the Government's call for further reduction in bureaucracy with new measures

In line with today's wider announcement by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and Department for Education (DfE) on a substantial reduction in research bureaucracy, the NIHR has announced new measures designed to free up and support NIHR researchers to focus on ground-breaking research that tackles health and care challenges.

**Find out more here**

### UK Government Intellectual Property Office: Open Consultation – Artificial intelligence and intellectual property

The UK is voted one of the best IP environments in the world. To keep it that way the Intellectual property Office are keen to look ahead to the challenges that new technologies bring so that we make sure the UK's IP environment is adapted to accommodate them. The IP Office want to build on the government's ambitious R&D Roadmap. This will include support for traditionally R&D intensive industries and encourage growth in transformational new technology sectors.

The document by the Intellectual Property office poses a number of questions on how we think the IP framework currently relates to AI and the future of AI and IP policy.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 30 November 2020.

This could be of interest to many researchers, but in particular it may interest those who intend to apply for the NIHR's **Invention for Innovation Connect call.**

**Find out more here**

## Resources

### UK Government Digital Service: How to write well for your audience, including specialists

The UK Government Digital Service has published some helpful guidance on writing for different audiences. The guidance is aimed at those writing for GOV.UK, but the advice has wider application. There are instructions on writing for the web and writing for specialists; it also gives helpful information on the way that people read and on how you should structure your content. The information on writing in plain English may be particularly relevant for researchers who are writing a plain English summary as part of their research proposal.

Find out more **here**

### UKRC Tissue Directory (for those using human tissue in their research)

Do you use human tissue in your research? You can find tissue held within UK universities, hospitals and charities using the **UKCRC Tissue Directory**. You can search over 200 UK human sample resources (tissue banks, biorepositories, biobanks, cohort studies, research tissue banks, etc.), to find relevant samples and data. Using a specific disease term or searching 'fit and well' will enable you to find existing tissue samples or organisations that can collect bespoke collections. An **A-Z of human sample resources** is also available. The Directory is free to use, with discussions about sample access taking place directly with individual biobanks.

**Find out more here**

## Training and events

### The King's Fund: Personalising digital tools for people with learning disabilities: challenges and solutions

**What:** Supporting individuals with learning disabilities to access the care for their needs comes with a number of challenges. But could we finally put the people using services at the heart of planning and delivery with the use of technology? This free online event will give a forum to discuss concrete examples of innovative digital solutions and to consider how technology can help with personalising care for people with learning disabilities. At this event, participants will hear from clinicians, service users, carers and support workers about their journey to make technology a tool that works for every single user.

**When:** 12:00-13:00 on 8th October 2020
**Where:** Online
**Cost:** Free
**Find out more here**

### NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow

**What:** The NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call is an annual competition specifically for social care proposals, run by NIHR's Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme. The aim of the annual RfSC call is to fund topics and research methodologies that increase the effectiveness of social care services, provide value for money and benefit service users and carers. The Research Design Service (RDS) is hosting a series of information events for you to find out more about the upcoming NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call and the support that we provide.

**When:** 9.45am-1pm on 7th October 2020
**Where:** Online
**Find out more here**

**Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands**
As you may be aware, the NIHR CRN portfolio, which was paused since the start of the pandemic to allow full focus on COVID-19 research, has recently restarted. 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. 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/**

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**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.**